

The Messenger



Winter 2014

**Christ Church, Longridge “Living for Christ
at the heart of the community”**
www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

Christmas Festival and Theme 2014

This year we are planning a Christmas Tree Festival with a difference. We are inviting individuals; church and community organisations to MAKE 'Christmas Trees'. We would like people to make either flat trees that can hang on a wall or from a window OR more solid trees using as much creative skill as possible. We have seen knitted trees; quilted trees; wire trees; trees made out of books; pan stands; polystyrene; cardboard; biscuits and many, many more. Trees can be quite small and could be strung across the church like old-style decorations; or larger to stand on window sills or tables or even larger to stand on the floor. Please don't make them more than six feet (180 cm.) tall. We want to get all the 'trees' into church by December 9th so that they are in place for the last Connexion Zone with Barnacre Road School and 2toSchool which we think will be on December 10th. (This has not yet been confirmed by the school). So please get cracking and let us have your contributions.

During the Advent Season we will be featuring a Jesse Tree in our worship. Jesse Tree is the name given to various pictorial representations of the family tree of Jesus as it appears in the Gospels. Many of these leave out the earlier generations and start with Jesse, the father of King David -- hence the name. Early Jesse Trees can be seen in stained glass windows and can be very detailed but we are using a simplified version as part of our weekly Advent Liturgy. However this does lead us on to the idea of family trees and, if someone wished to produce a pictorial or illuminated family tree (their own or someone else's), this could also be part of the Tree Festival.

It is worth reminding ourselves that we have a tree in our prayer corner every week. It is there for us to write short prayers and share them with others without having to give our names if we don't want to and from time to time people sit and pray through the concerns so that our joys and cares are shared.

Course on Dementia

Dementia currently affects 800,000 people in the UK and the number is set to double in the next 30 years.

Most areas of the Diocese (the Blackburn Diocese is inviting anyone from any church) are now beginning to address the need for Dementia Friendly Communities and we can play our part.

A series of four training sessions have been arranged at

St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Lytham Road, Preston

On 3rd and 10th December and 14th and 21st January

All from 1.00pm – 5.00pm

They are open to all church members and the sessions lead from one to another

Session 1: Stories - The experience of people with dementia

Session 2: Relationships - The role of carers, friends and family

Session 3: Support – What help is available for people with dementia and their families

Session 4: Community – How the church be a partner in developing dementia friendly communities

Please see the foyer for more details about booking.

Are we short of children?

It is true that we do not see very many children in church these days (except of course at the half-termly Connexion Zone when there can be as many as 90) but we do have contact with quite a number of children. These children don't follow the patterns of regular church worship or Junior Church which are the pictures we have, perhaps, of what it means to have 'children in church'. Children turn up in all sorts of places. When it is half term, several children come with grandma or some other relative to Craft Club where Pam as well as the grandmas try to find them suitable activities. So perhaps it wasn't surprising to find a few of them wanting to run stalls at the Craft Fair. Several children turn up on Sunday mornings for Junior Church but it is totally unpredictable as to whether there will be any at all. This means that lessons and activities have to be prepared 'just in case'. A couple of older primary children occasionally turn up to evening worship so we have had to tell the preachers not to be surprised and to try to include them in some way --- last week's preacher included a story about a comical mix up involving a piglet and a puppy!!!!!!!!!!

The Sunday afternoon Connexion Zones once a month (second Sundays) vary considerably in number. Usually there are about half a dozen children present but altogether at least 18 different children have attended on a few occasions. Some of the children who come have problems and all are very lively and need quite a bit of one to one attention.

If we think we are running activities for young people just so that they will be there to keep the church open when we've gone, then

we are bound to fail. If on the other hand we feel we can show them the love of Christ and make them feel valued, then there is a real job to be done. Perhaps we do not have a shortage of children but a shortage of leaders because the more dependable we are as a church, the more we will be able to help children who need stability and unconditional love. Working with children is not easy and in this day and age, we have to be particularly careful that we provide an open and caring environment. If you think we should continue to provide these opportunities for children to come into our church and have good people to talk to and interesting activities to do and above all be able to learn about the love of God for them, then please consider whether you could help in some way. We specially need help with Connexion Zones. Leaders need to take holidays or attend to their own family matters sometimes, so a good sized team is required. If you are interested please come and see what we do on a Wednesday or a Sunday; and/or you could have a chat to John or Carol to find out what is involved. If we have enough helpers, then it may only require a commitment for a couple of hours once every two months but it could make a tremendous difference to some of our children and young people.

OLIVE HURLSTONE (1925 – 2014)

In the last Messenger we asked for prayers for Olive. Sadly Olive died soon after that and although she had been in failing health over the last year or two, it seemed to come quite quickly in the end. Olive had spent almost all her life in Longridge apart from the time she went away to train to be a teacher and had a part in nearly every local organisation, so it wasn't surprising to see a full church at her funeral. Her parents had been active members of Longridge Congregational Church and she attended worship in the building which is now Christ Church from infancy.

It meant an enormous amount to her and yet, her faith meant even more and she was able to face all the changes that the latter half of the twentieth century brought, with a positive and constructive attitude. When the Congregational Church became part of the newly created United Reformed Church in the 1970s, she threw herself into the 'dull' jobs like being a member of Synod and Area Committee and all the backroom work without which churches cannot function. Later, when it was proposed to join the United Reformed and Methodist Churches in Longridge to form one local church, she was an indefatigable member of the joint committee which ploughed its way through the mire of denominational and practical regulations to finally bring about a joint church, in one refurbished building. All this didn't stop her becoming a much-respected head teacher and continuing to serve in many capacities in the community and here at Christ Church. She was an elder; Council member; communion steward; secretary of Ladies' Guild and much more.

She was never a person to stand any nonsense but her ability to collect god-children, suggests that her friends knew she had a heart of gold and, of course, a soft spot for children. Towards the end of

her life, she sometimes seemed a little gruff when talking to people but a small incident that happened about three weeks after she died, illustrates that she had not lost the ability to care and to make people welcome at Christ Church. One of the young people who hadn't been around for a few weeks over the summer asked how Olive was. When we told her that she had died, the friend who was with her, asked who we were talking about and the first girl replied: 'You know, she's the one with white hair who always comes to talk to us when we come to church'.

We are grateful to God for Olive and for all she did. It has been a privilege to know her and Christ Church will miss her a great deal.

Friday Coffee Rota

Dec 5th	Mrs M Cook	Feb 6th	Rev E Hodgkiss
Dec 12th	Rev E Hodgkiss	Feb 13th	Mrs A Barnes
Dec 19th	Mrs A Barnes	Feb 20th	Mrs E Marven
Jan 2nd	Mrs E Marven	Feb 27th	Mrs B Warren
Jan 9th	Mrs B Warren	Mar 6th	Mrs S Lawson
Jan 16th	Mrs L Grange	Mar 13th	Mrs L Grange
Jan 23rd	Mrs S Lawson	Mar 20th	Mrs M Cook
Jan 30th	Mrs M Cook	Mar 27th	Rev E Hodgkiss

Walk For August - Wharfedale

A suggestion by Mel led us to investigate this splendid walk and adapt it to be used in the summer programme. The walk offered a variety of scenery and lots of historical interest. All that was needed now was excellent weather and we got that also, fortunately the day before the arrival of Bertha from across the Atlantic.

The walk started from the attractive village of Burnsall from where we followed an excellent path, passed the famous bridge and along the River Wharfe. After a couple of miles, we arrived at a narrow suspension bridge which we used to cross to the other side of the river and continued walking towards Linton. At Linton, some of us decided to cross the river via the stepping stones to have a look at Linton Church, very old but in a splendid state of repair. After crossing back, we headed for Linton Falls which were very impressive, even though the water level was fairly low. In a short time we arrived at the picturesque town of Grassington, where we had lunch in the park with all the facilities provided.

We now started the second part of this walk, slowly strolling up the main street of Grassington and looking into every shop window and eventually arriving at the village hall where we made a right turn and started on the track towards Hebden. We were quite high now and enjoyed fabulous views over the fells to the north with Whernside prominent on the distant horizon. This path wandered on through moorland and woodland until we came out at Hebden, a small but obviously close knit community where we passed a garden containing crosses with pictures of local men killed during WWI. Further up the road was a post box, painted gold and recognising a winner of an Olympic gold medal for rowing.

The old school is now a café and as the Bolton group today outnumbered the Longridge contingent, we had to stop for

afternoon tea. (Sorry Jim, I'm losing my grip). From Hebden, it was steadily downhill, through the woods and following a stream, past a fish farm and eventually arriving at the River Wharfe again by the suspension bridge.

From here, it was across the bridge and back along the river to Burnsall and the completion of the walk of eight miles.

We rarely undertake a walk that has everything, but this was one of them and we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Perhaps we should explore the Dales a little more often?

Linda & Eddie Grange

Walk For October - Pleasington

For this month's walk, we were in the capable hands of the Bolton group and their choice for the expedition was a very pleasant route starting from Witton Park in Blackburn and following the Witton Weavers Way around a circuit via Hoghton Bottoms.

Unlike most council parks, which are usually surrounded by urban development these days, Witton Park is a rare example of the countryside spreading into the town and is the starting point of many good walks.

Our group of six started the walk from the visitors' centre in splendid weather, despite the forecast of showers that didn't materialize and were immediately presented with a steep path with deep steps that proved hard to negotiate with our collection of dodgy joints. However, we made it to the top, walking through dense forest after which the landscape opened up to a fabulous view over the Fylde Plain and beyond. An interpretation structure was found here, pointing to all the features to be seen at this point and

dedicated to Alfred Wainwright, who worked in local government in Blackburn before moving to Kendal.

Our path now steadily descended. The paths were good and well-marked and in the distance the prominent escarpment, at the top of which Hoghton Tower stands, came into view. Eventually, we came to Hoghton Bottoms and a convenient picnic table by a ford across the River Darwen. Here we enjoyed a leisurely lunch in tranquil surroundings.

After lunch, we followed the River for a while until our path turned east and another long, steep climb, but we were again rewarded for our efforts with splendid views to the north and east. We were now above Pleasington and the path continued to Butlers Bridge and a steady descent back into Witton Park.

Thanks again to Bill for leading us around this pleasant and interesting walk. The people of Blackburn certainly have a facility to be proud of and we were very happy to share it with them.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Flower Rota

Dec 7th Kath Keighley

Dec 14th Pam Cliff

Dec 21st Esther Wolstenholme

Dec 28th Vacant

Walk For November - Cockersand

For November, we decided on a coastal walk as we hadn't visited the seaside for some time and the day turned out to be quite successful, with good weather, if a little windy and a turnout of ten, including a couple from Northumberland. Our fame is certainly spreading!

We started the walk from the car park at Condor Green and headed across the estuary to Glasson Dock from where we crossed over the swing bridge and up the main street to the top and our first view of the sea. After a little road walking, we entered farm tracks and passed two huge silos, known locally as the 'Twin Towers' and they provide a useful beacon for the many walks in this flat countryside. Our route now headed west to the coast, crossing one field after another containing many cows and some bulls, but they seemed harmless.

Eventually, we came out onto the coastal track with splendid views of the Lune Estuary, the old lighthouse and a ferry inbound to Heysham. In the distance we could see the remains of Cockersand Abbey, where we arrived ten minutes later and our lunch stop. This old abbey has an interesting history as explained on the detailed information board.

Following our stop, we continued along the coast for a while until we came to a caravan site and a farm where we then turned inland, crossing fields and following some of the large, deep drainage dykes which are responsible for the excellent farmland in these parts.

The next part of this very flat walk was along quiet lanes, which is something we try to avoid. However, during the reccy. for this walk, we tried a path across the fields, but encountered a very dangerous gate and stile, so I decided to take a chance on an alternative route. Worryingly, across the stile from the lane, we were met by a squadron of very ferocious geese and remembering how the Romans

had a great deal of respect for the guarding abilities of these creatures, we continued by road.

After a pair of fields, we crossed the main road to the Glasson Spur of the Lancaster Canal where the reeds seem to be taking over along the bank, which is probably intentional for the benefit of the wildlife. We did see a pair of Mute Swans here with five young.

From Glasson, we retraced our path back to the start and after an eight mile very pleasant trek we descended on the Café D'Lune for a well-earned brew.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Christ Church Worship and Events

Tuesday December 2nd

Preston Ribble Circuit Meeting at Lea

Friday December 5th

6.30pm Blessing of the Town Crib. This will follow immediately after the formal opening of 'Longridge Does Christmas' which will take place at the top of Berry Lane at 6.00pm with the Longridge Band

Friday December 5th to Tuesday December 9th

Decorating Church with handmade Christmas Trees
(Please see information elsewhere in The Messenger)

SUNDAY December 7th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Circuit Service at Bamber Bridge for the Recognition of Mrs Wendy Yates as an accredited Local Preacher

Tuesday December 9th

Craft Club Christmas Meal (No Craft Club on December 15th, 22nd or 29th - Craft Club recommences on January 5th)

SUNDAY December 14th

AM Dr Carol Spencer

3–4pm Connexion Zone

PM Mrs Carol Rose (Park House Carol Service)

Thursday December 18th

Lancashire Sings Christmas will be at Brockholes Nature Reserve. Churches Together in Longridge and Grimsargh are intending to arrange transport but details are not yet available.

SUNDAY December 21st

AM Sister Janet Edwards

4pm Rev Ray Borg (Communion Carol Service)

CHRISTMAS DAY December 25th

11am Christmas Day Worship Rev Ray Borg

SUNDAY December 28th

AM Dr Carol Spencer

PM No evening service at Christ Church

Wednesday December 31st

11.30pm Watch Night Communion Rev Ray Borg

Please note that the Churches Together early Friday Prayers will continue at 7.45am and will be in Christ Church in 2015

SUNDAY January 4th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Covenant Service)

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

SUNDAY January 11th

AM Miss Gwyneth Jones

3–4pm Connexion Zone

PM Sister Janet Edwards (Park House)

SUNDAY January 18th

AM Rev Nigel Lemon

PM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

SUNDAY January 25th

AM Rev Ron Lewis

The Church Council will meet after the morning service

3pm Circuit service at Central

(No evening service at Christ Church)

SUNDAY February 1st

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

PM Mr Ernest Wrennall

SUNDAY February 8th

AM Rev Mark Slaney

3-4pm Connexion Zone

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Park House)

SUNDAY February 15th

AM Mrs Wendy Yates

PM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Wednesday February 18th

Ash Wednesday Circuit Service

Friday February 20th

Lent Lunch at St Wilfrid's

SUNDAY February 22nd

AM Rev Ray Borg

PM Mr Eric Bainbridge

Friday February 27th

Lent Lunch will be at Christ Church but will be provided by St Lawrence with St Paul's

ADVANCE NOTICE

As a consequence of the Food Bank being held at St Paul's on Friday mornings, the Lent Lunches this year will continue as follows:-

Friday March 6th

Venue: Christ Church Provided by: Christ Church

Friday March 13th

Venue: Christ Church Provided by: C of E

Friday March 20th

Venue: St Wilfrid's Provided by: Alston Lane

Friday March 27th

Venue: Christ Church Provided by Christ Church

Friday March 6th will also be the Women's World Day of Prayer focusing on the Bahamas

10.30am There will be a PowerPoint presentation and the Rev Eddie Sykes who was until recently a Methodist Mission Partner in the Bahamas will be happy to answer questions about the country and the churches there.

11.00am Service prepared by the women of the Bahamas and led by members of Churches in Longridge, Grimsargh and Hurst Green.

EVERYONE is WELCOME

The service is prepared by women for the whole church to pray together for the Bahamas and the world church.

Saturday March 7th

9.30-4pm Inspire Day Conference at Runshaw College. See Foyer Notice board for details.

GOOD FRIDAY in 2015 will be on April 3rd and EASTER SUNDAY on April 5th



mission shaped ministry

- Cumbria and Lancashire
(Penrith or Preston)
- From Saturday 24th January 2015

Fresh Expressions ***mission shaped ministry*** was launched in 2007. Since then, it has been presented in 56 centres across the UK with more than 2,000 people taking part in the one-year, part-time learning journey. Individuals or teams, leaders and members, clergy and lay people learn side by side in the sessions to make ***msm*** a major contributor to lay and ordained ministry training.

The course's 24-units will be presented over:

- o four Saturdays;
- o a residential weekend;
- o six weekday evenings in two centres
(Wednesday evening in Bamber Bridge near Preston
& Thursday evenings in Penrith)

Course content includes the mission of God, vision and values, gospel and culture, evangelism, discipleship, leadership and team roles, spirituality, worship and the sacraments, how to keep going when things get tough, and what is Church?

Pete Atkins, convenor of the Fresh Expressions training hub, says, 'It is a joy to see mission shaped ministry equipping people from a great range of all Christian backgrounds to share more effectively in God's mission. In many cases, those involved have seen calls and visions clarified. Some have gone on to launch fresh expressions of church whilst others have been enabled to sustain them in their work. Many have helped existing churches to become more mission-shaped.'

Rt Revd Geoff Pearson, Bishop of Lancaster, says, 'As the take up of fresh expressions of church increases we need to be developing the gifts of those pioneering the way. ***msm*** is set up to invest in new mission leaders. It is a positive pathway for any who desire to be better equipped for sharing Jesus Christ in today's culture'.

Revd Richard J Teal, Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District, says, 'To be Church in the 21st century is exciting and challenging. The Church needs to be equipped to present the gospel message in a culture where she is seen by many as irrelevant. ***msm*** will help equip those (lay and ordained) who avail themselves of it and help God's Church to move forward into the future. I warmly recommend it.'



Course timetable and venue

Saturday 24th January 2015

Wednesday 11th *or* Thursday 12th February 2015

Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd March 2015

Wednesday 15th *or* Thursday 16th April 2015

Wednesday 13th *or* Thursday 14th May 2015

Wednesday 10th *or* Thursday 11th June 2015

Saturday 11th July 2015

Saturday 19th September 2015

Wednesday 14th *or* Thursday 15th October 2015

Wednesday 11th *or* Thursday 12th November 2015

Saturday 5th December 2015

Saturdays are 09.30-16.00 at Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth Street, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7QY.

Weekdays are 19.30-21.30 at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, Station Road, Bamber Bridge, Lancashire, PR5 6ED (**Wednesdays**) or Penrith Methodist Church (**Thursdays**).

The **residential weekend** is at The Leyland Hotel, Leyland Way, Leyland, Preston, Lancashire, PR25 4JX.

Cost

£275 per person, which covers all materials, refreshments and the weekend away. Financial support may be available.

Contact

Nick Moxon, Course Leader

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missionshapedministry.org/cumbria15

Services

Worship

Activities

SUNDAY

- 9.00am** Prayer Breakfast*
*Normally 1st Sunday of month
- 10.45am** Morning Worship &
Junior Church
- 3.00pm** Connexion Zone*
*Normally 2nd Sunday of month
- 6.30pm** Evening Worship*
*2nd Sunday at Park House

MONDAY

- 10.00am** Craft Club
- 7.45pm** Ladies Guild*
*1st Monday of month

FRIDAY

- 7.45am** CTL Morning Prayers*
*At Christ Church in 2015
- 10.00am** Coffee Morning

SATURDAY

- 9.30am** Christ Church Ramblers*
*2nd Saturday each month

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