



WIDER HORIZONS

**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON
CARING**

Our building is partially open - the latest Worship information can be found on the back page

 tempchristchurchoffice@gmail.com

 www.christchurchilkley.org.uk

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CHRISTCHURCH
October 2020

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



ROBERTA'S
WRITINGS

Dear friends,

“Care and calm” are the two words some large institutions are using to guide their approach to these freshly challenging times. These words and ideas have a deeply spiritual root. I think we could all benefit from adopting them for this season.

Care for ourselves and for others is what Jesus always calls his followers to do. Sometimes we can forget. Now is a time to really focus again on looking after one another. We need to recognise vulnerabilities, our own and other people’s, and to let that moderate all our decisions and actions.

Calm is what the Scriptures tell us Jesus offers in the boat during the storm. It is also what happens in the turmoil after his death when he breathes the Holy Spirit on his friends. Calm is the opposite of agitation.

We are, of course, in a time of turmoil. On a very regular basis new restrictions or guidelines are issued in response to the pandemic. For those of us who like to plan ahead this is deeply uncomfortable.

Personally, I love to plan, to look forward, to get organised, to overcome obstacles and to collaborate with a team, working together to achieve goals. This has all become very difficult. Yes, we can still look forward with trust in God’s big picture, “the hope of glory” to quote the song. Perhaps though we can also benefit from focusing a little more on the here and now. After all Jesus also proposed stopping and looking: “consider the lilies of the field”.

With this in mind, there are three things I aim to do in the coming days (and months most likely) and wonder if you might join me.

Keep in contact. Its important to connect in whatever ways we can do. (We hope to start some group coffee times by Zoom and by phone).

Learn. We can still develop our faith and our characters. (I’ll share in a post script a book and a documentary series that have helped me recently. Could we start a book and film club?).

Be active. We may have lost the impetus of the one hour of exercise outside permitted in the initial lockdown, and the daily Joe Wicks class on TV, but we can choose to include exercise in our lives. (I hear



“Bible Yoga” – stretching as the words of a Bible passage may prompt! Its great to do what brings us joy – and movement!).

Our Church too might do well to set some shorter-term goals. The Trustees will have met by the time *Wider Horizons* goes to print and **I urge you to take a look at the summary on the next two pages.** Like every institution we have to respond to the changing situation and to recognise that any decision we take today may have to be reviewed and even altered tomorrow. Most of us can do very little to change the circumstances of this pandemic, but with God’s help we can change how we respond. We can pray (especially for those working on vaccines, cures, economics and those who are unwell), and we can look out for each other with words and actions of care, drawing on the Holy Spirit to help us keep calm.

Holding you, and all of our community, in prayers and love

Roberta

Once upon a time in Iraq is a 5-episode documentary that tells the story of events in Iraq since 2003 through the experiences of soldiers and civilians. Shown on BBC 2, it is available on iPlayer. My Iraqi family have told me that it is an excellent portrayal of what life in Iraq was like during the 2003 war and its aftermath. The characters of those interviewed shine through, alleviating a little of the grim brutality of the circumstances.

The Good Immigrant edited by Nikesh Shukula, first published 2016 by Unbound, London, is an enlightening read about what it means to be Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic in Britain today. It contains twenty-one short essays or life-stories by some well-known people who share their experience often with humour and always with candour. This is giving me a deeper insight into the complexities of racism in our country and a greater appreciation of diversity.

Please be aware that in the documentaries and the book vulgar and offensive language is often used. This, while uncomfortable, reflects the gritty realism both are sharing.

Comings and Goings

We are sad to announce the death of Jack Lewis. We send our love and prayers to Helen and family and friends.

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



Trustees Meeting - 29 September 2020

The following are edited from the minutes prepared by Diana Feather. If you wish to see the full minutes, please contact her. Steve Amos (ed).

Café - Takings in the first three weeks had almost covered the main costs of wages and food, and £76 had been given in donations. There had been many positive comments about the 'best Café in Ilkley' and how delighted people were that it had re-opened. The shortfall was modest and the value to outreach was immense. Staff would be kept on partial furlough until the scheme ends at the end of October. The government's next job retention scheme, which will start in November will be the sole agenda item for the Sub-Group of the Leadership Team's meeting on Monday 05 October. The Trustees gave permission for the Café to continue to open to the public for three days per week, Wednesday – Friday from 10:00am until 2:00pm until further notice.

Outreach - Michael Johnston has been working two of his hours each week in the Café on a temporary basis. Although there was concern that the Toddlers group would not be able to re-start safely, Roberta said that the Methodist Church had set out plans of how to go ahead, so this might now be possible.

Housegroups - Trustees gave permission for a small group of people (up to five) unable to connect to Zoom, to form a Housegroup to meet in the Church building, led by Lynda and following strict Covid-19 guidelines.

Worship - The Steering Group is investigating streaming services from the church building and more discussion is expected at the next Worship Steering Group and at the Congregational meeting.

Funerals - Trustees gave permission for small funerals to take place in the Church building where possible and where enough volunteers are available to ensure Covid-19 compliance.

Holy Communion - Trustees gave permission for Holy Communion to take place during the 4:00pm Sunday services held on alternate weeks in the Worship Area, starting in November, under Covid-19 guidelines.

Pastoral visits - The Trustees gave permission for Roberta to hold pastoral visits in the Church building if this becomes necessary (if she is not allowed to visit people in their homes).

Room Hire - A new dedicated email address for room hiring is being set up. Hand written bills for the first three months of 2020 are in preparation, and all room hirers had been sent Roberta's statement from 25 August. Trustees agreed in principle to allow one-off room hire bookings to be held in the Church building after discussion with the Leadership Team or the Sub Group of the Leadership Team, to judge appropriateness of the activity and to ensure Covid-19 compliance, after which the room to be booked through Val Worrall.

Yoga - Trustees gave permission in principle for Yoga to resume, in the Lower Hall, to enable the Brownies to meet in the Riddings Hall.

Caretakers/Cleaning - Our cleaner Pauline came off furlough at the end of August and is working flexibly. Caretakers are still on furlough.

Property up-date - A panel of glass in the Riddings Hall has cracked and the Insurance company would not pay out; it has to be replaced at a cost of £1000 + VAT. Cabad's Office requires a new carpet -quotes are being obtained quotes.

Wizards - Trustees gave permission for the Wizards to continue to work in the building.

Meetings - Trustees gave permission for small, Church-related business meetings to take place on Church premises, where Zoom is not possible.

Dan's Den - Trustees agree to offer Dan's Den a donation from the Legacy Youth Account of £3000 to cover a quarter's rent.

The 12 Faces of Hope Exhibition - Trustees gave permission for the Faces of Hope Exhibition, which was postponed during the lockdown, to go ahead in the Lower Hall once the Knamillers had time to organise and advertise it widely.

Treasurer's Report - Current reserves are three months. The church has received some generous donations recently.

Congregational Meeting - on Monday 12 October on Zoom; invitation will be included in the Sunday notices.

Remembrance Poppies - Permission from Bradford Council had been obtained for a poppy display outside Church. Volunteers to contact Bridget Pitcairn for information.

Date of next meeting - Monday 26 October 2020 at 7:30pm by Zoom.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Monday 12 October 2020 at 7:30pm

By Zoom - bring your own refreshments!!

Dan's Den: Pizza & Play is Back!

3:00pm - 5:00pm Mondays and Fridays

Home made pizza, juice and admission

for only £7



DAN'S DEN

Letters from Naomi's family – an imaginative exercise for the Bible month series on Ruth

Five church members imagined what it would be like to be a character from the Old Testament story of Ruth. Some have imagined how their character might have written a letter to a future grandchild. Three were published last month; here are the remaining two pieces.

Ruth writes in modern day England - Margaret Whitton

Dear Jesse, I'm visiting Warwick! My homeland! Years ago your great-grandmother (Naomi) left Yorkshire to come here to Warwick with your great-grandfather (Elimelech) after they'd suffered repeated hardship from the weather (Yorkshire had some terrible floods back in those days). It was whilst they were living here that I met her son Mahlon who later became my husband. (One of our favourite places was the view on the front of this card.)

My friend Orpah married Naomi's other son Kilion, which made us quite a family unit in Warwick! Sadly Elimelech died, but we still functioned as a unit caring for each other in our different ways. Then, about ten years later, a virus spread and both my husband and Orpah's husband caught it and died. That left a whoppa hole, and suddenly Warwick felt alien to Naomi. She felt bereft of everything.

Naomi was so upset, as we all were, and after much thought she decided to leave Warwickshire and return to her roots in 'God's own county', Yorkshire. Obviously we helped her pack and sort out the removal van and we were busy packing up our own stuff when Naomi told us we didn't have to. You see she knew, as we were widowed, no-one would be there to marry us and as Naomi wasn't our birth mother we'd not have any family rights. So she told us to go back to our real mothers, which Orpah did. But I also worried for Naomi, whether she'd cope. So whilst your great aunt Orpah decided to stay in Warwickshire, I returned to Yorkshire with Naomi, vowing to support her and find out about her God that meant so much to her. And I believed that somehow her God would spread a sunshield over us to protect us on our journey.

It was summer when we arrived, time for the strawberry harvest. They're always eager for strawberry pickers, and so I set-to to help the harvest. I wasn't able to get much work and it was hot and back-breaking when I did, but the owner of one field took pity on me and told me to stick to his land and he'd make sure I always got something, and also that the unpleasant men wouldn't pick on me, or drag me down the pub after a days work in the field to get me drunk and seduce me.

I was so grateful! I worked hard and managed to feed Naomi. I asked the owner, Boaz, why he was so kind and protective of me, even though I wasn't a native Yorkshire woman! And he just said it was 'cos he'd heard I'd behaved like that towards my mother-in-law. And he kept me on after the strawberry harvest to pick the tomatoes too. I still think, whenever my hands turn red or green from fruit juice, of how I was protected by God's sunshield as I picked fruit all those years ago.

to make myself known to Boaz, who she'd just realised was a relative and therefore obliged to inherit all assets. "Let him know you're interested - when he staggers in from the pub in the evening tuck him in safely and make sure he's a glass of water and some paracetamol beside his bed for the morning. I'll text him to let him know he's related to me and should start sorting out tax affairs etc."

I did as Naomi suggested, and amazingly when Boaz asked what I wanted, I said "Please sort out the lawyers so I can inherit through you, and please spread your protection over me like a sunshield". He wanted to marry me there and then, but he said I should first meet Naomi's only other eligible relative who was more my age and therefore might give me a better future. Boaz (not me) in fact chatted with him to explain the situation, but he refused to inherit the land and me, in case it affected all the assets he already had.

So Boaz inherited the land, Elimelech's, Kilion's and Mahlon's, buying it and marrying me, promising to keep the family together.

And so I became a Yorkshirewoman, and you are from 'God's own county' too, Jesse. This card shows Warwick, a reminder of my past. Yorkshire is such a great place that even a foreigner like me could be integrated into it, shown love, fed, given an inheritance. Remember that the past doesn't define your future. Naomi even sometimes told me that she wished she'd never gone to Warwick, but then she'd reflect wisely that her heart just grew fonder for Yorkshire as a result! No matter what pain, sorrow, anguish, bereavement; no matter how unsettled, peculiar, uncertain the future; no matter how poor or empty you may feel; Naomi's God brings you out of that place into a place of fullness and wholeness.

And just remember, as Boaz (who is my own little god) once said to me, "Don't go anywhere else! Keep close to me and I'll make sure you're looked after." With love, Grandma Ruth. Xx

Orpah - Margaret Cook

I've just returned home after saying "good bye" to Ruth, my sister-in-law, and Naomi, my mother-in-law. I left them as they journeyed from Moab (my country) into Judah. My Naomi came from there originally.

Naomi had heard that there was plenty of food in Judah - it was not so plentiful in Moab - and she felt she would be better back with her people. Life had been hard for us - it isn't easy for women on their own. You see my father-in-law had died a few years back and then my husband and my brother-in-law. The three of us had to manage on our own.

Naomi was good to us and Ruth and I loved her dearly. She was very concerned about our future as she felt we must marry again. She was sad she was not able to provide us with one! Neither of us had children so that made the situation even harder.

I was very close to Ruth too - we had grieved together and despite all the hardships we had survived. We loved and respected each other.

When Naomi made the decision to return to Judah I was quite shocked - the three of us were very close and I knew I would have some decisions to make - tough ones! I did feel, like Ruth, that we should stick together and support each other. So we began the journey to Judah.

It would be hard to leave my native land but my relationships were strong with Ruth and Naomi. Then doubts crept in - how would I be treated as a foreigner - almost a refugee? As I was a widow would I be viewed with suspicion?

Their God was different from ours. Naomi was very faithful to her God and I could not see my own faith changing. I was faithful to the God we worshipped in Moab.

Should I go or not? I was being torn apart. Naomi pleaded that we should both return to our own land - go to your mother's house she said. I made the decision - it was the hardest of my life - I may live to regret it. No I would say goodbye, turn around and go back to the land I knew. I wanted to feel some security in the future - be somewhere I knew. It would be difficult enough as a widow with no children.

Submitted by Roberta Topham

St George's Crypt Leeds

As you may expect, we are unable to arrange our annual collection of clothing and household linens at the moment. If at all possible, I will advise you of a date in the future.

The Crypt would be grateful for any goods you are able to deliver to their shops, but please phone ahead to ensure they have space.

40-46 Town Street, Armley, LS12 3AA.

Tel 0113 2797732

Open 9:30am - 5:00pm Monday - Saturday

7 Church Lane, Pudsey, LS28 7LD.

Tel 0113 2576965

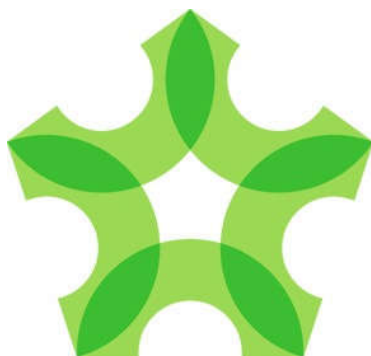
Open 9:00am - 4:30pm Monday - Saturday

The Roundhay shop has less space so kindly refrain from delivering items there.

If you might think of going, perhaps you could let folk know through the weekly Newsletter, and arrange to take other folks donations as well.

The Crypt urgently requires additional storage and sorting areas. If you know of anywhere suitable, or would like to volunteer to help with the Crypt's work, please contact Helen Brown-Brownridge (Head of Retail) at helen.brownridge@stgeorgescrypt.org.uk.

Many thanks



Homeless Sunday - 11 October 2020

During the pandemic, homelessness in the UK has changed dramatically. As lockdown began, thousands of rough sleepers were moved into self-contained accommodation. We discovered it was possible to practically end rough sleeping overnight, if the political will was there.



As we move forward together, we can't just return to the way things were before, with mass rough sleeping across our cities and towns.

It's crucial we respond now.

On 11 October 2020 will you be taking time to reflect upon homelessness in the UK? In particular how has Covid-19 impacted those experiencing homelessness and the services they rely upon?

Compared to the general public, people sleeping rough

- are almost 17 times more likely to be a victim of violence
- die 30 years younger on average (the average life expectancy for men sleeping rough is 47 and 43 for women)

When growing up

- two thirds of people who sleep rough experienced violence between parents/carers
- just under 60% had a parent/carer with a drug or alcohol problem
- about half have been sexually and/or physically abused
- one third have been bullied or have been suspended or expelled from school
- 25% have been taken into the care of a council as a child or young person
- a quarter were brought up in a workless household living on welfare benefits
- 15% reported they often did not have enough to eat each day

It is important to recognise that official figures often significantly underestimate the number of people sleeping rough. For example, the latest government figures state that around 4,300 people are sleeping rough on any given night, but since the lockdown began more than 14,500 people who were at risk or living on the streets were moved into emergency accommodation - over three times as many!

We need to reimagine how we respond to homelessness. As churches, we need to think especially hard. Whilst night shelters and drop in centres are some of the most common forms of social action churches run, they're difficult to run right now because of social distancing.

In the last few months, we've proved that homelessness isn't inevitable. So, what will you do to end homelessness?

Edited together from the September and October JPIT newsletters.

Christchurch Housegroups

The Christchurch Housegroups have just started, but it's not too late to join.

If you've never tried one, might this Autumn and Winter be just the opportunity? No need to go out on a cold night this winter. There's room on Zoom. With the press of a button, you can be there!

There's a warmth of fellowship, time to listen or join in a discussion, and a chance to understand more of our faith and doubts.

If you are interested, why not try a taster session or two. We'd love to see you.

For more details contact me by email at lynda-d@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on 07930 325508.



Lynda Duttine

Bible Reading Notes

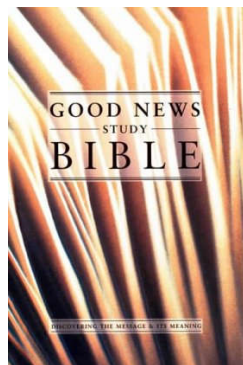
If you read the Bible but would like help to understand its message, or if you enjoy a structured approach to your daily devotions, why not consider Bible reading notes? If you belong to a Housegroup, you may feel you have enough structure and stimuli already, but whether or not that is the case, some members of our congregation find them very helpful. Here are some we subscribe to:

Every Day with Jesus - provides suggestions for a short daily Bible reading, gives a devotional explanation of around 300 words, makes suggestions for further Bible readings on the same subject, and includes a short prayer. Each booklet lasts two months.

New Daylight - provides a printed Bible passage for each day, plus a helpful comment or reflection, and a prayer or thought for the day. Published by the Bible Reading Fellowship, it draws on a range of contributors who each provide notes on a particular theme or book of the Bible, for about two weeks. There is a page of background explanation for each theme. Each booklet lasts four months.

Guidelines - also by the Bible Reading Fellowship, provides in-depth study of the Bible in six sections per week, enabling readers to interpret and apply Biblical text with confidence, thus helping to equip church leaders to meet the challenges of their mission.

If you would like to try any of these notes, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can order some for next year. Thanks.



Reopening the Café

The decision to reopen the Café was taken by the Trustees knowing that there are many people who love coming and many who actually need it to be there!



At the time of writing we have been open for three weeks - albeit on reduced hours and days and with a simpler menu.

Careful planning had taken place making sure that all the Covid regulations had been put in place, and being aware of what was feasible because of the layout of the cooking and the actual eating areas.

We needed to have volunteers checking people as they enter - taking contact details, asking them to comply with hand sanitising and mask wearing, following arrows and standing at the entrance to wait to be seated. We also take their temperature with a thermometer 'gun' at the same time we welcome them in!

We also had to plan how the staff and volunteers worked within the Café so as to maintain distances whilst being the friendly welcoming people we have always been! We had to wear visors at all times!

Trade has been slower than previously but the message is getting around that we have reopened and many are saying "thank goodness you're back again"!

The staff and volunteers are having to get used to working in a very different way and adjusting plans at times to make for better working. It is a journey we are on and times are not easy for most people.

Can I ask of you the following

- Please pray for the Café, the staff, the volunteers and the customers as they take this journey together.
- Please think about volunteering - it will have to be a decision weighing up all the risk factors that we have to consider. Many of our 'older' volunteers cannot volunteer at present.
- Please come to the Café and have your morning coffee or lunch - I can recommend the vegetable casserole and the scones!!

Thanks must go to all the people who have planned the reopening but especially to Kathryn our manager. Her diligent preparation received congratulations from the Bradford Council Environmental Health visitors who dropped in during our second week! They were also impressed by the layout in the foyer on entering the building!

Margaret Cook

Opening Times

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

10:00am - 2:00pm

Brian Evans - His Story

Brian and I have been with the Christchurch fellowship in Ilkley for two years now, and in that time we have shared many conversations. Coming relatively late to the fellowship however we do not know all your 'stories' and you don't know ours. Brian is now in a Nursing Home and there is no opportunity for you to get to know him more. I was asked to



write about him as he went in to The Gables and some of you may be interested to learn about the man you never really knew.

Brian is the son of a Congregational minister Idris and his wife Kyria. His grandfather was also a Welsh Congregational minister. Although Brian was born in Croydon, he and the family always thought of themselves as Welsh with their roots in South Wales.

His sister Ruth is two years older than Brian. She now suffers from Alzheimer's and is in a home in Bristol very much at the end of her life. They have always been very close.

Ruth and Brian were evacuated in the war, with an elderly aunt, to the farm of his cousin Gwynfor Evans who later became the first Welsh Nationalist (Plaid Cymru) MP. He has with him a book about Gwynfor which includes a picture of Brian aged 5 or 6 on the farm.

To avoid the bombing, Brian and Ruth were both sent away to boarding school, and Brian went to Caterham in Surrey – a school for the sons of Congregational ministers. Brian was immensely happy, enjoying cricket and hockey there, and becoming head boy. Cricket remains a lifelong love, playing and now watching.

Leaving school, he went to Jesus College, Oxford to read History, history and politics being other lifelong interests. Following this, Brian did his national service as an officer in the Royal Army Service Corps. The training gave him an entirely different experience of life!

In 1957 Brian began his training to become a teacher, not following in the ministerial tradition of his forebears, but still sharing the liberal faith in which he had been nurtured. It is a faith which believes in justice and caring for those most in need. He spent the summers of 1958 and 1959 working in refugee camps in Austria. These fostered his work for the United Nations Association organisation.

Brian's teaching career was one of success. He moved from King Edward VI Grammar School, teaching history, after three years, to Heath Grammar School in Halifax as head of the history department. When there he met Pat, now his wife, and they married in 1964. The family grew to include Paul before another move took place to Newport in South Wales where Brian was head of Upper School at a large comprehensive school for three years. Catherine was born in

1970 before another move back to Halifax, where Brian had his first headship at the Crossley and Porter Grammar School.

Unhappy however with the system, Brian now looked for a good comprehensive school and after six years in Halifax he was appointed as head of Honley High School – a large comprehensive school near Huddersfield. He was a much-loved head and stayed there till his retirement at the age of 59.

The church and his faith have been central to Brian's life – indeed to the life of the whole family. At this point Brian was appointed as Synod clerk for the Yorkshire Province of the United Reformed Church – a very responsible and rewarding job. He had great ability to chair meetings and even make them fun and went on to various other important jobs in the national church such as secretary to the committee assessing candidates for the ministry. At the same time, he continued to preach in local churches where he was much appreciated as a long serving elder of the URC.

Pat and Brian travelled a great deal in the years of their retirement: Kenya with friends who had worked there; South Africa, visiting the same friends working there; Pakistan doing a memory tour with his sister Ruth and brother in law Iain who worked for the British Council; as well as Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Syria, China, Australia, Egypt, Sweden, Lithuania and Europe in general. So many memories which hopefully Brian can retain. Walking in the country was a great pleasure.

From all this it is easy to see why Brian finds it so hard that he can no longer go for walks and speak in public – or even private. He has had a wonderful life with loving family of whom he is so proud which now includes a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law and five wonderful grandchildren.

Paul, his son who lives in Ilkley with his Dutch wife Marleen, has three children: Jasper at Oxford studying PPE; Sam going to Lancaster to study computer science; and Jiska going into the sixth form at Ilkley Grammar School. Paul, and indeed Catherine, also followed in Brian's footsteps and went to Jesus College Oxford where they both studied Modern Languages. Paul continued his studies in Law and is now an immigration and employment judge.

Catherine, his daughter, with husband Neil lives in Tooting and has two daughters aged 12 and 10, Rosa and Maya. She is now a teacher of Music and French in a primary school.

Pat his wife was also a teacher of mathematics in a Sixth Form College and she and Catherine share a love of music. She and Brian were very active in Christ Church, Hipperholme and until this year involved in Christchurch, Ilkley. They have been married for 56 years.

He has never complained about his condition, although now he finds it all very confusing, and it is with very heavy hearts that we are committing him to the care of The Gables.

Christian Aid 2020

We just received this letter and poster from Christian Aid, thanking everyone for the money donated back in March. I know their office has been closed for a long time during lockdown and I guess they are just now catching up on things.

Dear Ilkley Christchurch

We just wanted to say a huge "thank you" for taking part in Christian Aid Week 2020. It was certainly a Christian Aid Week like no other!

We are so proud of how you put on your creative thinking hats, stepped up to the challenge and fundraised so innovatively during the coronavirus pandemic. We had quizzes with Rowan Williams, vicars shaving their heads, virtual concerts, supporters walking marathons and a sponsored silence to name just a few!

The current total for CAW2020 and the Coronavirus Appeal combined, currently stands at an amazing £4.3 million! This figure has completely smashed our targets and expectations and this is down to you, our faithful supporters.

Our partners who are working in vulnerable communities are already benefitting from your generous donations and are responding to the vital need of hygiene stations, sanitation kits and isolation hospital beds as they continue to fight the coronavirus.

We have attached an image to this email, personalised to your church/group which can be posted on social media or circulated via email to encourage your fundraisers with their efforts.

Please note, we are still working on the data and matching

donations to their organisation, therefore, if the amount noted on the attachment isn't the same as you declared, this will be corrected as further data becomes available to us.

Thank you for your continued support, Christian Aid couldn't continue to deliver vital work across the globe without you.

Unfortunately under the current circumstances regarding Covid-19, there is a delay to processing donations by post. Please give via the Christian Aid website where possible or call 020 7523 2269 to donate by telephone.

Blessings, Tim Jessop - Central Supporter Engagement Coordinator



Thank you to everyone at Ilkley Christchurch LEP for taking part in Christian Aid Week 2020. We raised an incredible £1,895.00! Donations like ours have helped equip communities in Nepal with surgical beds as they fight coronavirus.

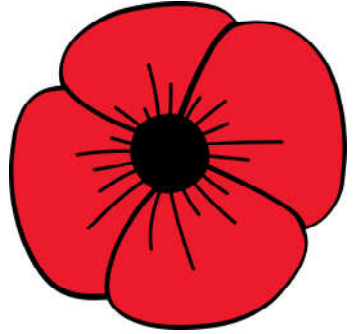
Siddhalek Rural Municipality, Dhading

Remembrance Sunday Poppy Display

We are proposing a poppy display in front of Christchurch as part of the Remembrance Sunday commemoration, starting to go up on Saturday 30 October, so it is completed in time for Remembrance Sunday 08 November.

To achieve this, we plan to make lots of poppies from upcycled plastic.

Your help is needed to collect any form of plastic, such as bottles to use the ends for flowers (keep the cap), or other forms of plastic for a flatter poppy eg food trays, milk cartons. Also help is needed to cut out the plastic, and to paint poppies.



Please let me know if you can help with any of these roles.

I'll plan how to deliver/collect the plastic when I know the best way! Everything has to be socially distanced.

If you can help collect plastic, cut out the shape, and/or paint, please contact me at bridgetpitcairn@outlook.com or phone 07956 458239. I can send you more details. Thank you.

Bridget Pitcairn

Christchurch Calendar

Yes. Yes. Yes

There will be a 2021 Christchurch Calendar! Our photographers have been busy during lockdown. Marketing methods will need to be different, however. They will be printed to order. Watch this space.

Margo Atkinson

Church Office email Addresses

Please note 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.**

The new email address is **tempchristchurchoffice@gmail.com**

Church Notices

- ☛ At Sunday's service, Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I will not pass this way again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- ☛ Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- ☛ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale next Saturday. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

God's Words? - Translations 5 of 5

This is taken from the February Melting Pot session; this part concludes our wide ranging exploration.



Alternative approaches

Most translations make the translators' best attempt at a single rendering of the original, relying on footnotes where there might be alternative translations or textual variants. An alternative is taken by the Amplified Bible. In cases where a word or phrase admits of more than one meaning the Amplified Bible presents all the possible interpretations, allowing the reader to choose one. For example, the first two verses of the Amplified Bible read:

In the beginning God (Elohim) created [by forming from nothing] the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void *or* a waste and emptiness, and darkness was upon the face of the deep [primeval ocean that covered the unformed earth]. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.

Single source translations

While most translations attempt to synthesise the various texts in the original languages, some translations also translate one specific textual source, generally for scholarly reasons. A single volume example for the Old Testament is *The Dead Sea Scrolls Bible* by Martin Abegg, Peter Flint and Eugene Ulrich.

Gender Inclusivity

A number of recent Bible translations have taken a variety of steps to deal with current moves to prescribe changes related to gender references in English, like the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), the New Century Version (NCV), Contemporary English Version (CEV) and Today's New International Version (TNIV).

In Jewish circles the Jewish Publication Society's translation the New Jewish Publication Society Tanakh (NJPS) is the basis for The Contemporary Torah: A Gender-Sensitive Adaptation of the JPS Translation (CJPS). Gender inclusivity is used in varying degrees by different translations.

Doctrinal differences and translation policy

In addition to linguistic concerns, theological issues also drive Bible translations. Some translations of the Bible, produced by single churches or groups of churches, may be seen as subject to a point of view by the translation committee.

For example, the New World Translation, produced by Jehovah's Witnesses, provides different renderings where verses in other Bible translations support the deity of Christ. The NWT also translates *kurios* as "Jehovah" rather than "Lord".

Other translations are distinguished by smaller but distinctive doctrinal differences. For example, the Purified Translation of the Bible,

promoting the position that Christians should not drink alcohol, have New Testament references to "wine" translated as "grape juice".

Popularity

Amazon UK bestsellers (January 2020):

- New International Version Audio
- New International Version
- New King James Version Audio
- King James Version
- English Standard Version
- Catholic Revised Standard Version
- King James Version Reference
- Bible in a Year (Nicky Gumbel)
- NIV (journal & verse mapping)
- New King James Version

A study published in 2014 found that Americans read versions of the Bible as follows:

- King James Version (55%)
- New International Version (19%)
- New Revised Standard Version (7%)
- New American Bible (6%)
- The Living Bible (5%)
- All other translations (8%)

Questions

- How many versions of the Bible do you have?
- Do you have a 'favourite' translation? What is it and why?
- Do you like a Bible with footnotes and cross-references?
- Do you like to use a 'Study Bible'?
- Does the information in this series amend your view about the Bible?
- How confident are you about the integrity of the Bible?
- Is the Bible true?
- Is the Bible inspired?
- Is the Bible truly 'God's Word'?
- Because of the Dead Sea Scrolls, should we be reading a modern translation of the Bible (that takes it into account)?
- Should we be reading a gender inclusive version of the Bible?
- Does your theological view impact your choice translation?

Book Review: The Secret Message Of Jesus – uncovering the truth that could change everything

Brian D McLaren

2006 :: Thomas Nelson :: £10.99

ISBN 9780-8499-1892-6 :: 246 pages + notes

Brian McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for 'a new kind of Christianity'.

What if many carried on a religion that somewhere along the way missed rich and radical treasures hidden in the essential message of Jesus? I was drawn in to this book by the title and the promise of tackling economics and politics; well, they are touched upon, but it's not the book I'd hoped for. And he seriously overplays the 'secret' bit.

The book is in three sections: uncovering Jesus' message; grappling with its meaning; exploring how it could change everything. Twenty one chapters make this book very accessible. It's not an academic exploration but instead a very personal account of ideas new to McLaren, although it feels a bit like a series of 'sermons'.

The first part is not new to most of us; we already understand that Jesus' message was radical, reframing the 'Kingdom' message just like the prophets before him, putting God's values into his cultural, historical context.

Part two is framed by McLaren's personal faith position; he considers himself an 'evangelical' Christian, believing in an interventionist God, actual physical miracles, and it is clear from his use of biblical quotes that he takes them all literally: if one of the gospels says Jesus did or said something, he firmly believes they historically happened as recorded (he doesn't tackle any issues of contradiction!).

This led me to find some difficulty with his analysis. I couldn't put myself into his theological shoes, and I was distracted by the annoying habit of continually swapping the translation he quoted in order to get the words that fitted his purpose – I don't consider this genuine analysis.

He did admit to some tension in his evangelical Pauline understanding of 'the gospel' with the 'secret' message he was uncovering from Jesus; the third section explores his developing ideas. For someone with his evangelical background, this is probably a very radical journey, and I guess he should be congratulated for dipping his toe in the water. For those of us already swimming (if that doesn't push the metaphor too far), it's not a book that holds any surprises.

The book would be more suited to someone in tune with his evangelical position, but able, like him, to allow Jesus' message to impact his understanding of where the evangelical church as an



The Secret Message of Jesus

UNCOVERING THE TRUTH
THAT COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING

Brian D. McLaren

Author of A New Kind of Christian

Now including a bonus chapter and discussion guide

institution has lost its way.

It comes with eight pages of discussion points – basically a long list of questions separated into chapters allowing the reader to more formally explore their own views. Available to borrow.

Steve Amos

Stewarding for services during Covid Restrictions

During the present restrictions on worship at Christchurch our stewarding and support needs are different from normal. For each of the Sunday services (10:00am weekly and 4:00pm fortnightly) we need two people to welcome attendees and someone to prepare the PowerPoint or SongPro slides.

And for the 10:00am service we would like to add to our Zoom operating team.

Also, for the 4:00pm service in the Worship Area, we need someone to set up the microphones before the service and someone to operate the projectors/computer displays and/or control the sound desk. If you feel you could help in any of these areas I would like to hear from you - brianpatscott@gmail.com or 07982 300233. Thank you

Brian Scott

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).

Next Month's Copy Deadline

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

I plan to produce an edition for November in the same concentrated way - so please send items to me at [**steve.amos.gb@gmail.com**](mailto:steve.amos.gb@gmail.com) by **Sunday 01 November** at the latest - you can always send in early. No email? - give me a call on 01943 600111.

Worship at CHRISTCHURCH - October 2020

The pattern of services of worship is changing

As our building is being opened in a phased way, there will be regular reviews and possible sudden changes to procedures.

PLEASE CHECK IN WITH SOMEONE BEFORE GOING TO THE BUILDING.

The **weekly Zoom service at 10:00am** will continue; the link to this is sent out each week from the church office. Please email tempchristchurchoffice@gmail.com if you have not received a link and would like to do so. The Zoom service with sound only can also be joined through an ordinary telephone.

Sunday	Theme	Reading
04 Oct	God's Vineyard	Matthew 21:33-46
11 Oct	The Wedding Feast	Matthew 22:1-14
18 Oct	Harvest Festival	"All we can" Change begins with a bicycle
25 Oct	The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22:34-46
01 Nov	The True Teacher?	Matthew 23:1-12

There is a large screen viewing of the 10:00am Zoom service in the Lower Hall for those without the internet.

There will continue to be a **new service at 4:00pm on 04 and 18 October and 01 November** in the Worship Area (under Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing).

For either of these, **please book a place with Jenny Freeman on 01943 511244.**



Bitesize (our messy church service) is being held in the Riddings Hall (Dan's Den) on **11 and 25 October** between 4:00 and 5:00pm. Families with school-aged children are invited to **email michael.christchurchilkley@gmail.com to book their place with Michael Johnston.**

Video recordings of the Bible reading, reflection and prayer are available after the services on the Christchurch YouTube channel each week - search for "Christchurch Ilkley YouTube".

A service sheet to guide reflections is posted or emailed out each week to those who request it from the church administrator on 01943 603209 or tempchristchurchoffice@gmail.com. It can also be found on the Methodist Circuit webpage <https://www.wandamethodists.org.uk/>.

The Circuit website also gives links to other recorded services from churches in the area.