

WIDER HORIZONS



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Please remember that Christchurch premises are currently closed - so there is no-one to answer the phone and NO working email address.

 **NEW EMAIL COMING SOON**

 www.christchurchilkley.org.uk

 ~~01943 603209~~

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



ROBERTA'S
WRITINGS

Dear friend,

"A jubilee to reset" is a phrase that has been used by the URC in the north, to describe this time of the Covid-19 lockdown. That phrase suggests we have an opportunity now for churches to think again about their purpose and reset their direction. The jubilee has its origin in the Bible book of Leviticus. The idea was that after 49 years during which a person might lose their land and even their freedom, a time would come when all the mistakes of the previous years would be wiped

away and a fresh start proclaimed. The vision was that every fifty years, people would return to their families and everything would be as new.

Now that the government has said church buildings can re-open many people have been asking "When can we get back?". That is very understandable. The church building has played an important part in many lives. It may be somewhere we meet friends; it may hold happy memories of major life-events; or it may be where we have a sense of connection with God and others. It may be a place where we can serve others, enriching our sense of self-worth and sharing that opportunity with other people too. These things are all very important.

So does this phrase "A jubilee to reset" have any application to us at Christchurch? Well, I think it does. For all that such a lot of good is normally done in the Christchurch building' some have suggested that we may have become too busy. Also, while many people help and volunteer, a great deal falls on a few people, who sometimes become over-stretched. And for all that an increasing number of people visit the building for activities, the membership of the church has fallen annually for at least the last twelve years.

At the same time community groups around us are picking up issues that should be core to people of faith. We are called to be stewards of God's creation. That stewarding has never been more important than now with the reality of climate change before us. The experience of Covid-19 has also revealed the huge disparities in how people are treated in our country and around the world. Jesus' offer of abundant life for all, is again something that we can be making common cause with others about.

At our very heart is the importance of a connection with God, and matters of the spirit. During the lockdown, a significant proportion of the population showed an interest in spiritual things. Somehow being out of our buildings and available online has meant that many people have felt able to at least have a look at worship and the practice of faith.



questions. What is it that we really hope to achieve as a church? How can our building serve those purposes? And with whom do we want to partner?

Important as it is, growing in numbers is not everything. I was challenged last year by Inderjit Bhogal's observation based on the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet that "We are about service not success". Inderjit has led the Corrymeela Centre in Northern Ireland, bringing together very divided Catholic and Protestant young people. He started the 'City of Sanctuary' network to promote safety and understanding for asylum seekers and refugees. His work is not counted in numbers but in the coming of God's kingdom of mercy and love, because of Jesus.

I find his approach inspiring. As we consider the URC message about a jubilee to reset, and reflect on how can we go forward from here, we can do no better than to lift our eyes to the coming of God's kingdom. We look to the growth of God's values in our lives and in others. And all this under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, who grows in us the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

That's what meeting God afresh offers to us all. I look forward to moving forward *together* in the love and joy of the living God who delights to give a fresh start.

Yours in God's service

Roberta - Minister at Christchurch, Ilkley

Comings and Goings

We are sad to announce the death of Brenda Miall. We are sure some of you will remember Brenda and Roger who were members quite a number of years ago.

Roberta was able to inter the ashes of Joan Mould, in a small but lovely service, at Ilkley Cemetery, earlier this month.

We send our love and prayers to both families.

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.

Thanks

I would like to say a big "Thank you" to all the people who have been with me at this very tense time, not forgetting Pauline who is still providing cakes and biscuits. Alec came home mid July. Phone calls from all have been invaluable - I don't know what to do without you. God bless.



Michael's Memo

Did you hear about the two TV aerials that got married? The ceremony wasn't great but the reception was brilliant!

I'm back! Back to work and also back in Ilkley. It is weird being back and living by myself after living with others for the past few months, so if anyone wants to call for a cuppa or invite me round for a cuppa I'd be more than happy. Otherwise it can be very quiet!

Anyway enough of me, I have now been back to work on part time hours since the start of July. It is a very exciting but cautious time as lockdown restrictions end. I would love to get people together, families together, youth groups together but, a lot of thought and caution has to be taken about these decisions.

We have continued our Sunday evening Zoom sessions for the Release youth group and soon hope to be able to meet every fortnight over the summer holidays (which I forgot existed) for some socially distanced games and activities. A particular highlight of Release has been the introductory games we have attempted each week. We do a game to start us off but each week we try to base it on a TV show or TV quiz show such as "Would I lie to you" and even "The Chase" – youth vs leaders style! I'll not tell you who won though . . .

We have had another Bitesize quiz which was an open invitation to Bitesize families and helpers. If you missed it, do not worry - we will attempt another quiz at some point. Rounds included anagrams of Disney/Pixar movies, name the song based on the second line of the lyrics and "Which Is" which included questions like: "Who had more appearances – Jack Charlton for Leeds or Bobby Charlton for Man Utd?" or "Which came first McDonalds or KFC?" or "Which is bigger - the world's longest shark or the world's longest crocodile?". We hope soon to be able to meet in person and have some outdoor games and walks, so keep checking your emails and do get in touch if you would like to join in.

The Bradford City Council Partnership has continued and we were able to meet for the first time in person! We had a walk around Ilkley to see if any young people were out and about. We continue to have Zoom meetings as well, where we play bingo and have a catch up. Starting in August we are going to be meeting up in person with both the LS29 group and the young people of Ilkley for some outdoor games and activities.

Finally another SMILES service has been edited and put together and is very close to finishing after discovering new software, so keep an eye



Things to look forward to: meeting up in person with families and young people. Summer activities are a chance for young people to invite friends to a more laid back social event so we do hope to be making more contacts over summer; our online gaming with the youth group is being launched and finally, hopefully, nice weather!

Things to pray about: the mental health of our families and young people. It is a very tough time for everyone currently but particularly I wanted to mention: firstly those who are moving from primary to secondary schools; secondly those with no exams and are, or have been, facing uncertainty about what happens next; and thirdly, with school ending for summer, parents having to find a lot more activities for their children to do and keep them occupied. As well as the mental health, continue to pray for the physical health of all our young people and families. Finally continue to pray for all those who are making decisions and implementing change so that we can meet in person but only when safe to do so.

Oh and Jack Charlton, McDonalds and the Shark are the answers for the quiz questions!

Love and peace to you all

Michael Johnston

News from Tim Fisher

Tim Fisher has asked me to pass on his grateful thanks for the prayerful support he is receiving during his enforced lockdown/shielding. He also says a big "Thank you" for all the financial support he has received, and continues to receive, from his many friends at Christchurch. Without that he would have been made homeless, as he has received no monies from the government until the middle of July and, whilst it helps, it is not enough to cover his rent, never mind any other expenses. Added to this, Tim has unfortunately developed eyesight problems which a consultant at Jimmy's described as irreversible and has registered Tim as partially sighted. He is undergoing treatment at Jimmy's. Despite this, Tim hopes to be able to come back to Ilkley to sell the Big Issue in the not-too-distant future.

I visit Tim in Leeds most weeks to deliver his food bank supplies. For me, it is a privilege to be part of the support network that is Christchurch. As one of our church community put it "Church members would be interested in learning of real love in action shown to the damaged and unlovely" - I hope you share this view.

Brian Scott

Church Notices

Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.

Spring Harvest 2021

Yes it's happening next year! Hopefully at both Skegness and Minehead. Skegness dates are 05 - 09 April 2021 (in school Easter holidays). Booking opens online on 22 September so have a look if you are interested in going at www.springharvest.org.



It is hoped that, as this year, there will be online material available as so many were able to access and enjoy it this year.

Merle Collins

Samarathon Update

People may like to know how our Samarathon has been going. At the time of writing on 22 July, we have raised £1,5287.48 and walked 293.8 miles.

The mileage sounds a lot but it is the accumulated miles of myself, Philip, and Lucy dog! The former pair have done most of the work physically and I have done it psychologically by having to make myself go out and do between 2-4 miles a day when I would rather stay in and sew or make lace!

Thank you all who have donated money for Samaritans. Their services will be much needed over the coming days I fear. May God work through them to help and support because of your generosity.

Anyone else wishing to donate can do so until the end of July by going to <https://samarathon2020.everydayhero.com/uk/christine>

Christine Gibson



Christchurch Calendar 2021

Many of you have been out and about since March with your cameras, spotting interesting corners or unusual angles on well-known Ilkley landmarks! I know you have because I've seen some on Facebook. So there should be some local photographic potential for the 2021 Christchurch calendar. The usual instructions are: landscape orientation, local (ie Ilkley) and sharp enough to enlarge to A4.

Actual photographs can be sent to me at 26 Middleton Road, Ilkley LS29 9EX or by email to mandm2@blueyonder.co.uk by 01 September with a view to being available by 30 October.

Congregational Meeting - 23 June 2020

These are an edited version of the minutes compiled by Diana Feather, who has a full version on request - Steve Amos (Editor).

Minister's Report Roberta Topham - Although the church building has been closed since 23 March, there has been much to encourage us. Helen & Chris Mannall and Steve & Juliet Amos have checked on the building every week, and kept the noticeboard outside up-to-date. The URC Synod have been very active on line: their discussion document 'Ready for the New Normal' should be an opportunity to have open conversations and to think creatively about new possibilities. There will be an open meeting using the document to think about: 1 the effects of our actions and demands on each other and on the planet; 2 how to become a more diverse and inclusive community, listening to the voices of young people and people from BAME.

Treasurer's Report Roland Henney - We set a deficit budget to March 2021 of £30,000, and the challenge to return to long-term financial stability. However, because the building is closed and we have no income from the Café or room rents, we have furloughed all staff so that 80% of their income is covered by the government scheme. Michael Johnston was furloughed later than the rest of the staff, on 10 June, and we plan to bring him back part-time soon, to continue his mission work. Roland thanked everyone for continuing to give to the church, and encouraged those who use the envelope scheme to continue to put money aside ready to give it in when we open. If you can afford to increase your giving at this time, it would be very helpful. Switching from envelopes to standing orders for those who can, would also be very welcome. There is legacy money, most of which is not ring-fenced, but in the worst case scenario, the deficit could be £50-69k.

The Benevolent Fund had been re-activated, and some help had been given to one individual. Roland asked for donations and to let Roberta know of any particular needs. Some people were going through very difficult times, but that some of us might have been able to save money during the lockdown and might be able to increase their giving or give a donation. Others might be supporting members of their family financially through the crisis. Any increase in giving or donation could make a significant difference to our financial position.

It was pointed out that on the Church website, there is a button on the bottom of the Homepage where donations can be made and gift-aided.

Nurture Report Juliet Amos - A wide range of activities have been going on during the crisis: the prayer group were meeting on Zoom twice a week; some house groups have met regularly on Zoom; some have set up WhatsApp groups to keep in touch with one another; Michael Johnston has worked very hard and wants to keep up the contacts he has made with various groups asap.

Leadership Team & Trustees - Juliet is stepping down from the Leadership Team after six year service (but will remain a Trustee), and was thanked for her hard work by Wendy, who then welcomed Lynda Duttine onto LTeam to take over the Nurture portfolio.

Three Trustees, Christine Henney, Janice Noble and Margo Atkinson, had completed the full six years' service but had agreed to stay on for one more year to see the church through the crisis. Michael Noble pointed out that this would breach the 6 years rule, but that it would help to provide stability during the crisis.

Property Report Janet Thompson (in last month's WH)

Community Report - Chris Knamiller - Christian Aid week went very well with three online coffee mornings involving 40 people. The total money collected, including Gift Aid, was £2146, the highest figure Chris and Gary had ever raised for Christian Aid. It is hoped the Sunday Market will open soon as it is an outdoor event. Liz Frankland has kept in touch with the Café staff with entertaining emails and Zoom meetings. She has also been singing in Care Homes in the area, which has brought joy to the residents.

Worship Report David Goulesbrough - In spite of the pandemic, Christchurch is still a vibrant worshipping community thanks to Steve Amos, Mike Dixon and Michael Johnston, as well as all those who prepared services and talks and those who tuned in to Zoom worship on Sunday mornings. We want to grasp this opportunity to review and build on the variety of ways that we can worship in future.

Evangelism/Mission Report Christine Henney - Services on Zoom and YouTube links have been going out online, and have been picked up by people beyond our normal reach. Particular thanks to Roberta and others who have spent many hours preparing these. Michael Johnston has developed our Facebook and social media communications, worked with Bradford Council with vulnerable people and run Toddlers' Group sessions on Zoom. He plans to continue with these projects when he returns to work. Future plans include looking creatively at what we can do, setting up a seekers group etc..

Communication Report Margo Atkinson - Most of the communication had been online during the crisis, and Steve Amos and Mike Dixon had taken up the reins, for which she thanked them very much indeed. Margo is keen to get back in harness asap when it is safe for her to do so.

Building Project Iain Thake - Iain has sent photographs and a written explanation of where a disabled toilet could be put into the Church foyer (between the Café and fire alarm cupboard doors and utilising the Traidcraft cupboard in the Café which would be walled off) to be sent out via email by Mike Dixon. Iain welcomes comments.

New Stewards Wendy Ribbands - Wendy thanked Lynda Duttine and John Scott for their hard work over the years, and explained that, although they had formally stood down as Senior Stewards in May, they had continued to carry on the work behind the scenes during the crisis. Six people had agreed to act as stewards for the 10:45 service: Sheila Carruthers, Pat Fisher, Margaret Cook, Paul Ribbands, Andrew Walbank and Nancy Melville. For the 9:00am service, Jenny Freeman and Chris Knamiller had come forward but she asked if more

people would be willing to volunteer. Brian Scott had agreed to co-ordinate the stewards' rotas, working with John Sayers.

Any Other Business - Roberta, having worked on the Ilkley Coronavirus Group, had made many very useful contacts.

Wendy paid particular tribute to Roberta for her handling of the lockdown, keeping us all connected in the church and making sure that those unable to use the internet were included also.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7:30pm.

Café Update

We are still keeping in touch with all our volunteers via newsletters, email, telephone, letters and Zoom.



It has been great to hear what people have been doing whilst we have been closed. It's also been great to hear that many of our volunteers have been helping out in the community in the following ways:

- Raising money for various charities doing sponsored walks and sponsored street bingo.
- Sewing as part of local sewing group initiatives (one of our volunteers is part of The Ilkley Sewing Group who have made over 3000 face masks)
- One volunteer has been litter picking in Ilkley and the Local Council Workers were so impressed that they put a photo of him in their magazine (see photo)
- Two of our volunteers help out at local foodbanks and have seen a marked increase in people requiring help.
- Finally, a lot of our volunteers have been looking after neighbours and family members, doing shopping and baking.



We have continued to keep in touch with Caroline from Dan's Den, and would like to wish her and the crew a mighty congratulations and a happy 5th birthday - it doesn't seem two minutes since they opened!

We have also heard from Ruth at the Clarke Foley Centre. They have been busy raising funds for the Centre and redecorating it and are hoping to reopen in August.

We are still waiting an update as to when we can reopen and look forward to seeing you all. In the meantime we have been doing some research on Contactless Machines so that customers can pay by card or cash.

Ilkley Christchurch Scout Troop Update July 2020



6 – 8 years



8 – 10½ years



10½ - 14 years

Full Troop activities

There have been numerous activities that all sections of the Troop have taken part in over the past couple of months. These include celebrations for VE Day and making bunting for the house/garden, Virtual Big Camp (instead of all West Yorkshire Scout groups meeting physically in Harrogate), and finally the Care for Care Homes campaign. For the latter all sections were involved in creating rainbow pictures and painting small stones for Care Homes' gardens and making colourful stone mosaic patterns such as rainbows.

Beavers

Beavers have had weekly Zoom meetings including Scavenger Hunts, a Quiz, Lego challenge, paper boat making, cowpat battleships, drawing a number then making it into an animal; and even had a 'bake off' making a Chocolate Brownie in a mug. At home, Beavers have been busy working towards their Skills Challenge badge by doing jobs such as washing up or keeping their bedrooms tidy. Beavers have 'camped at home' either in their garden or by building a den inside to sleep in.

Cubs

Cubs have honed their map drawing skills and map reading knowledge this term, drawing maps to their most popular locations in Ilkley and doing map quizzes. One of the most popular activities during their meetings have been the 'put on' challenges! The first one was put on as many t-shirts as you can; the second – put on as many socks as you can; the third and final one was to put on as many hats as you can. There were some very high scores and some extremely untidy houses. The Armpit Fudge evening proved to be extremely popular and the term finished on a high with an online baking session making chocolate 'blobs'.

Scouts

Scouts have been working towards more badges including Camp Hygiene, Digital Skills and the Community Impact badge. Weekly meetings have also included a baking night making flapjack, the egg drop challenge (making a structure to drop an egg from a certain height without it breaking) and the ever popular Kahoot quiz nights. The Scouts have also taken part in outdoor challenges such as the Orienteering challenge in Middleton Woods during the week with family members.

All sections are looking forward to a return to weekly meetings, even if structured in a somewhat different way, in September - fingers crossed!!

Dan's Den needs a new Chair! (and a non-Christchurch affiliated Trustee)

Although Dan's Den is currently closed, work behind the scenes from the Trustees continues to steer it to a successful re-opening, hopefully in the very near future. Since opening Dan's Den, its Board of Trustees has been chaired by Sarah Jowett who has done an amazing job, setting up extremely efficient systems and a smooth way of working. A huge thanks needs to be said to Sarah for her commitment and dedication in the role!

However, due to NHS and other personal commitments Sarah is intending to step down as Chair, although to continue as a Trustee. Dan's Den are therefore looking for a new Chair to take over from her.

Sarah has done an incredible job, along with our fantastic Centre Manager Caroline and a very supportive board of Trustees, and would be very happy to talk through the role with anyone who was interested in taking it on. The Trustees meet as a Board quarterly, though there are sometimes smaller in-between meetings that the Chair may need to be involved in. The role involves managing the quarterly meetings, helping the Trustees decide on actions and ensuring that decision are acted upon (not necessarily doing the actions!). There is a committed and experienced team of Trustees who will support the role and Sarah will be on-hand and happy to support the new Chair as she continues as a Trustee. If anyone feels they could help Dan's Den by undertaking this role please get in touch.

Dan's Den is also looking for a new general Trustee for the Board. As part of the Board of Trustees needs to be made up of non-Christchurch members we need to find someone 'external', or not a CC member. Involvement would mean attending the quarterly meetings (there may obviously be some not everyone can make) and being willing to input into discussions on Dan's Den future and operations. No specific speciality or experience is required and full Indemnity Insurance is provided. If you have any ideas on who we could ask then please let Joanne Wales-Smith know.

If you would like any information on either of these roles then please contact Joanne Wales-Smith (Trustee with responsibility for Human Resources) on jowaleessmith@icloud.com. Many thanks.

Jo Wales-Smith



DAN'S DEN

Church Notices

For those of you who have children and don't know it, there is a nursery downstairs.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.

God's Words? - Translations 3 of 5

This is taken from the February Melting Pot session; this part looks at the earliest English translation, and then types of translation from literal to paraphrase.

I've used material from books by Geza Vermes and JD Crossan, the Bible Society website, and Wikipedia.

into the Melting Pot

Reformation and Early Modern period

The first printed Bible was in Latin. It became available between 1450 and 1456 CE in Germany. It was printed by Johannes Gutenberg, who invented a process for printing from movable type. The first printed



copy of the Bible in English was William Tyndale's New Testament.

The English reformer William Tyndale (1494-1536 CE) was the first person to translate the New Testament directly from Greek to English. Tyndale was a priest and distinguished Oxford scholar who strongly believed that everyone should be able to read the Bible. In 1523 CE, he asked the Bishop of London, for permission to translate and print a new English Bible. But the Bishop viewed Tyndale as a troublemaker, and said no.

However, Tyndale pressed ahead anyway, with the support of some merchant friends. He moved to Europe and in 1525 CE, he produced a translation of the New Testament. Six thousand copies of this translation were printed and smuggled into England.

His version of the New Testament angered the Bishop and the then Lord Chancellor of England, Thomas More. They disagreed with the way Tyndale had translated certain biblical words believing that he had changed the Bible as he attempted to translate it and were unhappy with his footnotes, seen as criticism of the Catholic Church. Copies of Tyndale's translation were systematically collected and then publicly burned. The reigning king, Henry VIII, at the time, was opposed to Bibles in English. Tyndale began to translate the Old Testament, but never managed to finish it. In 1536 CE, he was arrested and executed for heresy.

After his death, Miles Coverdale (1488-1569 CE) finished off Tyndale's project by producing an English translation in 1535 CE published under a pseudonym to create the 'Matthew Bible', the first complete English translation. He based it largely on Tyndale's version, but also on Latin and German translations. Coverdale cleverly dedicated it to King Henry VIII, who by this time had warmed to the idea of the Bible in English.

Henry therefore gave his permission for Coverdale's translation to be circulated across England.

This made it the first complete Bible to be printed in English with official approval. It was also the first English Bible to separate the Old Testament Apocrypha by placing them in an appendix. Coverdale's Bible contained certain controversial teachings in its notes and chapter headings. Some church leaders had issues with these and in 1538 CE, Coverdale edited and printed a new translation, minus the controversial notes. This version, which was widely used in parish churches, became known as the Great Bible, the first 'authorised' English Bible. There followed the Bishops' Bible of 1568 CE, and the Authorised King James Version of 1611 CE, the last of which would become a standard for English speaking Christians for several centuries.

Types of Bible Translations

As Hebrew and Greek, the original languages of the Bible, like all languages, have some idioms and concepts not easily translated, there is in some cases an ongoing critical tension about whether it is better to give a word for word translation or to give a translation that gives a parallel idiom in the target language.

The further away one gets from word for word translation, the easier the text becomes to read while relying more on the theological, linguistic or cultural understanding of the translator, which one would not normally expect a lay reader to require. On the other hand, as one gets closer to a word for word translation, the text becomes more literal but still relies on similar problems of meaningful translation at the word level and makes it difficult for lay readers to interpret due to their unfamiliarity with ancient idioms and other historical and cultural contexts.

A variety of linguistic, philological and ideological approaches to translation have been used. Inside the Bible-translation community, these are commonly categorised as

- Formal equivalence, or literal (word for word) translation
- Dynamic equivalence translation
- Functional equivalence, or paraphrase (thought for thought) translation.

A literal translation tries to remain as close to the original text as possible, without adding the translators' ideas and thoughts into the translation. Thus, the argument goes, the more literal the translation is, the less danger there is of corrupting the original message. The problem with this 'word-for-word' form of translation is that it assumes a moderate degree of familiarity with the subject matter on the part of the reader.

Most printings of the KJV italicize words that are implied but are not actually in the original source text, since words must sometimes be added to have valid English grammar. Thus, even a formal equivalence translation has at least *some* modification of sentence structure and regard for contextual usage of words.

One of the most literal translations in English is the aptly named

Young's Literal Translation: in this version, John 3:16 reads: "For God did so love the world, that His Son - the only begotten - He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-during," which is very stilted and ungrammatical in English, but maintaining more of the original tense and word order of the original Greek.

A dynamic equivalence (free) translation tries to clearly convey the thoughts and ideas of the source text. A literal translation, it is argued, may obscure the intention of the original author. A free translator attempts to convey the subtleties of context and subtext in the work, so that the reader is presented with both a translation of the language and the context.

A functional equivalence, or thought-for-thought, translation goes even further and attempts to give the meaning of entire phrases, sentences, or even passages rather than individual words. While necessarily less precise, functional equivalence can be a more accurate translation method for passages containing ancient idioms that a modern reader would not pick up on. Paraphrases are typically not intended for in-depth study, but are instead intended to put the basic message of the Bible into language which could be readily understood by the typical reader without a theological or linguistic background.

The Message Bible is an example of this kind of translation. The Living Bible is a paraphrase in the sense of rewording an English translation, rather than a translation using the functional equivalence method.

Steve Amos

Christchurch family weekend at Thornleigh

Unfortunately our weekend in October has been cancelled, BUT rearranged for the last weekend, 24 - 26 of September 2021.

Please will you put that date in your diary. If for any reason you would like your name to be taken off the list, can you let me know as soon as possible - thanks.



Thornleigh will be opening its doors on 01 September this year. They really need our support to see them through to March 2021. Would you like a few days away, in a warm friendly hotel, overlooking the bay at Grange-Over-Sands? Do you feel you could support them?

There is a new brochure for the Autumn and Spring at their website www.thornleigh.org. Or give them a ring on 01539 532733, and just enjoy.

Hopes for a post Covid-19 world

The following comes from the PCN (Progressive Christian Network, Britain - of which I am a member) weekly newsletter at the end of July, compiled from members.

- 1 Urgently attend to the climate change crisis and learn from what less road and air traffic and hence less pollution and carbon emissions has taught us.
- 2 Remember all those 'key workers' who care for us in so many ways - nurses, care home staff, refuse collectors, supermarket staff and so many more and ensure they are all paid a fair wage.
- 3 Urgently work to eliminate poverty and consider a universal basic income
- 4 Focus more on mental health and resource this sector properly
- 5 Reform the whole Health and Social Care system so that it becomes properly integrated and funded
- 6 Create a just taxation system, abolishing tax havens and capping extravagant salary payments
- 7 Rebuild our public services on all fronts
- 8 A greater transparency in government and less centralisation of power
- 9 Urgently work for a more equitable share of the earth's resources
- 10 Work for sustainable food security across the globe



So is this list a good discussion starter on how we at Christchurch should be thinking about the future? The priority should not be getting back to our old comfortable 'normal', but perhaps a 'new normal' where God's kingdom values take priority.

Many of us are already active in different causes in our community and perhaps in political and other ways. Perhaps we should all be politically active if we wish to see God's kingdom come.

Steve Amos

Co-op Membership Card

If you have a Co-op membership card, do you know that you can donate your collected membership points to the Ilkley Food Bank? They are issued with vouchers to spend in the Co-op and so can get what they need for food parcels. This means they can get fresh fruit, vegetables and whatever else the Co-op sells that they need.

Just ring customer services on 0800 0686727 and follow the instructions. When you get to speak to a person, you can specify which food bank you want your points to go to. You can donate points already on your membership card if you would like to do this as well as points collected at future dates.

Open Church Congregational Zoom Meeting - 06 July 2020

At a Congregational meeting held by Zoom on 06 July we heard from over 50 Christchurch people about their experiences of the lockdown and their hopes for the future. There were seven groups who sent in notes of their discussions. This is a short summary. It reflects the experience of some of the Christchurch people who have been able to access the internet and not those who haven't been able to do this. The Leadership Team and Trustees in their consideration of these ideas are also thinking about those who do not have internet access and whose experience is different in some ways to that represented in this feedback. Comments may have been made by only one participant.

1 Positives during Lockdown

- Quieter, more leisure time, less busy, slower pace of life, more time
- Time to get stuff done
- Seeing more of the neighbours
- Learning how to do Zoom
- Better attendances at meetings
- Being able to watch different styles of service on the TV
- Being at one with nature, the quiet (lack of traffic) enabled us to hear the birds more clearly and observe wild life
- Connect with neighbours at distance (at least one person talked to a neighbour they had never spoken to previously)
- Family and friends, at a distance, able through technology to have regular meetings
- Learning and using technology was helpful both ways
- Walking for exercise and finding 'that' special place to go and pray and think about a specific situation
- Peaceful and reflective
- The ability to hold additional prayer meetings and house-group meetings via Zoom
- Zoom services – convenient, no driving, we see everyone's faces (and names!) and can access even if unwell/infirm
- One congregation – all together

2 The Toll/those affected

(Losses related to church are listed below and of course the losses for those who have contracted Covid-19 are the greatest of all).

Most comments related to the impact outside the group on the following:

- The lonely / those who are alone
- The vulnerable, the poorest in society
- Those who have lost jobs
- The bereaved
- Families without gardens

- Lack of socialising,
- Lack of exercise
- Working from home and working more hours
- Home schooling,
- Under 30s sacrificed a lot of their freedom to protect the vulnerable and elderly
- Being on show on Zoom
- Loss of jobs and income (and living with the threat of these losses)
- Fear and anxiety
- A further eroding of trust in our politicians
- Impact on children's plans, university, schooling
- Inability to grieve properly,
- Lack of time alone (for working families)
- Care Home and shielded people isolated
- Essential workers mental and physical wellbeing
- Need for more foodbanks for those in need
- Those without connection to the digital world not able to join in as much

3 What has Christchurch gained that we need to keep/develop

- One Sunday morning service. Meeting together has been a plus; it has meant we have interacted with a wider number of people
- Our ability to worship all together when we meet physically – (initially we may be unable to sing and this may make it easier, but restrictions on numbers may make it impossible)
- Recording/streaming services to enable those in Care Homes or the infirm/unwell to join in – possibly recording on to DVD, and provision of a DVD player if required
- Use of Zoom for many church meetings – it means those who cannot go out in the evening can take part, and has significant environmental benefits
- A new balance between different activities
- Online Zoom gives a wider community connection
- Wider phone pastoral community connection
- More prayer
- YouTube reflections
- Joint service
- Zoom for the housebound eg elderly or sick
- Church meetings could continue through Zoom, but we need to encourage/teach more people how to use the technology
- The printing of Wider Horizons online (*Wider Horizons has always been available on the website - Ed*)
- Printed service sheets going to those without access to technology- could be made available in a box attached to outside wall of the Church or notice board

4 What has Christchurch lost that we need to regain?

- Opportunities for effective outreach
- Physical face-to-face contact with members of the worshipping community, both friends and those we do not know. "Being there". Community in the building, especially perhaps connection with people who do not attend Sunday worship
- Friday worship
- Wednesday Fellowship
- Bitesize, Dan's Den, Café, Toddlers
- Singing, music, sermon
- Physical touch
- Communion/the sacraments
- The church Administrator
- Discussion groups from the interactive service and fellowship in the Café after the service
- Offering our church to the community
- Confidence has been diminished because of isolation.
- Loss of spirit for some – for others seeing the Spirit, full of love and service, throughout church life
- Lack of children involved in worship

5 What have we lost and don't want back?

- Two separate Sunday morning services
- A sense of over-busyness

6 What is the purpose of the building?

- Focal point; a focus for our community, for our mission and a focus on Jesus
- We should be seeking clarity on what we are called to do and then ask "how can we use the building for that?". We should avoid thinking first "we have this building, so what should we use it for?"
- The Christchurch building is still needed
- Its unique position in Ilkley gives it the ability to facilitate not just worship activities but also, and importantly, wider community-based activities that also have a component of mission. The connection with the local community is crucial
- Particularly important in this regard, but not exclusively so, are the Christchurch Café and Dan's Den
- It was acknowledged that the Christchurch building is a complex space and that which spaces/rooms needed to be used for which purposes going forward should be addressed
- We should see our building as a 'spiritual space' available to the whole community. This invitation needs to be 'opened out', inviting people in for private prayer and meditation
- Community use: the hiring of rooms is a vital part of our income besides bringing people in, but we shouldn't see the building as some glorified village hall

7 When might we be ready to meet again? And for which activities?

- About one third were ready to meet now, but would not want to do away with Zoom (so those who feel unable to meet in person are still included). About two thirds would prefer to wait - not primarily due to risk but because social distancing and restrictions on singing would impact at least as much as the limitations of Zoom
- Many would love to go back to worshipping and involvement in the community in a wider sense in Christchurch but concerns regarding possible health implications were recognised, particularly relating to the demographic nature of the congregation and the likelihood of a greater susceptibility to Covid-19 infection
- Some suggested opening the Café first, others said worship first!
- On Sunday for services we could use just the Lower Hall with smaller gatherings
- Others thought we should open the whole building at the same time
- Focus on prayer; utilize the many rooms in the building (to lay out with distanced chairs if still necessary) and worship simultaneously, ideally with electronically linked rooms and large screens up so can feel part of the whole
- I think we are not ready right now but await guidance. Use the URC health questionnaire
- Stream a live service
- Invite small groups to attend to help with the social distancing
- Have a banner made to place on church, "*Still closed, but thinking of you*"
- Strike a balance in the expectations of individuals and our community. We should maintain or increase the pastoral care for those members who choose not to attend
- Open the church for personal prayer and meditation and access to nominated 'listeners'

8 During the pandemic, what have we learned about ourselves, about our congregation, and about our community that must shape what we do now?

- We have learned that we are a kind and caring community, both in terms of worship but also in a wider sense. This has been reinforced by what has happened in the pandemic
- We have learned that we are truly an outward-looking community, again both in terms of congregational members and those in the wider community. An image/vision of Christchurch "inside out" was put forward, the perhaps forbidding stone exterior crushed into the middle with the activities relating to worship and the community clear to see from the outside
- The demographic of our congregation has been sharply underlined. Age is one of the major determinants of the risk of serious consequences of infection. This will shape the 'new normal' that follows the pandemic. It will have major consequences

for the attendance at any physical gathering in the church. We will have to cater for all our members, gathered or not.

- We are aware of a greater appetite for religious and spiritual experiences (including Christian worship) among the wider population. We need to consider how this appetite could be satisfied.

Roberta Topham

A response to the budget update of 08 July 2020

JPIT is made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, working together for peace and justice.



Mission statement: Christians are called to act justly and to work for God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean today, and how can we make a difference? As the Joint Public Issues Team, we work to:

- equip Christians to act and pray on issues of injustice,
- resource churches to reflect and campaign effectively,
- help our Churches to speak out with a distinctively Christian voice on injustice.

You can subscribe to their Newsletter by visiting their website at: <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

Why we need a new vision for an economy where everyone can flourish

The Chancellor's budget update focused on building employment. The scale of the challenge ahead is huge, and an emergency response is welcome and necessary. But if we genuinely want this crisis to be a turning point, where we build an economy that puts the wellbeing of all people and the planet at the centre, much more radical changes are needed.

The number of children needing help from foodbanks has doubled since the coronavirus crisis began. There is an irony that these families, who need food the most, will be excluded from the government's largest ever subsidised food programme announced this week.

Our economy is designed in a way that creates many such ironies where the greatest help and opportunity is offered to those who need it least. This budget statement with big tax cuts and grants for those with enough money to buy houses falls into some of these same traps.

As Churches, we long for the flourishing of all people and the wellbeing of the planet. But an economy obsessed with ever

increasing property and share prices is standing in the way. The pursuit of economic growth and ever-increasing consumption is increasingly leaving many behind, and our planet is being gravely damaged in the process. Simply patching up the economy after the crisis and carrying on should not be an option – but this statement has left us on that trajectory.

It is irrefutable that climate change is an emergency that demands immediate action. The measures introduced by the Chancellor to improve energy efficiency and create more green jobs are a welcome start. But it is not yet clear if measures of the scale necessary are being planned.

The Chancellor may have judged that this was not the time for radical measures. But the Autumn budget certainly is.

There is a movement of people across the UK and beyond who are working towards this kind of transformation, where our economy can serve the wellbeing of all people and the planet. Communities and businesses are already working to move from simply reducing their environmental impact to having a positive effect on their environment. Some are even moving from a goal of ever-increasing market wealth to providing both decent employment alongside sustainable products and services.

We urge the Government to be courageous, to join in with this vision and to use the enormous levers of government spending, regulation and monetary policy to point our economy in a new direction, where all people are offered the chance to thrive.

As Churches, we long for the flourishing of people and the wellbeing of our planet. As we emerge from the coronavirus crisis, we find ourselves at a critical moment where we could re-shape the economy to enable the wellbeing of all people and the planet.

Paul Morrison

JPIT policy advisor with particular responsibility for issues around the economy including poverty and inequality

Book Review: In Parables - The Challenge of the Historical Jesus

John Dominic Crossan

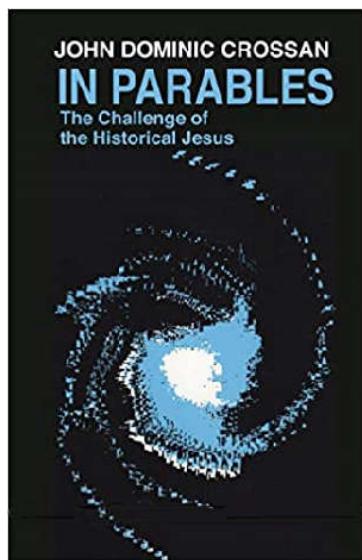
1992 :: Polebridge Press :: £14.49
ISBN 0-944344-22-4 :: 120 pages

JD Crossan was professor of Biblical Studies at DePaul University, Chicago when this was published. It is a revised and rewritten collection of four essays published in Religious/Biblical Journals 1971-73. The book is clearly aimed at Biblical scholars, and I needed to check a dictionary on more than one occasion!

Chapter 1 is an academic discussion of parable as poetry, allegory, metaphor or experience, tied in to the idea of the 'Kingdom' message as 'Divine Action'.

A section about perception of time was very interesting, with a first century view very different from our linear, precise ideas today - and this brought new perspectives to the parables of the Hidden Treasure.

Chapter 2, entitled Advent, was mostly about the parable of the Sower. A fascinating analysis of the texts in Mark, Matthew and Luke, and Thomas (earlier than Mark), leads to conclusions about elements of the parable that were likely additions by the author and those from the Q source used by Matthew and Luke independently of Mark, which allows an interpretation of what might have formed the original parable from Jesus, and consequently what each author did to the meaning. A similar analysis was taken on the parable of the Mustard Seed.



Chapter 3, called Reversal, centred of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Here the analysis led to the original meaning of the parable as being how the Kingdom was one where everything was 'reversed': the then current understanding of good and bad are turned around, Jesus' parable challenging the world order, a sign of what the Kingdom meant.

Other parables only found in Luke (the Rich Fool, the Rich Man and Lazarus, the Pharisee and the Publican, the Wedding Guests), once stripped back, all have the same 'reversal' message. Parables of reversal have, through redaction and tradition, become simple models of right behaviour instead of 'world turned upside down' theology.

Chapter 4 concentrates on Parables of Action. The analysis shows how in places, original parables (the Wicked Husbandman and all the Servant parables) have been merged to create what we have now, but have shifted the purpose and meaning to one that suited the compiler and his situation (at his current time and the understanding of the early church).

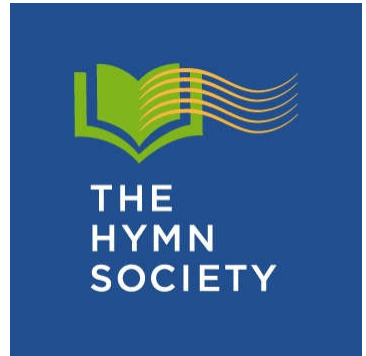
I bought this following a bibliography reference from another book. Having read it, I would have loved to have found this back in the early seventies. That would have been affirming.

If you can cope with the particularly academic language of chapter 1, reading the de-construction analysis of the parable texts and uncovering an original form, meaning and purpose is exciting. It moves many of these very familiar parables to such a radically different understanding that shows Jesus' message as so much more powerful and liberating.

It's now in the Melting Pot Library if anyone wishes to borrow it.

Hymn For The Day

I have been following the Hymn for the Day initiative developed all through July by the Hymn Society of Great Britain & Ireland. A hymn is being added each day in July. Members are reflecting upon a different hymn each day. Some reflections are presented by video or audio. Some of the hymns are sung, and always the complete text of both hymn and reflection are made available. They are an interesting mix of old and new.



Listen to Timothy Dudley Smith on *'When I survey the wondrous cross'* (StF 287) or engage with Marjorie Dobson, writing through her current pain and anxiety with her own hymn, *'When our caring love wears thin'* (StF 622). Or re-discover an old favourite, *'The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended'* (StF 147), unpacked by John Crothers.

All of them will remain available on the Hymn Society website throughout August so there is still time for you to follow it.

Margo Atkinson

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

Wider Horizons

This is the monthly magazine of Christchurch Ilkley, a Methodist and United Reformed Church Local Partnership.



The views expressed by contributors are their own and reflect the diversity of views you will find amongst those who call Christchurch their spiritual home.

"Belief is much more than signing up to a list of statements; rather, Christian faith is a life-long journey of discipleship, and so, as a church, we encourage, affirm, allow and delight in everyone's faith journey. We support learning, exploring and growing in faith, in order to allow us to become the people that God wants us to be" (from the statement of 'Belief And Belonging' - June 2014).

Steve Amos - Editor | Page 23

Worship at CHRISTCHURCH - August 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 will also be a weekly Pastoral Letter, a YouTube presentation, and a **Zoom service at 10:00am**.

Sunday	Theme	Reading	Interactive	Preacher
02 August	Bible Month: Ruth 3	Ruth	Rev Roberta Topham	Rev Roberta Topham
09 August	Bible Month: Ruth 4	Ruth	Michael Noble	Rev Rita Armitage
16 August	Listen & Understand	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28	David Goulesbrough	Rev Keith Reed
23 August	A Better Story	Matthew 16:13-20	Christine Gibson	Philip Gibson
30 August	Take Up Your Cross	Matthew 16:21-28	Michael Noble	Michael Noble



09 & 23 August at 4:30pm



16 August at 4:30pm

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

I plan to produce an edition for September in the same way - so please send items to me at **steve.amos.gb@gmail.com** by **Sunday 23 August at the latest**. No 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