

WIDER HORIZONS



The 10:00am Sunday service continues on Zoom and YouTube

We intend offering a Sunday Zoom station at Christchurch from 07 February - check the notices

 tempchristchurchoffice@gmail.com

 www.christchurchilkley.org.uk

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CHRISTCHURCH
February 2021

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



ROBERTA'S
WRITINGS

Dear friends,

Keeping in contact is helping me to keep going at this time of restrictions and I hope it is helping you too. Lots of us are understandably fed-up or flagging, bored or de-energised. For those of us facing furlough or joblessness, illness or bereavement, the restrictions and conditions of the time make it all that much worse. So how can we keep our spirits up? Well as I have just said, keeping in contact is surely a key to this.

Dr Anthony Clare, an Irish psychiatrist and broadcaster, suggested that to stay happy and sane, whatever the circumstances, we need “to be a leaf on a tree”. (Well that is how a friend of his has summarised some of Anthony Clare’s thinking). By that he meant we need to know we are part of something bigger and keep attached and rooted. He suggested this sense of being a leaf on a tree could be met by belonging to any group from a family to a choir or a club. For those of us reading this magazine, being part of our church can add a special level of rootedness.

The modern hymn writer Graham Kendrick has captured this in a new little song he has written called ‘A little bit of love’. Those of us able to join or see Christchurch services through the internet have been able to listen to this. Graham Kendrick has recorded this with a virtual choir of people of different ages and colour. I can’t capture the full beauty of their performance on paper but I hope you will feel something of its power through the words.

A little bit of love goes a long, long way
A little love, A little love
A little bit of love and I'm on my way
A little love, A little love

A long way but we'll get there together
A long way but we'll get there soon
Along the way we can lean on each other
A little love goes a long, long way

(Graham Kendrick 2020)

There may be times right now when even scraping “a little love” out of our wearied hearts may feel like a mammoth task. Our faith community is rooted in God and in communities of faith that have faced immense difficulties in the past and come through. So staying connected to all of that heritage can help us too. It means such a lot to me when someone from church lets me know they are praying for me. Perhaps we could all start by praying for someone at church we know and then work out to include more and more people – maybe the people who are named in this magazine? If you do this already, thank you so very much.

Lent (the season when we follow the path of Jesus towards Easter), begins on 17 February. In John’s gospel we hear an account of words about love that we are told Jesus shared towards the end of his life. Jesus invited his disciples to “abide in my love” (John 15:9 NRSV).

Page 02 | One way of “abiding” in the love of Jesus is to read and pray.

To help me with this through Lent I have just ordered some books for Lent from the Iona community. Other people's words and prayers can often help me to get started. They can also remind me I am part of a big tree of faith.

When we abide in God's love through prayer we will be refilled with love to reach out to each other and to reach out beyond to those whose suffering is even greater than our own. While we are still not going to be able to travel much this Lent, perhaps we can use the time saved to move closer to God and to each other? Perhaps we can also turn our restrictions into a chance to give any money saved to those in great need.

Anthony Clare also said a key to happiness was to "break the mirror – stop thinking about yourself". While we would want to remember that self-love and self-care are both important, a key purpose in being ourselves is to look beyond and really help others. Lent is a time not to only dig deep into God and God's ways but to look to God's world. In doing that there is much joy and our spirits might not only lift but begin to sing.

Daily Bible passage and stories from Uganda for Lent have been provided by the Methodist Relief and Development Team (All We Can). You can download the Lent booklet using the link: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/lentdevotional2021/>. Prayers for each day can be found on the URC website at this address: <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/todays-daily-devotion/>.

With prayers and all good wishes for your well-being, *Roberta*

A short article on Anthony Clare's "Seven Elements Of Happiness" can be found through the Open University at: <https://learn1.open.ac.uk/mod/oublog/viewpost.php?post=232176>

If you are not able to access the internet please let me know and we can print out copies for you.



Comings and Goings

We are sad to announce the deaths of Nelly Thornton, Joan Kinver and Brian Evans.

We send our love and prayers to their family and friends.

We think particularly of Pat Evans, as Brian's funeral will be at Hipperholme Methodist Church on Monday 01 February. Roberta will be conducting the service.

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



**COMINGS &
GOINGS**

Thank you from the Pastoral Team

Michael's Memo

Goodbye 2020 and hello to a new start, a breath of fresh air, a time for freedom in 2021! Well, not quite, but still, just because the building is closed, we know by now that God is still on the move and ministry continues.

I thought a good place to start would be to look back at what was a very different but memorable Christmas period. We were able to have a few Bitesize sessions in person where we had up to five families join us. One particular highlight was to have a Bitesize service in the worship area where we had a Christmas special. We did our own version of the 'Twelve Days Of Christmas' with actions, which was fun and very energetic! Another highlight was the making of Christingles with the Christingle packs and giving them out in the street to passers-by. Huge thanks to Caroline (Dan's Den manager), Lynda and Phillip, for making the Christingle packs, and to Caroline and Val for handing them out on a very chilly Sunday morning! One particular special moment for me was handing them out to three kids in a buggy. The grown-up pushing them mentioned the three were in care and it will certainly bring a bit of joy to them this Christmas doing the Christingles.



Then I went home and had a lovely Christmas with the family.

Upon returning to Ilkley it was tough to hear England was being put into a full lockdown but I came back determined, refreshed and ready to go. Since returning, we have had a further two Bitesize sessions with three families showing up. Release has also started again and we have had two meetings since Christmas with six families showing up for it. This year for Release we have ideas for doing a mission week every two months and also have guest speakers every two months too. We want to not only nurture our young people on their journeys but also give them opportunities to show their faith in action too. Our first guest speakers will be speaking on Christian persecution and their experiences. Our 'Release Gospel and Games' has continued as well, with more ideas on how we can further advance this and reach out to other youth groups too.

'Good News Bradford' continued over the Christmas period. We broke the Christmas story up into three sections and enjoyed dressing up as shepherds for one of them. Since January we have started a series looking at God's promises, and our 'views' have been averaging around 50 for each video since the New Year. We also plan to reach out to other churches about getting involved with 'Good News Bradford'. We are also appealing to families and viewers to share their 'Good News' stories with us in a new section in the video where we will give families opportunities to record themselves telling us their good news. We want to use 'Good News Bradford' as an opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus but to also spread some joy and hope, and share other

good news stories too. Finally we will also aim to have a 'Good News Bradford' Zoom where we will give families a chance to get to know the leaders and for us to get some feedback about the videos and of course play some games and have some fun too.

The Friday night sessions with Bradford Council have started again and we hope to continue to build up strong relationships with the youth of Ilkley and beyond.

Other things that I hope to work on in 2021 will be to offer more SMILES services, explore the possibility of running a 'Parenting For Faith' course, family games nights, and of course, more church quizzes.

2021 hasn't started how we would have wanted, but I am still confident that God will move in ways beyond our imagination. I look forward to seeing what happens next.

Please do continue to pray for all our Children, Youth and their families and thanks for the continued support from everyone too

Michael Johnston

Congregational Meeting 08 December 2020

Abbreviated notes taken from the minutes - an unedited version can be had by contacting our Church Secretary, Diana Feather (Ed).

Roberta opened the meeting and introduced Emma Taylor, from the Wharfedale and Craven Alliance Social Prescribing Service, who gave an inspiring talk about the wonderful work they do in connecting people, building relationships and letting people talk about their needs. Their work has changed rapidly in response to the pandemic. Contact with the Social Prescribing Service should be made through the GP. Below is a copy of her wish list:

- Provide more face-to-face mental health support
- Support groups for men & LGBTQ+
- Improved access to affordable exercise, weight management and dietary advice services
- Drop-in style Welfare Advice Service
- Alcohol Support Peer Group
- Longer term mental health support groups, suitable for younger adults, eg creative arts therapy or peer support
- Access to computer skills and employment services
- Computers to be available in Community Buildings
- Increase number of community allotments and gardening groups
- Wharfedale-wide befriending network.

Roberta thanked Emma and said her wish list could be our prayer list, as we endeavour to put our church at the heart of the community.

Caretaking & Premises - Paula, our cleaner, continues to clean and is willing to carry out light caretaking duties. Representatives of the Leadership Team and Trustees will work with the Regional Learning and Development Network Team again (Siggy and her colleague) to help us, and the whole church community, to decide how to use our premises going forward.

Community Report (Chris Knamiller) - Collections for St George's Crypt have gone very well. Wharfedale Refugee Response is doing a Reverse Advent calendar again this year. The Anchor Project for refugees in Bradford needs luxuries for presents to add to the food parcels being given out; great response from CC folk so far. Paul Evans is selling charity cards to support Butoke, the charity in the Congo, which he came to talk to us about earlier in the year (contact Pat Evans for information). If you know anyone who will be alone at Christmas, please offer to bring them a Christmas lunch on a plate if you can.

Church Investment in Clean Energy - Letter drawn up by Gary Knamiller to be sent to the Circuit. Gary to approach Michael Noble to establish the most powerful route.

Nurture Report (Lynda Duttine) - It has been exactly one year since Michael Johnston joined us and we are delighted with everything he has achieved in this difficult time.

Children's Youth and Family Worker Report (Michael Johnston) - Michael reported that families who had been able to join Bitesize face-to-face, had really enjoyed it. He continues to go out on the streets to meet teenagers on Friday nights and to maintain links with Youth Workers in Bradford. Rita thanked Michael for manning the Zoom station on Sunday mornings, and for playing carols from the open church door, much appreciated by people at the market and Tim F. Roberta commented that an elderly member of the congregation who has since died, told her about his vision of songs coming out of the building, so it was a special moment for her. Joyce asked that the lights should be kept on in the Church over Christmas, and this was agreed.

Worship Report (David Gouldesbrough) - DVDs and CDs to be made of carols from Christchurch, which will also be available on our YouTube channel.

Property Report (Janet Thompson) - Janet thanked the Wednesday Wizards and John Scott for the hours of service they give. The Quinquennial report identified the projected costs of maintenance work needed over the next five years at about £5000 per annum, some of which could be done by the Wizards.

Building Project (Iain Thake) - Iain up-dated the meeting regarding the proposed accessible toilets in the foyer. He has been in discussion with Pat Evans and Christine Henney about funding.

Dan's Den (Christine Henney) - Christine thanked Caroline Kelly for her huge efforts, going way above and beyond, putting in hours of work and keeping families connected using social media etc. as well as opening whenever possible. LS29 special needs families really

appreciated the two sessions made available to them. She is working with Michael Johnston preparing Christingle kits for them to put together at home.

Minister's Report (Roberta Topham) - there will be Door Step Carols Wednesday 16 December. Dry Stone Radio FM102 will play carols for neighbours on doorsteps to sing along to at 6:00pm. Flyers to be emailed and printed off – circulate to friends and neighbours.

Wendy Walker, a final year presbyteral ministry student, will join us for the next seven months. She will be known to some as she has worked as Pastor and Children's Minister at Burley in Wharfedale for several years. She will join us for up to two events each week. (See Page 12)

Thanks go to Tom and Chris Mannall for all the work done in recording the Carol Service, including borrowing special equipment for it, and to John Scott who has set up the new tablet which works the sound system. The carol service will go live on our YouTube channel on Sunday evening, 20 December.

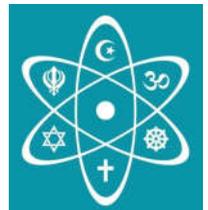
Treasurer's Report (Roland Henney) - the financial situation for last year is a little better than was predicted, with the deficit at £21k instead of £24k. For the first quarter of this year the deficit stands at around £6k (predicted to be £9k). Redundancy of caretakers has reduced our wages costs and the government's furlough scheme has also helped. However we have had to make one-off redundancy payments to the caretakers. Thanks go to members for maintaining their giving and for the one off generous donations also received. We also obtained a £5k grant for the work of Michael Johnston. Roland thanked Jenny for her unstinting work, and Wendy thanked Roland for joining the meeting after a long working day

Charity Giving - About £700 (plus gift aid) was donated to 'All We Can', the bike charity; our next focus for giving will be St George's Crypt. Val Appleton has knitted hats for sale to raise funds for Dan's Den. She is now knitting hats to give to refugees – Anchor Project. 80 Church calendars had been sold so far; to order more, please contact Margo. £395 was raised for Tear Fund by Michael's quiz.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 7:30 pm by Zoom, and there will be a Zoom station in church if possible.

The Boyle Lecture

The International Society for Science and Religion is putting on the Boyle lecture this year digitally. Tom McCleish, Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of York, will be speaking on 'The re-discovery of contemplation through science'. This will be delivered at 6:00pm on Wednesday 03 February and followed by Rowan Williams (ex-archbishop) responding. At 7:15pm there will be a panel discussion.



More information on how to join this free online event can be found at: <https://t.co/LCKWOXxhRT>.



Fairtrade News and Fairtrade Fortnight

This time last year Fairtrade at Christchurch was doing very well. We had two contracts supplying the Christchurch Café and the Ilkley Moor Medical Practice and our monthly stalls were selling about £90 worth of goods.

Now both contracts are temporarily suspended, the cupboard is bare and the reserve stock fits into two cardboard boxes in our spare bedroom. When it was safe to do so, after the first lockdown, Juliet and Steve Amos kindly emptied the cupboard and brought the stock round to my house. I sold the majority to Christchurch customers, family and friends and also gave a donation to the local Food Bank. We also donated £250 to Mediterranean Hope for their refugee corridors project. At Christmas there was a flurry of activity with Christmas cards and food orders. But in summary, Fairtrade at Christchurch has rather gone into hibernation since March 2020.

Not so the farmers and suppliers, who have had an increasingly difficult year. Not only have they themselves had to deal with the threat of Covid-19 but also the changes in the market and the withdrawal of big companies from Fairtrade agreements. I am sure, like me, you have had to change your shopping habits. We are fortunate in having a daughter who shops for us, but finds it difficult to find Fairtrade basics in the supermarket that she goes to. My fear is that when this situation has passed a lot more supermarkets will follow Sainsbury's and Nestlé's example saying that Fairtrade goods are not as important for customers as they were previously.

BUT, amidst all the gloom, we have **Fairtrade Fortnight** coming up, from **22 February to 07 March**. A time to reflect, inform and renew Fairtrade connections.

I remember Fairtrade Fortnight 2018, when all the notices and banners blew off the doors of the church with the arrival of, 'The Beast From The East' and no one wanted to venture out to the church or Café. That will not happen this year as everything is going to be virtual! There are events to join if you look on the website www.fairtradeyorkshire.org.uk (talks, films, cookery demonstrations). Here at Christchurch we are going to host a Fairtrade tea party, (with real non-virtual cake!) details of which will be announced in the weekly notices. Prior to this, another way to mark Fairtrade Fortnight would be if we could

put in our own orders for Fairtrade products. This would give a welcome boost to the people at Traidcraft and in turn help the farmers and producers overseas. If anyone wishes to place an order for any Fairtrade tea, coffee or food please go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk to see what is available, or you can contact me by phone or email by 10 February, and I will do an order and can save you the postage and pass on the discount. And I will deliver to your home.

Polly Hosking
pollyhosking@hotmail.com - 01943 601727

Christchurch Film Club

FILM CLUB

There were 23 of us at the Film Club meeting on 06 January. We had an excellent discussion about the film 'Brooklyn' which is a period drama set in 1951 about a young Irish girl who emigrates to New York to find employment.

The next meeting of the Film Club is on Thursday 28 January at 7:30pm when we will be discussing the film 'Made in Dagenham' which is available on BBC iPlayer. This is based on the true story of the Ford factory in Dagenham where female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination. This strike caused a lot of public attention around the world and was seen as 'out of the ordinary' to many because it was "not in a woman's nature to do anything else other than the traditional family roles".

We will send the link out to all those who have attended before, and if there is anyone else who would like their name added to the list they should let me know. Next time we will probably split into smaller groups for discussion for some of the time. Everyone is very welcome, and feel free to invite a friend.

Chris Knamiller

Church Notices - unfortunate typos!

- Coming Up - Theological Open House. We discuss thought-provoking topics. Your opinions are hardly welcome.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- This evening at 7:00pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Our Pastor is now on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.

Thanks to Neil Williams

Christians Against Poverty

On 01 February at 7:30pm, there will be a Zoom evening with Samantha Price, the debt manager from our local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) debt office.

Sam will update us on her work and also help us look at how to help people in financial instability during a pandemic.

CAP does brilliant work to help people out of debt. This will be an encouraging evening. The Zoom link will be sent out from the Church Office the week before.



Christchurch Café & Holiday Hunger

I became involved with Ilkley Great Get Together (IGGT) regarding Holiday Hunger when, like many, I became upset regarding the lack of help to feed struggling families during the school holidays. Many people in the Ilkley Community wanted to do something to help and so Becky Malby from IGGT took the lead with it.

Things happened really quickly due to the fact that the school holidays were the following week. Becky contacted Ilkley Grammar School who advised what they had been doing in previous holidays using Ilkley Food Bank. She set up a donations site and quickly raised over £2k in one weekend and got lots of offers of help from the community. She was also offered vouchers from La Stazione and The Loafer. Becky spoke to us regarding the Christchurch Café and designed a voucher scheme where vouchers were given to the organisers at IGS to give out to relevant families.

Becky put together a steering committee comprising representatives from Ilkley Grammar School, a combined PTA for Ilkley's Primary Schools, a local doctor, a town councillor, Ilkley Food Bank, a representative from an Addingham task force who are providing meals in the Addingham area, Max from La Stazione, Roberta and I.

After the initial outcry, the government backed down and decided to give funding to Local Councils to distribute but not in the form of food parcels. As such we decided to continue offering help during school holidays in order to use the now £5000 kindly donated by the community.

It was identified that approximately 150 families needed help in the area and there was a lot of discussion about not wanting people to feel a loss of dignity in the help being offered so different choices were made available to them as follows:

- Food parcels to include a voucher to buy food in Tesco's. These food parcels were extended to families in Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, Addingham and Burley. For Christmas they included home-

Children need good food

365 days
a year

END
HUNGER
UK

- made Christmas cakes made by community volunteers along with donated Christmas Crackers. They also included fresh fruit and veg.
- Ready-made meals were pre cooked and frozen and then delivered.
 - Vouchers to be used in Christchurch (who would then be refunded whatever the amount used through the money previously donated); the Café did this in the October holidays but due to Lockdown could not offer the service again.
 - Local Cafés had been recruited to ask if they would provide 'at cost' meal vouchers which would be offered as a pay on scheme.

I wrote the above at the beginning of December. As previously mentioned, Lockdown affected the voucher schemes for Christchurch and other Cafés but food parcels were made up for the Christmas Holidays. I attended two of the sessions which were very organised and it was great working with so many people in the community (it was also nice seeing some Café volunteers helping).

Since Christmas a large grant from Bradford Council has been given to KidFit who will be working with IGS and the local Primary Schools to provide food parcels worth approximately £30 per family over the school holidays. Going forward it would appear that the government will be providing assistance, although how has not yet been decided.

In the meantime, Morrisons kindly offered to supply fruit and vegetables for all 140 families up until the February half term which volunteers from IGGT will pack up and distribute.

All in all this has been a great success story highlighting the effect communities can have on supporting vulnerable people within their communities.

If you would like to offer support by helping with packing, or knitting some Easter Chicks with crème eggs for families at Easter then please contact Becky at ilkleyggt@gmail.com. This is an example of the pattern <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bp-assets/globalassets/horsham-district/original-blocks/get-involved/easter-chicks-pattern.pdf>

Liz Frankland

Meet Wendy Walker

When we arrived in the United Kingdom in August 2016, having emigrated from South Africa to make our home in Burley in Wharfedale, I was eager to embark on our first family outing. As we made our way up the moor and found ourselves standing at the edge of the Cow and Calf rocks, the lovely landscape of Ilkley did not disappoint. Neither did the warmth and kindness of the local community as we began a new life as members of the Wharfedale and Aireborough Circuit.



For the first four years of our time in the UK, I was the Assistant Pastor at Burley in Wharfedale Methodist Church, having worked in similar positions in South Africa for the past fifteen years. Throughout this time, I was aware that God was calling me to become an ordained Methodist minister and I was grateful for the support and encouragement of the circuit as I commenced my part time training journey through The Queens' Foundation in Birmingham. This has led to an opportunity to study from home full time for two years since September 2020, focussing on a dissertation on the effectiveness of preaching whilst participating in the life of a "link church" under the supervision of an experienced minister. I was delighted that Christchurch, Ilkley was identified and I am grateful to have joined this community as a student minister, where I can learn from Rev Roberta Topham and from all of you.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone in person once the present situation has improved, as well as introducing you to my husband Bruce and my boys Jaron (11) and Liam (9) who go to Ilkley Grammar School and Burley Oaks Primary School respectively. I look forward to gathering in your beautiful building and sharing fellowship in the Café.

In the meantime, it has already been a great pleasure to take part in various online expressions of church, including worship services, Housegroups, prayers and the Film Club. The pandemic may prevent Christchurch from opening its doors, but it has certainly not held you back from opening your hearts, and I am grateful for the welcome that I have received from you so far.

And . . . please give a wave if you happen to be on the moor sometime and you spot a family of four being pulled along by a Jack Russel and a Chiweenie (chihuahua cross dachshund – at least we think so!!!) It might just be the Walkers!

Wendy Walker

Mediterranean Hope

Fiona's letter arrived too late to include - if you want a preview visit:
<https://churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world-mission/mission-partners/italy>

No Planet B - Food 2

There Is No Planet B – a handbook for the make or break years by Mike Berners Lee

Last month I looked at calories (the UK eats too many), the carbon footprint of proteins (we should move away from red meat) and how we should be getting more of our proteins from plants.

Rice

Paddy field methane accounts for about 6% of all greenhouse gas emissions from the food supply chain. Currently, there is no sustainable rice production, although a vegetarian rice dish counts as a relatively sustainable meal. In the meantime, consider eating less rice.

Eat Local

Transport accounts for just 6% of the carbon footprint of all goods at the checkout, so food transport only becomes a problem when it is air-freighted. However, out of season UK hothouse tomatoes will have more impact than those freighted from Spain. Local sourcing is clearly more sustainable (farm shops and food markets for example) and you have the opportunity to ask about the produce. Be aware of your food supply lines, and eat seasonally.

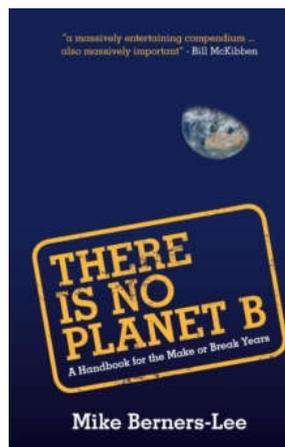
Fish

Currently, 90% of the world's fish stocks are fully or over-exploited. Avoid industrially caught fish, and at the moment, there are no reliable certification schemes: the Marine Stewardship Council certification is a 'for profit' organisation and cannot be trusted! The total world catch averages at just 210g per person a week, ie just one meal. Consider reducing this to enable those who rely on fish as their main food source to be able to continue to do so. Farmed fish brings all the same problems of farmed animals – feed, pollution, antibiotics, so it's best to avoid. Ask your fish supplier regarding sustainability and ethical sourcing.

Food Summary

- Reduce red meat and dairy consumption
- Eliminate food waste
- Have modest fish consumption (once a week maximum)
- **Know your supply chains** regarding carbon footprint, antibiotic and hormone use, deforestation, biodiversity, slavery and quality of employment.

Next month - Climate



into the
Melting Pot

Book Review: Waiting For The Last Bus

Reflections on Life and Death

Richard Holloway

2018 :: Canongate :: £14.99 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-78689-021-4 :: 156 pages

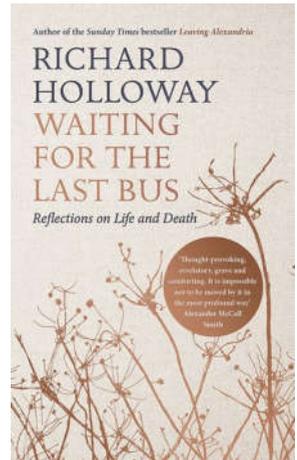
Richard Holloway was the Bishop of Edinburgh from 1986 to 2000, but resigned as his views became more 'radical'. He has written many books. This one is full of wise integrity, from a man who spent his working life in service to the church, but who has now joined the 'Church in Exile' as he cannot bear the new assertive tone where "certainty sells and conviction satisfies".

This is an intensely personal journey, well written, unhurried, thoughtful, carefully composed, gently humorous; a lovely book - I expect he thought it might be his last (at age 85). I was seriously moved by this book; I'm not one for much emotion, but even whilst preparing this review my eyes moistened a little!

It contains elements of biography, and many references to poetry and literature, and stories about people he has met and loved - all in the context of what is life and how to welcome death.

Here are a number of items I've drawn from the text, to give a flavour of the content:

- As death approaches, there will be sorrow for what it will take from us.
- The best way to see religion is as humanity's response to the puzzle of its own existence.
- We assert we have free will, but our lives are propelled by factors that were never under our control; we have to play the hand we are dealt.
- When pondering our last moments, the [*traditional*] Christian (and Muslim) view is that the human soul is a one-shot deal heavy with eternal consequences - this life determines the next, so death is a human obsession.
- Coping with the death of children as a priest, and the whole issue of being re-united or pain-free.
- Recognising that life before death is so much more important than what might happen beyond death.
- Tackling remembering, grief, and being able to look forward to that last bus.



- What I regret most about the rush of life is missing so much of my own life - not missing it now, but missing it then.
- My name is Richard, and I suffer from a terminal disease called mortality. Like all of you here, I am waiting for the last bus; when I hear its approach afar off, I hope that I'll have time to lace on my boots and set out to meet it.

As for me, I have spent some time getting more of my 'house in order' by collecting together the stuff to make the nuts and bolts of my own passing less difficult for those I leave behind (insurance documents, finance summaries and policies, lists of passwords, some wishes, . . .), but also to become both more and less selfish: more as I make better use of the diminishing time I have left to appreciate and enjoy life more fully; and less as I reflect that I have more than others and can offer some of my remaining time and energy to better support causes close to my heart.

Thoroughly recommended; available to borrow from the Melting Pot library.

Steve Amos

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.

Once more I plan to produce the March edition from home, so please send items to me at **steve.amos.gb@gmail.com** at the latest by **Sunday 21 February** - you can always send items in early. No email? - give me a call on 01943 600111.

Worship at CHRISTCHURCH - February 2021

Our building remains CLOSED for worship

The Church 4:00pm services are still suspended for now.

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 join.

The Zoom service, with sound only, can also be joined through an ordinary telephone.

It is hoped to re-start the Zoom station at Christchurch from 07 February. Please check the weekly notice sheets, and book your place by contacting Jenny Freeman.

David Gouldesbrough - LT Worship

Sunday	Reading	Leader
07 Feb	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39	Philip Gibson
14 Feb	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9	Rev Roberta Topham
21 Feb	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15	Chris Mannall
28 Feb	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38	David Gouldesbrough

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 at <https://www.wandamethodists.org.uk/>

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

