


WIDER HORIZONS



Holy Week and Easter

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NOT for the poor, NOT green
What is your response?
Make your voice heard



CHRISTCHURCH
April 2021

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



ROBERTA'S
WRITINGS

Dear friends,

"It always seems impossible until it is done" is a quote attributed to Nelson Mandela, the first President of a post-apartheid South Africa. I am indebted to Wendy Walker, our link student minister, for drawing my attention to these words. This quote seems very apt for our time and also for a reflection on the life and ministry of Jesus as we approach Easter. It is also a quote that applies to two people who have deeply impressed me recently.

The first is Virginia Hall who features in the 2019 film 'A call to spy'. In the first half of the twentieth century, Virginia was a young American woman who had a dream of being a diplomat. She had an excellent knowledge of Europe and gift for languages but, as a woman, couldn't get a post. While serving as a clerk in Turkey she lost her left leg below the knee. Ever after, she relied upon a prosthetic leg she affectionately called "Cuthbert".

When the second world war began, Virginia Hall volunteered to drive ambulances for the French army. After France fell, on her way to volunteer in London, she was recruited for the newly formed British Special Operations Executive – the spy unit. There had been a reluctance to accept women into this unit but after six months of failing to embed a single spy in France the decision to include women was made. Virginia Hall was dropped into France and became a fearless leader who helped enable and develop the resistance movement. She was great at disguise but could not hide the problem with her leg and so the Nazi's called her "the limping lady" and came close to capturing her. However, Virginia escaped, walking fifty miles in snow over the Pyrenees mountains with her prosthetic leg. In 1944 she returned to action and helped liberate whole swathes of France before the Allied troops arrived. Her disability had seemed an insurmountable problem and yet she did the nigh-on impossible.

My second person is Sargy Mann, a British artist who continued painting for twenty five years after he became blind. In fact Sargy Mann had developed problems with eyesight in his mid-thirties and gradually lost his sight over several decades. In 1988 when he became registered blind he gave up teaching painting but used the little bit of sight he had left in one eye with an adapted telescope to examine the world and then paint it. Eventually even that last little bit of sight went and he wondered what he would do with the rest of his life. He recalls going into his studio, picking up his brush and beginning to paint from memory. Sighted members of his family quickly admired this work and he went on to have his most successful exhibitions. Blindness would seem an insurmountable barrier for a painter; an impossible dream to continue to create art without sight. Yet, Sargy Mann is one of several who have seen with an inner eye and painted brilliantly.

The ambition of Jesus to enable everyone to live at peace with God and each other seemed impossible. As the 'son of a carpenter' it would have always have seemed an unlikely possibility. The

response of the religious leaders to his message meant his mission was soon stopped after a few short years. His death on the cross seems like the insurmountable end to an impossible dream.

Then Easter dawned. Accounts of his reappearance to his friends spread. His disciples were radically changed by their encounters with him. New life flowed. The movement around him took on a fresh lease of life. The impossible became possible. His message of 'life turned around', lived with and for God, took root in the hearts and lives of more and more men and women. And so, still today, we join in that great chain of Easter people working with God to bring in the new Kingdom. That mission may sometimes feel impossible but Nelson Mandela reminds us "it always feels impossible until it's done".



So with the joy of Christ's new life at Easter in our hearts may we be encouraged to keep going. Perhaps we especially need that encouragement in these days as the pandemic restrictions are slowly lifted. Whatever our flaws or weaknesses, whatever obstacles we face, may we keep going with courage and hope. A new day will dawn.

Because of Good Friday may we know God with us in the darkest of times. And because of Easter may we see with an inner-eye the vision of the world transformed.

Wishing you peace, joy and hope in God this Easter

Roberta Topham - Minister at Christchurch, Ilkley

Good Friday Cairns of Remembrance and Hope - CTIlkley

This year Good Friday will fall just over a year since the first national lockdown of our country began. So on Friday 02 April, three churches in Ilkley are offering some space for people to give thanks to God and remember the Good Friday people in our lives; either those who have worked hard to help others during this year, or those whose lives have been lost and whose memories we cherish.


At Christchurch, All Saints' and St John's on 02 April at the times below, anyone can come and lay a stone as part of our 'Cairns of Remembrance and Hope'. The stones can be plain or painted. Together the stones will make a cairn – a temporary monument.

When you lay a stone it can be a moment to say a prayer or hold someone in your heart.

The times at each church on 02 April are:

St John's 11:00am – 3:00pm; All Saints' 12:00noon – 3:00pm;
Christchurch 2:00pm – 6:00pm.

The cairns are temporary and will be removed that evening. For more information see the Churches Together in Ilkley website.



Cairns of Hope and Remembrance

On the 2nd April (Good Friday) at All Saints, Christchurch, and St John's (Ben Rhydding) you can come along and lay a stone on a cairn.

A cairn is a pile of stones that often marks a stage on a journey.

A cairn can help us to look back and remember and look forward with hope.

Laying a stone on a cairn can be a moment to say a prayer or hold someone in your heart.

Stones can be plain or painted, with a word or picture.

Anyone is welcome to come and lay a stone during the time when stewards are present. Social distancing and other covid guidelines will be followed. For times and more details visit:

www.churchestogetherilkley.org.uk

Michael's Memo

This month I have been inspired by the story of the feeding of the 5000 and by watching 'The Chosen' on YouTube. The director of 'The Chosen' tells us how he was going through a difficult time in life and he was praying to God about it. He felt God telling him to read the story of the feeding of the 5000. While he was reading it, he received a random message from someone he didn't even know, simply saying "God only asked the disciples to get the loaves and the fish, it was Jesus who got the 5000. Just do what God asks and he will continue to do the miraculous".



During this strange time, it has been difficult to decide how best to serve Children, Youth and Families. This story above has inspired me to keep providing resources, keep searching for projects and keep providing the 'loaves and fishes' - and let God do the rest.

So I will give a quick update on what else has been happening. As I write we have just finished a really inspiring session with our Youth Group where we had a guest speaker who told us about his journey from Iran to Leeds; his story from Muslim to Christian and how he fell in love with Jesus. It was also really inspiring, and our youth were able to ask him some great questions! We have also had a guest evening with Yorkshire Camps. We continue to get around 7-10 young people join us on Sunday evening sessions and around 5-6 for our Gospel and Games midweek. We do hope to meet in person again after the Easter Holidays but we can only do this with help from volunteers. If you can spare an hour on a Sunday evening then do get in touch with me.

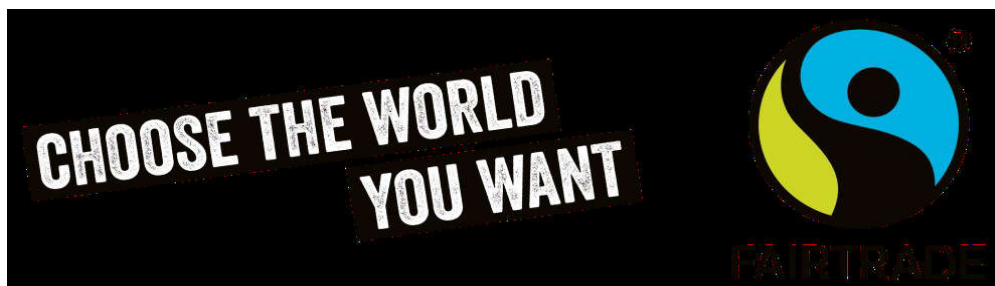
Bitesize has been continuing as we journey through Easter with our own Easter Labyrinth and explore some of the "I am's" that Jesus declared. We have also looked at 'Team Jesus' and what it means to be on Team Jesus and how we can all play a part on it too. Our first Bitesize in person will be on Sunday 28 March. Going forward with Bitesize we will need a number of volunteers; if you would like to be part of this then do get in touch!

I have continued going out on Friday evenings with Bradford Council and continue to meet young people in and around Ilkley and Ben Rhydding. This includes those at the main car park in Ilkley which seems to have featured in various news sources this past week. It can be challenging at times yet we can also have some great conversations with them as well. Bradford Council would love to form an Ilkley Youth Forum to give young people the chance to speak about Ilkley and give them a voice. This could be really exciting so do pray for this as it moves forward.

Our Good News Bradford videos have continued with a series on the miracles of Jesus. We've reached out to many other churches around Ilkley and beyond, asking if they would like to get on board or be guest speakers. We also got in contact with schools advertising it to them as well. We had our first ever 'Good News Bradford Family Fun'

Zoom event where we played lots of games, did a few lively action songs and spent some time praying together too. Watch this space for the next event and, in the meantime, continue to 'like' our videos on YouTube, subscribe and share them with family and friends. We average around 50-60 views each week but we would love more people to hear the Good News that we share. Also, if you have a good news story *you* would like to share, let me know as we would love to feature it in one of our episodes. Love and peace to you all.

Michael Johnston



Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February - 07 March 2021

If you weighed all of the chocolate we eat in the UK in a year it would weigh the same as which of the following:

- 400 hippos
- 4,000 Blue whales
- 40 elephants?

This was one of the questions posed at one of the Fairtrade tea parties which were held at Christchurch via zoom during Fairtrade fortnight. We held two events in which 45 people took part. Fairtrade cake was delivered to those who had signed up; it was good to see people sitting down with a cup of tea and a piece of cake in their own homes. We had a quiz, and watched informative videos about the difficulties of cocoa farmers and the benefits of working for the Fairtrade partnership. Together we raised £407.32p in donations and I received orders for £450 worth of goods from Traidcraft during this period. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed. The donations are being sent to the Regenerators Appeal at Traidcraft Exchange, helping farmers invest in ways to mitigate the worst effects of climate change upon their land and crops. All donations to this appeal are being matched by UK Aid.

This last week we have been allowed to sit on a bench with another person and chat. I sat with a friend sharing pieces of Fairtrade chocolate brownie (see recipe below) and our own coffee. We talked about the highs and lows of the past year, since we had last met a year ago. I said I thought that Fairtrade Fortnight had been one of my highs. It had stirred up all my feelings of unfairness and fairness, exploitation and justice, but above all it had reinforced my sense of the community and generosity within Christchurch. We do keep saying, "Next

year....” but I do hope next year we can celebrate Fairtrade fortnight in the Café with a face to face tea party. Zoom tea parties were a good alternative, but the real thing is what we long for.

Fairtrade obviously goes way beyond cake, tea parties and chocolate. Whilst we cannot have the monthly stall in Christchurch I am happy to order for individuals from the Traidcraft online shop, and please continue to look out for the Fairtrade logo in the supermarkets and at our local take away Cafés.

PS - the answer is 4,000 Blue whales!

Fairtrade Chocolate Brownies

“ best ever” - Pat Fisher’s granddaughter

225g / 8oz	butter, preferably unsalted
450g / 1lb	Fairtrade golden caster sugar
140g /5oz	Fairtrade dark chocolate broken into pieces
5	free-range medium eggs
110g /4oz	plain flour
55g / 2oz	Fairtrade cocoa powder

Method

Heat the oven to 190°C/170°C Fan or Gas mark 5. Line a 20 x 30cm / 8” x 12” baking tin with baking paper.

- 1 Gently melt the butter and sugar together in a large pan. Once melted, take off the heat and add the chocolate. Stir until melted.
- 2 Beat in the eggs, then stir in the flour and the cocoa powder.
- 3 Pour the brownie batter into the prepared tin and bake for 30-35 minutes, or until the top of the brownie is just firm but there is still a gentle wobble in the middle.
- 4 Take out of the oven and leave to cool in the tin. Cut the brownies into squares when only just warm or cool.

Polly Hosking

Church Weekend - 24 to 26 September

Thanks to all who have been so prompt in paying their deposits. I hope you are all looking forward to this weekend away at Thornleigh, Grange-Over-Sands, coming together and joining with the Christchurch family.

Is this something you have missed, ? Would you like to find out more? Please have a word - 01535 958375.



Easter Psalm

As our Housegroup has been studying Psalms over Lent, the members have been challenged to write a modern Psalm. I felt it might be good to share what I wrote as it applies so much to the Covid situation as well as to Easter.

It is written with a section for each day of the Easter weekend.

Friday

The mists are swirling
The enemy silently surrounds our world
Creeping into the areas of soft vulnerability
Spreading its pain and suffering.
Fears for our future rise and fall, then are supplanted by others.
We are pulled beneath the waters
Our bodies struggle for breath
Our arms reach out
We are drowning
Where are you Lord?
My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?

Saturday

We wait on you
We listen
As we struggle in the depths of the waters our hearts reach out to others drowning with us.
We offer our love, our support and we feel a spark of energy from deep within our soul.
Is that your strength, Lord?
Is that you or are we imagining it?

Sunday

The snowdrops push their way through dark soil
The primroses bring the sunshine
The bluebells carpet the dark places of our woods.
We see your hand at work in the world you created.
The world you love.
We see your hand at work in the people you have created.
The people you love.
Together, and with you Lord we look to the future
Knowing you have all in your hands.
Our souls are entwined with each other and with you.
We will rise again!
You are our Lord.
In you we put our trust
Allelujah!



Christine Gibson

URC Yorkshire Synod - 13 March 2021

The Synod meeting was skilfully guided by the Moderator Revd Jamie Kissack. There is a growing sense of confidence in the use of Zoom for a Synod meeting. The overarching theme was 'listening' and we listened to each other in our breakout groups as well as to the main speakers.

Anti-racism and Privilege

Zaidie Orr, a URC minister in Sheffield, led our thoughts on anti-racism and privilege. "Oppression is woven into the fabric of society. Reading Micah 6:8 we need to seek justice". She led us through URC history: highlighting 1980 when churches were urged to combat racism: 1984 call to prayer: and 2007 speaking about slavery. We have apologies to make as, although we were one of the early churches to welcome the Windrush generation, some were turned away because they frightened the congregation!!

Areas we need to look at:

- i) An apology for our part in slavery – already done by the Baptist Church
- ii) Restorative justice, considering local and global reparations and celebrating Racial Justice Sunday
- iii) Looking at ourselves to develop an anti-racism lifestyle

We had each completed a Privilege 'Walk' questionnaire before Synod and these were very illuminating. It is good if each person completes this (*see following item*) as it showed me areas of privilege I hadn't previously thought about.

The pandemic has highlighted differences of race and privilege; we need to ask ourselves how far white privilege exists in the URC and how to make our leadership reflect our diversity. In summary Zaidie concluded that privilege is okay as long as we share it.

Social Action

Alex Jowitt, our Synod Green Apostle, led our thoughts on Social Action. Initially we looked at issues in our environment and climate change asking what we can do to future-proof our church buildings. The Eco-church programme encourages us to consider this and an environment policy is to come to the October Synod. The book 'Burning Down Our Houses' sponsored by Tearfund was recommended. We must consider how we heat our churches by looking at alternatives to carbon-based fuels. Our way forward is to consider if we are doing enough to address climate change.

Global Warming

Dan Morrell brought a message from the young people of the church: 'It's time we acted – all of us.' Global warming is happening and isn't just an issue for future generations. We could see the changes our actions during lockdown made to the environment when we lived and worked locally. If we all make small changes, we can make a difference. Think of Greta Thunberg only three years ago as a 15 year old! Christians are called to act when others are at risk. We can make a difference when we act and pray together. "They say

it's just a drop in the ocean as if that's a reason to stop. But maybe they've forgotten the ocean is literally made up of drops" - from Harry and Chris, a jazz and poet combo (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-16IuMlzeCc>).

Online Activities

Time was spent in break out groups considering what we have learnt through the pandemic. Churches had used technology in a variety of ways to keep their members in contact but also to reach out to the wider community. There was a feeling of hope, excitement and challenge for the future which was very encouraging.

Future events were advertised. 'It Just Works' day on 10 April, asking how we can blend offline and online church in the future, and an Elders training day open to all on 17 April.

The new Yorkshire Synod website, which is scheduled to go live at Easter, was demonstrated and looked exciting, with information and a mission approach.

Finance Reports

- i) A proportion of money from the sale of redundant church buildings, normally allocated to the Mission Fund for grants, will be held temporarily as a possible fund to cover the deficit in the national pensions fund. The Mission Fund already has a healthy balance of over £500,000.
- ii) The Synod Levy set for 2021 should be on a voluntary basis for each church that is able to give up to the set amount.

Pat Evans

Privilege 'Walk' questionnaire

Start with a score of 0 and add and subtract points depending on your responses. Maintain a tally as you go. Go into negative scores if you need to at any point. *Consider the questions as well as your answers – are you aware of these as components of privilege?*

- 1 If you are right-handed, add one point.
- 2 If one or both of your parents have a University degree, add one point.
- 3 If English is your first language, add one point.
- 4 If you have to rely, or have relied, primarily on public transport, remove a point.
- 5 If you can find plasters at high street pharmacies designed to blend in with or match your skin tone, add one point.
- 6 If you have worked with people you felt were like yourself, add one point
- 7 If you constantly feel unsafe walking alone at night, remove a point.
- 8 If you were ever made fun of or bullied for something you could not change or was beyond your control, remove a point.

- 9 If your household employs help (as cleaners, gardeners, etc), add one point.
- 10 If your family ever left your homeland or entered another country not of your own free will, remove a point.
- 11 If you studied the culture of your ancestors in primary school, add one point.
- 12 If you would never think twice about calling the police when trouble occurs, add one point.
- 13 If you are able to move through the world without fear of sexual assault, add one point.
- 14 If you come from a single-parent household, remove a point.
- 15 If you have ever been able to play a significant role in a project or activity because of a talent you acquired previously, add one point.
- 16 If you ever had to skip a meal or were hungry because there was not enough money to buy food, remove a point.
- 17 If you can show affection for your romantic partner in public without fear of ridicule or violence, add one point.
- 18 If you have a physically visible disability, remove a point.
- 19 If you have an invisible illness or disability, remove a point.
- 20 If you feel respected for your academic performance, add one point.
- 21 If you were ever discouraged or excluded from an activity because of race, class, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation, remove a point.
- 22 If you routinely see your identity reflected in mainstream media, add one point.
- 23 If you ever tried to change your appearance, mannerisms, accent or behaviour to fit in more, remove a point.
- 24 If you were ever accepted for something you applied to because of your association with a friend or family member, add one point.
- 25 If you have ever been profiled by someone else using stereotypes, remove a point.
- 26 If you have health insurance add one point.
- 27 If someone has ever spoken for you when you did not want them to do so, remove a point.
- 28 If you live in an area with crime and drug activity, remove a point.
- 29 If you were ever uncomfortable about a joke related to your race, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation but felt unsafe to confront the situation, remove a point.
- 30 If you are never asked to speak on behalf of a group of people who share an identity with you, add one point.
- 31 If someone in your household suffered or suffers from mental illness, remove a point.
- 32 If you went to college/University, add one point.

- 33 If there was ever drug or alcohol abuse in your household, remove a point.
- 34 If you have been a victim of sexual harassment, remove a point.
- 35 If you can make mistakes and not have people attribute your behaviour to flaws in your racial or gender group, add one point.
- 36 If you have more than fifty books in your household, add one point.

The value of this exercise is self realisation as you do the questions. However the Moderator said he scored 14 (out of a maximum of 19), I scored 13 and the speaker (a black woman) scored 7 or 8.

Pat Evans

No Planet B 4 - Energy

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

Energy Use

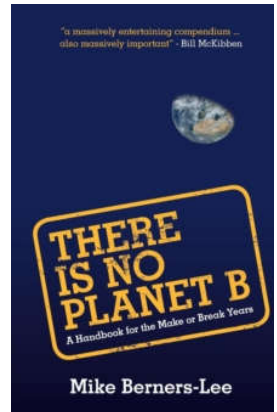
The global average person uses 59kWh a day. That's equivalent to about 70 miles in a family petrol car, or would feed 22 people for a day. In the UK we use twice that amount; the USA four times; in Africa just one fifth.

Our energy use is rising exponentially and is currently at +2.4% per year.

In the UK, 5% is for food, 38% goes on transport, 28% on domestic use, 16% industrial use and 13% on services.

Oil, coal and gas contribute 83%, nuclear 2%, renewables 4%, wood 7% and food energy 5%. Fossil fuel energy originally came from sunlight captured by plants, and they have powered many huge positives about modern society, but carbon emissions now pose a threat to humanity and they should now stay in the ground. What are the alternatives?

into the
Melting Pot



Solar Energy

Solar panels covering just 0.1% of the world's land mass, 228 square miles or 590 km² (*less than the size of Anglesey*) would meet the world's needs and there are no major issues about materials and production. However, those countries around the world with strong sunlight aren't always local to population. Energy storage and transmission would therefore be a problem. But the technology is available; it just needs the investment.

Wind Energy

Not many places can harness the wind; even if every square inch of the UK were one huge wind farm, it would generate 87kWh per person, less than current demand. It is a useful part of the mix, but peripheral.

Hydro-electric Energy

Hydro is currently running at about two thirds potential so there is little overall capacity here.

Nuclear Energy

Although nasty, with an accident having significant implications for humanity, it may be needed where renewables wouldn't work (such as the UK), as part of the energy supply mix.

Biofuels

The food energy from wheat equivalent to feed a person for a day would drive a petrol family car about one mile. In moderation, biofuel has a place but land use for food production is lost. This would need to be regulated to control food prices, as well as concerns over mono-cultures (vast fields of eucalypts or willow), biodiversity and soil degeneration. It is not a silver bullet.

Fracking

No. There is no trustworthy analysis of regulation. Any 'lost' methane is a huge problem for greenhouse emissions. The energy needed to generate fracked gas makes the benefits marginal, and the potential for a poisoned water supply is too big a risk. Keep the fossil fuel in the ground.

Energy efficiency

Historically, as energy has become more efficient, rather than generating surplus, humanity has simply increased its use! So yes, we do need to use our energy more efficiently, but the bottom line is that we need to reduce our consumption.

Cutting Fossil Fuel Use

Politically, a shift away from fossil fuels will be difficult for countries who cannot replace it with solar (such as Venezuela as opposed to Australia); this will be a huge economic pressure to keep using fossil fuels.

- **What can we do?**

- Vote for politicians who 'get' the issues and prioritise them. Let candidates know what you are looking for.
- Consider an electric car; insulate your house; put up solar panels; push your pension fund to divest from fossil fuels and invest in carbon capture solutions.
- Get better at enjoying low energy pastimes: walking, reading, socialising, local holidays.

We are flawed; we can only do our best.

**What we mustn't do is ignore the issue as it won't go away.
Future generations are dependent on us getting this right.**

Next month - Travel and Transport

Steve Amos

Church Response to the Budget

In the recent Budget, the Chancellor faced the difficult task of setting financial and economic priorities at a time when unprecedented support has been needed, and continues to be needed, to help the country get through the pandemic. As well as setting out plans for the extension of that support, he had to address the need to restart the economy, ensure the sustainability of public finances, and tackle long-term challenges such as climate change.



Here, analysis of how the Budget measures will affect some of the areas of particular concern to the Churches is offered by policy specialists from the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed Churches and the Church of Scotland.

Coronavirus support: vital extensions

The extensions to the furlough scheme, expansion of other coronavirus support schemes, and continuation of the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit are *all welcome and necessary measures*. They will be a crucial support to many individuals, families, charities and businesses over the coming months as Covid restrictions continue.

Universal Credit: uplift to end in September

Looking ahead, the Chancellor announced that from September the Universal Credit uplift will come to an end. This means the lowest income families will face a cut of £20 a week or over £1,000 a year from September. Universal Credit supports people in low-paid jobs, those looking for new employment and those who can't work due to illness or disability. These are the very people who have been hit hardest financially by the pandemic and for whom the jobs market looks bleak. Even with an increase to the minimum wage, *withdrawing this support will push many into poverty, and cannot be right*.

Debt: no provision for families weighed down by debt

People on low incomes are also those who are most likely to have needed to borrow simply to make ends meet over the past year. Over 6 million families are behind on bills because of the pandemic, and the best estimate is that families have needed to take on £10 billion in additional debt.

The Churches, as part of the Reset the Debt campaign, have asked the government to put a strategy in place to address this household debt crisis, and have proposed a Jubilee Fund to support low-income families who have been forced to borrow by the lockdown. The Budget was a missed opportunity for the Chancellor to address this issue. *There are real concerns for the welfare of families trapped by lockdown debt*, facing a difficult jobs market and now a reduction in Universal Credit.

Climate change: beyond the headlines

The Chancellor touted the budget as laying the foundations for a greener economy and providing a stimulus for decent, well-paid, green jobs. The incorporation of the net-zero target into the remit for

the Bank of England's Monetary and Financial Policy committees is *significant*, and the establishment of a National Infrastructure Bank to support a green revolution *is welcome*, though financial backers of new green technology will need confidence that the payback from green investment works from both financial and climate perspectives.

However, *the headline green initiatives mask a failure to address the fundamental changes that are needed to transition to a green and just economy*. The freeze on fuel duty, and pegging the Carbon Price Support rates at £18 to 2023, suggest this commitment is half-hearted. The 'super deduction' tax break scheme that allows businesses that are investing in new equipment to reduce their tax bill is available regardless of whether that investment is directed towards environmentally damaging economic activity or towards green investment.

International development: breaking promises

While the Chancellor made much of the Budget delivering on promises, the Government still seems intent on breaking its manifesto commitment to spend 0.7% of national income on international development – breaching a promise made to the electorate and the world's poorest people. The implications of this decision will be felt in some of the most vulnerable communities of the world. For example, this week the UK announced it was halving the support it gives to humanitarian work in conflict-torn Yemen, despite the UN Secretary-General warning's that cutting aid would be "a death sentence". *The UK is the only G7 country to be reducing its overseas aid commitments at a time when the pandemic has pushed 150 million people worldwide into extreme poverty*.

Rethinking priorities: From recovery to flourishing

As we begin to emerge from the coronavirus crisis, an economic recovery programme that is primarily focused on seeking financial growth and keeping businesses afloat regardless of the cost to the wellbeing of community and creation *will not address many of the long-term concerns we have as Churches*. We need a recovery that is productive, inclusive and resilient. Decisions around government spending must prioritise the urgency of the climate crisis while also supporting and strengthening local communities, and we look forward to contributing to discussions about the future.

Read our vision for how the economy could be re-shaped to enable the wellbeing of all people and the planet: From Recovery to Flourishing at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/from-recovery-to-flourishing/>.

Simeon Mitchell JPIT - (emphasis Ed)

Next Month's Copy Deadline

Once more I plan to produce the May edition from home, so please send items to me at **steve.amos.gb@gmail.com** at the latest by **Sunday 25 April** - you can always send items in early.

No email? - give me a call on 01943 600111.

Worship at CHRISTCHURCH - April 2021

Keep an eye on the weekly NoticeSheet for regular updates

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 would like to join.

If you wish to attend the **Zoom station at 10:00am** in the Lower Hall, or the **4:00pm services in the Worship Area**, please book your place by contacting Jenny Freeman.

Sunday	Reading	10:00am Zoom	4:00pm
04 Apr	Easter Sunday Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18	David Goulesbrough & Rev Rita Armitage	Rev Roberta Topham
11 Apr	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-32	Lynda Duttine	Bitesize Michael Johnson
18 Apr	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48	Rev Roberta Topham	Christine Gibson
25 Apr	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18	Chris Mannall	Bitesize Michael Johnson

Holy Week & Easter

In Holy Week we plan to have a short service or meditation on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30pm each evening, by Zoom.

Then on Maundy Thursday at 7:30 pm we will offer an Agape (simple eating and drinking together) by Zoom.

On **Good Friday morning**, a reflective service by Zoom at 10:00am.

Easter Sunday - a short communion service at 10:00am in the Lower Hall, led by Rev Roberta Topham (please book with Jenny).

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.

