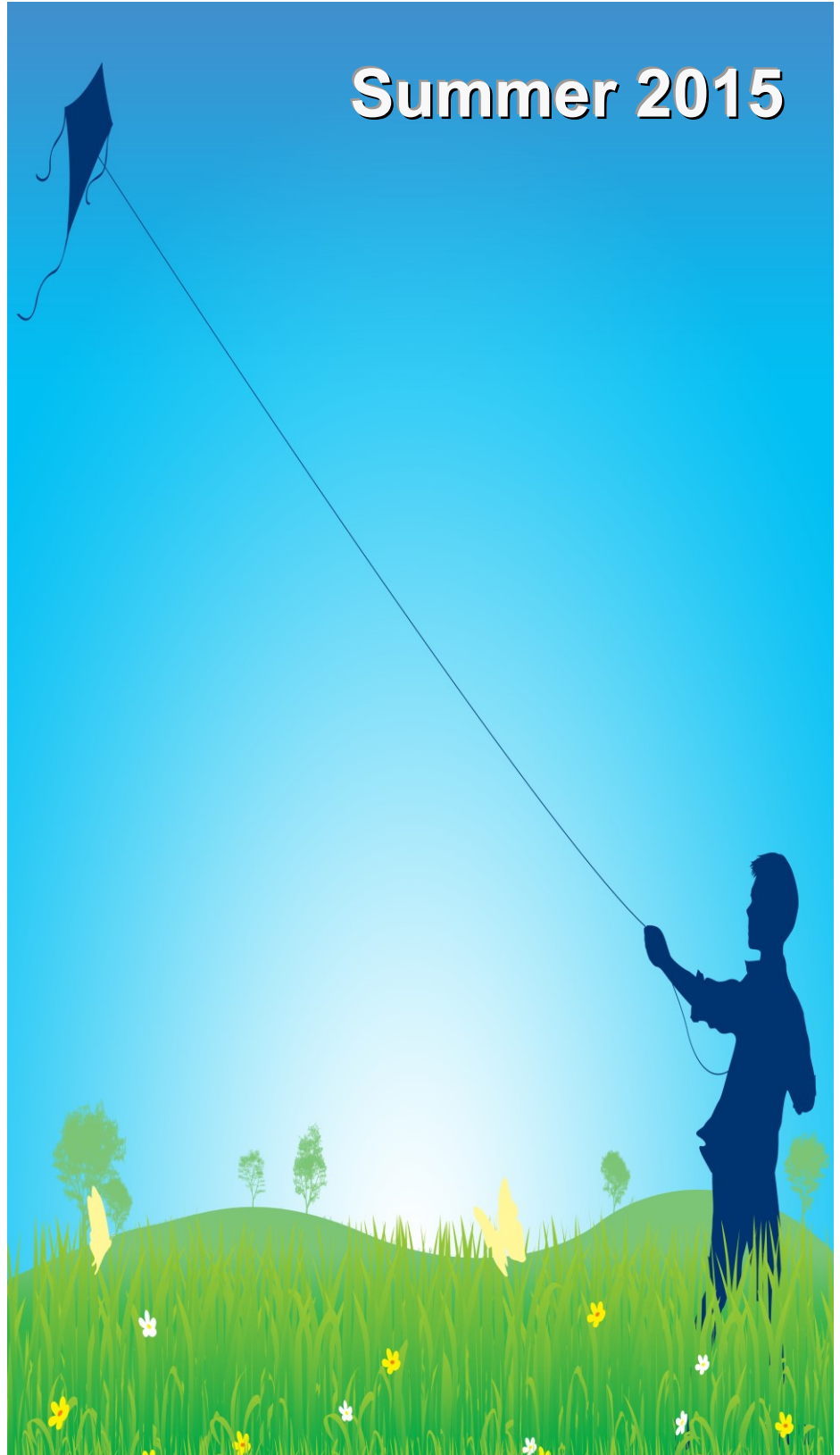


The Messenger



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

Rev Ray Writes

If you're a keen reader of the Longridge News, you'll soon realise that most of the write-ups I do in this magazine are an expanded version of my Voice of The Church articles which I am privileged to have published in that newspaper. The magazine gives me an opportunity to expand upon the meagre 300 words I have for the newspaper. So here it goes...

We are currently in the Christian festival of Pentecost, when we remember the coming of God's Spirit upon Jesus' disciples. The account can be found in the New Testament book of Acts chapter 2 and I would highly recommend that you read it for its novelty value as well as its spiritual value.

It is an incredible, supernatural account which cannot fail to get your imagination working as you try to visualise the events of that day. Jesus had told the disciples that he and the Father would send the Holy Spirit to be their counsellor and guide but I doubt they expected anything quite so dramatic. The account describes a sound like that of a violent wind and the appearance of what looks like tongues of flame which settled on the disciples. The Renaissance paintings which depict this event are naively tame and I'm utterly convinced that they fail to capture the enormity of the occasion. For a start, the disciples look so composed and serene, and the tongues of flame are so delicate, regular and sanitary. Contemporary art fares marginally better but not by much. I'm not deriding the artists. It's very hard to understand what actually occurred that day, so it must be harder still to depict it on canvass. God was at his most mysterious and dramatic on this occasion.

Human beings are naturally curious and I'm not surprised that countless people have focused on the supernatural elements in this manifestation of the Spirit of God. But glorious and interesting though this event was, we are in danger of losing the point if we focus wholly

on the supernatural nature of the Spirit's arrival. The point, for me, is the effect which the Holy Spirit had on people back then and the effect she has on people today.

If we consider the disciples on whom the Spirit came, we would encounter some interesting and eclectic mix of people. Amongst the disciples you will find troubled and sensitive Thomas, foot-in-mouth big-gob Peter, newbie Matthias and the rather status conscious sons of Zebedee who had to have their mother speak to Jesus on their behalf about seating arrangements in heaven! None of these people were ideal as leaders but the Holy Spirit effected a change in them that made them fit for the job which God had in mind for them - to lead his church into the extremely challenging end times. Notice though how there's no magic involved. None of these leopards changed their spots, but rather, the Holy Spirit worked with their foibles to transform and enable.

In a similar way, the Holy Spirit of God has the same job of transforming and enabling today. Her job is to transform us into the people of God and to enable us to do the work of the kingdom, which God has prepared in advance for us to do. She transforms the hearts and minds of those of us who are willing to listen and to be taught how to view things in 3D instead of 2D. What do I mean by that? Well, left to their own devices, people tend to view life in terms of what there is in it for them and (perhaps) for others. Our natural inclination is to think of ourselves first and then, with varying degrees of commitment to think of others. I call this a 2D world view.

The Holy Spirit adds God's perspective and gives us a whole new angle on things. And given that God's perspective is often topsy-turvy, his perspective can dramatically change the way we view anything in life. This additional dimension is what changes a good picture into an amazing picture. I call this a 3D spiritual view.

Let me give you a simple example by way of illustration. A 2D view of sin is that there is a perpetrator and a victim; that one is guilty and the other innocent; that one should pay for their wrongdoing and the other is entitled to compensation; that one is to be censured and the other pitied. The Holy Spirit transforms our thinking so that we see a godly 3D perspective in which there is a perpetrator but more than one victim (the perpetrator is also a victim as is God), that there is guilt and innocence, that the price is paid for by Jesus on behalf of the guilty whilst compensation for the victims may not mean restitution, that nobody is despised and everyone is given mercy and grace. This transformation is nothing short of miraculous and requires the supernatural action of the Holy Spirit.

The really supernatural thing about the way the Holy Spirit works is that there's no coercion and that most of her work is done silently in the depths of our souls. It's all done through gentle luring and persuasion. She uses the word of God to illumine our thinking, she enables our ability to reason, she uses our life experiences (including the counsel of those around us) and she uses the lessons learned by the church as a whole to transform who we are and what we do. She takes us courageously through the steps of making things right when they are wrong and turning the darkness of fear into the light of love.

For me, the truly amazing thing about Pentecost is not so much the supernatural method of coming into the world but more the amazing effect she has on those who are willing to be shaped and re-formed by her. She is a patient and tenacious teacher who is willing to provide life-long learning and transformation for anyone who is prepared to acknowledge her and learn the lessons she offers. Question is, are we willing?

Ray

Reverend Ray Borg, Minister

Women's World Day of Prayer

We had a most informative and enjoyable day on March 6th. The Rev Eddie Sykes who was formerly a Methodist Mission Partner in the Bahamas and is now a Minister in Morecambe, gave us a presentation about the Bahamas and its problems. This was followed by the service which was written by women in the Bahamas and led by people from five local churches (mainly women but with the help of two men!!). This reflected what the day is meant to be ---- a time which is planned and led by women but meant to inform and to help all Christians whether male or female and from all denominations to worship together.

Every year, the country which is the focus for that year, produces service booklets which are full of information about their country as well as devotional material. This year we have a few of these left, including a few large print ones. If anyone would like one, please take one from the foyer or ask Carol Spencer if the literature stand is empty. These are already paid for so there is no charge.

Friday Coffee Rota

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Jun 5th | Mrs E Marven | Aug 7th | Mrs L Grange |
| Jun 12th | Mrs B Warren | Aug 14th | Mrs S Lawson |
| Jun 19th | Mrs S Lawson | Aug 21st | Mrs M Cook |
| Jun 26th | Mrs L Grange | Aug 28th | Rev E Hodgkiss |
| Jul 3rd | Rev E Hodgkiss | | |
| Jul 10th | Mrs A Barnes | Sep 4th | Mrs A Barnes |
| Jul 17th | Mrs M Cook | Sep 11th | Mrs E Marven |
| Jul 24th | Mrs E Marven | Sep 18th | Mrs B Warren |
| Jul 31st | Mrs B Warren | Sep 25th | Mrs S Lawson |

Christ Church Guild

Since the last time we made a report of the Guild we have had some good speakers and an attendance of about 15 at each meeting.

We are no longer the Ladies' Guild as it was decided to open the meetings to the men who are interested in the programmes we hold.

At the recent AGM it was resolved to welcome Susan Lawson as President in place of myself. Mrs Audrey Barnes was willing to take on the job of Secretary. Olive had been in this position for many years and her diligent service has been sadly missed. We are very grateful to Audrey for taking on this job.

The Committee decided we should meet monthly on the first Monday of the month. The annual fee would be £3 and the monthly entrance £2.

Our summer activities are all arranged and 18 members are going to the Preston Playhouse on May 20th to see "Good Things" put on by Preston Drama Club.

Megan Crew

Flower Rota

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Jun 7th | Hazel Scott | Aug 2nd | Val Fletcher |
| Jun 14th | Mel Watson | Aug 9th | Margaret Mohyla |
| Jun 21st | Val Fletcher | Aug 16th | Audrey Barnes |
| Jun 28th | | Aug 23rd | Beryl Murrant |
| Jul 5th | Sandra Metcalf | Aug 30th | |
| Jul 12th | Margery Cook | Sep 6th | |
| Jul 19th | Sue Lawson | Sep 13th | Val Fletcher |
| Jul 26th | Beryl Murrant | Sep 20th | Margaret Mohyla |

Walk For February - Rivington to Adlington

Last month, we managed to find a somewhat urban walk as our usual type of countryside is rather waterlogged at the moment. This month, our Bolton friends came up with a similar solution to the north of Bolton.

The walk started at Rivington Barn and we headed east initially on a series of access tracks with splendid views of Rivington Pike and Winter Hill in the distance. The forecast for the day was quite reasonable, but we did encounter some short but vicious hail showers from time to time. After a short stretch of the lane that connects Belmont village, we turned down a quiet private road that ran along Upper Rivington Reservoir for some distance until we arrived at the dam, which we crossed and then entered a footpath that followed the western shore.

This part of the county we have previously referred to as, “The Lancashire Lake District” and is very popular with walkers and particularly bikers. After a mile or so, we made a right turn along farm tracks, quite muddy in places, past a farm and then crossed the busy M61, following a road that took us down to Anderton and Adlington, where we stopped for lunch in a pleasant garden outside the local library watching the traffic. (Is this an ageing thing?).

As we started off we were attacked by one of the hail showers, so took shelter in the library entrance. On our way again, we walked along the A6 briefly before entering a new trading estate from where we started the long steady climb back to Rivington, along a series of local pathways across fields and quiet lanes, over the M61 again, followed by the dam that separates the Upper and Lower Rivington Reservoirs and back to the Barn.

Altogether, we covered nearly nine miles on this walk. Again, thanks to Bill for organising a walk that gave us a lot of variety, from moorland to lakes and town, with easy walking all the way.

Linda and Eddie Grange

The Foyer

It is useful to note that the literature stand in the foyer has a wide range of items which may be of interest. There are copies of Fulwood URC Magazine and Reform, the magazine of the United Reformed Church, which can be borrowed. Please bring them back when you've finished with them. There are also guides for the walk round Longridge visiting all the churches called 'Footsteps of Faith'. These are extremely interesting but cost £1 so please pay if you can. There are several other leaflets from time to time and these sometimes overflow on to the table where the Mites Box is situated. The Mites Box is for small change which we collect to send to Unicef to buy rehydrating salts for children suffering from diarrhoea. Just a few pence can save a child's life. The Flower Fund box is usually on this table too. If you would like to donate towards the floral decoration of the church but do not want to sponsor a particular Sunday, please put your donation in this tin. This table also has the prayer book where you can write requests for prayers to be included in the services. You can simply write someone's name or more detail about why you want to pray for them, however please do not add detail which the person being prayed for has not approved. People who are not included in the morning service will usually be prayed for at the evening service. Alternatively, you could write a name or a prayer on the Prayer Tree in the Prayer Corner. The preaching plans, directories and other free leaflets are usually on this table.

The books on the trolley are sold in aid of church work in Sierra Leone. We are grateful for the generous gifts of books and we are expanding into the library/ Traidcraft cupboard which is also in the foyer.

The foyer is, of course, our 'coffee lounge' especially on Friday mornings and after services. Many thanks to those who donate milk, biscuits and cakes so that all money collected for drinks can be donated to 'Action for Children' (formerly National Children's Home). Just a few pounds each week soon adds up and we are able to send substantial amount over the year.

Walk For March - The Three Waters

Unfortunately, we had to abandon the proposed walk because of exceptionally muddy conditions, so we decided to fall back on an old favourite which we haven't walked for some time. The three waters of the title are the rivers Brock, Calder and the Lancaster Canal.

We met up at the parking spot on Duckett's Lane and started the walk along the banks of the River Brock through Badger Wood, which sounds as though we should be in Midsommer, but I'm pleased to say that we didn't trip over any bodies on this delightful riverside path. At Walmsley Bridge, we left the path that continued on to Brock Bottoms and turned up a quiet lane for a short while before entering a large field and heading up to Bowman House Farm where the anti-walker farmer, (Another one!), saw fit to drape barbed wire across all of his gates along the line of the public footpath. We spent some time trying to find a way out of this difficult situation, eventually ending up in the middle of the farmyard!

There now followed a pleasant stretch of road walking, followed by another farm, Crabtree Nook, this time user friendly, that took us to a third lane and on to our second river, the Calder. We followed this for a while before turning north, following the railway up to Ray Lane and eventually arrived at the canal, our third water. The canal stretch was quite long but at the first bridge, we stopped for lunch at a conveniently placed seat, enjoying the warm sunshine and observing

the many birds to be found here. We encountered many fellow walkers and waved at the friendly boaters that passed us. The canal stretch ended by The Barton Grange Garden Centre, where we transferred to the A6, walking south until we arrived at the Land Rover dealership, where we had to have a look at the models on view. What prices!

We were now back following the River Brock, firstly negotiating a footbridge over the railway and then under the M6, after which things got quieter until we arrived at the weir at New Bridge and the end of the walk.

Although this wasn't the planned walk, we all had an enjoyable time with fairly easy walking conditions and gorgeous weather all the way.

Linda and Eddie Grange

A Day of Relaxing Prayer – An introduction to the different spiritualities in the Church (e.g. Carmelite, Ignatius, Franciscan) on Saturday 6th June from 10am to 4pm at Tabor, 169 Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood. Priced £12. Please bring a packed lunch. To book a place phone 01772 717122 or print your name on the list at the back of Church if you require transport from St Wilfrid's, Longridge.

Choir Concert for Christian Aid 2015

If you wanted musical entertainment on an arresting scale, then Christ Church, Longridge was certainly the place to be on the evening of April 18th for their Annual Concert for Christian Aid. A change to the usual 'Music in the Afternoon' series of concerts was made in order to welcome their special guests, the Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir.

The '30 strong' serving and retired police officers, ably trained and directed by George Taylor, did not disappoint the sell-out audience. They offered a varied program of songs from the shows, popular classics and traditional choral arrangements.

They started their 'show' in a true Cole Porter-style 'Opening Number' followed by a bold rendition of 'With Cat-like Tread' from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. From *Les Miserables* to Lennon and McCartney, they continued to demonstrate their carefully prepared ensemble ability. Soloist Albert England 'starred' in the Russian Traditional song, 'Kalinka', by performing with conviction and emotion, delighting the audience with his falsetto voice. Performances of songs such as 'What a wonderful World' demonstrated clear diction and strong harmonies. The first half concluded with a most expressive rendition of Puccini's 'Nessun Dorma'. Arranged by Allan Simons, this performance quite simply blew the audience away – who by now were standing in warm appreciation.

Compere Roger Scriven, in his own witty way, introduced the various items and interspersed an interesting insight into policing in Gloucestershire – or so everyone thought - until he delivered his 'punch lines'!

The second half opened in Wagnerian style with the 'Roman War Song' followed by more traditional and popular songs. Their gentle rendition of the 'The Rose' was kindly dedicated to the concert organiser, whilst their full sounding, rich harmonies in Arwel Hughes' arrangement of 'Cwm Rhonda' were some of the most poignant of the evening.

Special tribute must be paid to the choir's accompanist Lucas Bailey, an extremely talented young man, who demonstrated his amazing ability not only in his enthusiastic competent accompanying, but in his solo piano performances. Dave Brubeck's 'Blue Rondo a la Turk' and Einaudi's 'Divenire' were enthralling to say the least. His fantastic performance of 'River Boogie' was nothing less than virtuosic and the great surprise of the night was his rhythmical and energetic tap dance. 'Unaccompanied Number' – the evening's best kept secret – brought both audience and choir to their feet with thoroughly well-deserved cheers and rapturous applause.

As if that was not enough, the choir performed an encore of a lively version of 'This Old Man', affectionately dedicated to their hard working musical director. Their whole performance – notably all sung from memory - was presented with obvious enjoyment, attention, commitment and above all, a great sense of fun.

In addition, all proceeds of ticket sales and donations amounting to £1,081 will go to support the ongoing work of Christian Aid.

Carol Rose

Music in The Afternoon (edition 10) continues on Sunday September 6th at 2.30pm with a concert featuring Jane Pembleton-Smythe (flute) and Fennella Howarth-Head (piano).

Pastoral Visiting

As most people will know, we have had a wonderfully faithful team of pastoral visitors over the years and recently we have been able to add to them a team of people who help to deliver the magazines. First of all, we would like to thank them all for the work they do. They are amazingly faithful and reliable. However recently our team has been affected more and more by ill- health or increasing family demands and at this time of year, we need to make sure that everyone has time for much needed holidays, so Ray and I have discussed the situation and feel that we need to alter our arrangements for the time being. Currently, those who have expressed a wish to have regular visits are allocated to a named Pastoral Visitor who tries to visit them at least once every three months, usually when the new magazine comes out. If someone is not in they will make one or two return visits and if they do not then make contact, they wait until the next magazine comes out.

For the next few months, the magazines will still be distributed as normal but we will not be visiting everyone on the lists, although we will still try to visit those who are housebound. However, please do not feel that there is no pastoral care available. If you are in real need of a visit, you can ring the minister, the Rev Ray Borg (01772 768112) or the pastoral secretary, Carol Spencer (01772 782829) and we will arrange for an appropriate visit at a suitable time.

We would be particularly grateful if you could let us know if anyone is taken into hospital or a care home, or if anyone changes address, because we do not want to lose track of anyone. We trust that you will all have an opportunity for rest and refreshment over the next few months, whatever the weather does!!!!

Carol Spencer

Walk For April - Abbeystead

This Bowland walk is particularly attractive, but needs a very clear day to make the most of it. Fortunately, we experienced beautiful conditions for the whole day which contributed to a very memorable experience.

Our meeting place was the Quaint Stoops Bridge on the River Wyre where the usually quiet car park was exceptionally busy for some reason. From the bridge, we started walking up the steep hill towards Dolphinholme before entering a very muddy field that gave way to a solid farm track that led us down to the reservoir and the river, followed by a short climb up to the pumping station that was the site of a devastating explosion some years ago that claimed many lives. A plaque on the wall is dedicated to those, mostly from St. Michaels, who perished here.

After following the river for a short while, we turned and started the steady climb through the forest and on to Lentworth Hall. From here, we crossed a wide meadow followed by a steep ascent up to Christ Church, also known locally as The Shepherds Church, a splendid old and quaint country church and as the bell was ringing for noon, we decided to stop here for lunch.

The next part of our walk started on a winding lane, followed by a trek across a series of fields with the line of the beautiful Bowland hills laid out in front of us. Throughout the walk we noticed a large number of very young lambs. There seems to have been a good crop this spring.

We now descended to Grizedale Bridge, from where we started walking along the very quiet lane for one and a half miles, following the Tarnbrook Wyre to the hamlet of Tarnbrook. From here we joined the Wyre Way that took us across a series of fields and stiles

and finishing by going through a private garden, which never seems right, but the owner says that she likes the company of passing walkers! A short, steep descent down the road took us back to Stoops Bridge and the end of the walk.

Given the right conditions, you can't go wrong with a walk in Bowland. All that remained now was a pleasant drive home along the quiet Trough road and back to Longridge.

Linda and Eddie Grange

Christ Church Worship and Events

Tuesday June 2nd

7.30pm Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at Lea

Sunday June 7th

Christ Church Anniversary

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Followed by Annual Church Meeting

(No evening Service)

Saturday June 13th

Longridge Field Day

(Please see John Spencer if you can help pitch and/or strike the tent and Carol Spencer if you can help staff the tent during the afternoon)

Sunday June 14th

AM Mr Andrew Bennett

3-4pm Connexion Zone

PM Mr Henry Rose (at Park House)

Thursday June 18th

7.30pm 'Njoni Wote' District Mission event at Lancaster
Please see noticeboard for details

Saturday June 20th

9.30am - 1pm Meeting for all Church Stewards at Fulwood

Sunday June 21st

AM Rev Ron Lewis

2.30pm–4.30pm Worship Course at Ashton Methodist Church
please see noticeboard or discuss with Carol
Spencer if you would like to know more.

PM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Wednesday June 24th

7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Fulwood

Sunday June 28th

AM Civic Sunday – St Paul's. Preacher Rev Ray Borg
All invited to share in this community event

2.30pm–4.30pm Worship Course (see above)

PM Mrs Carol Rose

Sunday July 5th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Mr Doug Whittle

Monday July 6th

9.00am Craft Club Trip

Thursday July 9th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall

Please see Pam Cliff if you can help

Saturday July 11th

Longridge Show. Please see Carol or John Spencer if you
can help staff the CTL tent.

Sunday July 12th

AM Dr Carol Spencer

3-4pm Connexion Zone

PM Dr Carol Spencer (at Park House)

Saturday July 18th URC Big Day Out – please see noticeboard.

Sunday July 19th

AM Mr Harry Duckett

PM Circuit Service at Bamber Bridge

Sunday July 26th

AM Mr Henry Rose

PM Mrs Carol Rose

Sunday August 2nd

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Sister Janet Edwards

Thursday August 6th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall (CTL)

Sunday August 9th

AM Mr Ernest Wrennall

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (at Park House)

Sunday August 16th

AM Mr John & Dr Carol Spencer

PM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Sunday August 23rd

AM Dr Carol Spencer

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

Thursday August 27th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall

Sunday August 31st

AM Mrs Carol Rose

PM Rev Ray Borg

...also... **Sept 6th 2.30pm** Music in the Afternoon (edition 10) ... **Sept 9th 7.30pm** Christ Church Council Meeting ... **Sept 11th 11.00am** Pastoral Team Meeting ... **Sept 15th 7.30pm** Circuit Meeting venue TBA

Services Festivals 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** The 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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(Senior Steward) Mrs Carol Rose 01772 783680 or
(Pastoral Secretary) Dr Carol Spencer 01772 782829

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