

The Messenger



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

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

You know, they say that one of the best ways to sustain a meaningful relationship is to keep talking to each other – whether that is just communicating the day's events, or through a more in-depth conversation. It is an important part of keeping that relationship alive and fresh.

I would say it goes for all our relationships, whether it's personal or communal – but perhaps it is particularly vital when considering what should be our number one relationship – our relationship with God.

Talking to God – aka Prayer – is the way we let God know how we are feeling – what we are doing – what we'd like to do – what problems we have... and whilst it's true that God already knows all of this before we even know it ourselves, God wants us to voice the words, to cry out in times of trouble, to simply let Him know how things are with our soul.

The Prayer-life we have, both as individuals and as a community of faith together, I believe, should therefore be at the top of our list of priorities in everything we do – but is it?

Instead of taking a few moments at the beginning and ending of each day to talk to God, we sometimes forget, or get distracted by the busyness of our lives. Talking to God then becomes an afterthought rather than a priority.

Rather than an on-going conversation with Him during our day, we try to squeeze in a few moments when we remember.

It's a good job that God doesn't really mind – He knows the failings of our humanity – but considering all the prompts and resources we

have for prayer, both personal and corporate, do we really have any excuse worth voicing?

In Advent of 2009, the United Reformed Church – as part of the Vision4Life programme – began a year of prayer, with a booklet called ‘Praying our days’ – and followed that up this year with its prayer handbook entitled, ‘Still Praying’.

The Methodist Church is also focussing on a Year of Prayer in 2012, with many useful resources being produced.

Within Christ Church itself, there are many opportunities for both personal and corporate prayer. How many can you think of?

Perhaps the most recent development within the Prayer Life of our church has been the commencement of the ‘Prayer Breakfast’ – which takes place on the first Sunday of the Month (normally Communion Sunday). It starts at 9am with a time of discernment, reflection and prayer, led by one of the group. During this time, prayer can be spoken or unspoken – both are important, and as we are ‘amongst friends’, those nervous of praying aloud need not feel under pressure. It ends with the group leader bringing the time of prayer to a close – and the sharing of cereal and toast for breakfast.

Those of us who have attended Prayer Breakfast, I hope, would agree with me that this time of sharing together has been of immense value – and we would encourage everyone who is able to, to come along and try it out, because it’s not the same as being lead in prayer during the actual service.

Imagine if we had the whole congregation of Christ Church gathered together, praying *together* our individual and collective concerns and hopes for our church, sharing in the fellowship of food *together* – God only knows what it would lead too!

The next Prayer Breakfast will be on Sunday 4th December at 9am – God and I would love to see you there!

Yours in Christ,

Helen <><

It is always a delight to hear news from and about friends from Christ Church who have moved to pastures new. Quite a number still receive the Messenger regularly by post and others follow us on the web site (when things are working smoothly). Helen has recently heard from Rev Romilly Micklem, the minister at St Andrew's URC, Walton-on-Thames that Janet and Jim were received into membership there on the sixth of November. Our congratulations go to Jim and Janet on finding a church where they feel comfortable and happy to settle down and also to the good folk of St Andrew's who have gained such valuable members. We have also heard from other sources that they are already beginning to stir things up and get folks cracking. Nobody at Christ Church will be the least bit surprised by that.

If you have news of those who have moved away or are amongst the 'emigrants' and would like to let us know what's going on, please let Rob know by email or via the website or by post c/o 20 Market Place (the postman for this area has taken it upon himself to redirect anything addressed to the church – no matter whose name is on it – to 20 Market Place. This is such a shame as Henry has installed a very nice letter box in the vestry door. Thanks Henry. We'll get the message across eventually.)

Connexion Zone

You may notice this new phrase in the Dates for your Diary. This is the new title for the work amongst very young children. In the last Messenger we outlined how, through links with Barnacre Road School and 2toSchool, we now have a special service once every half term. In October we attempted a more adventurous type of craft work. The theme for the service was the wise man who built his house on a rock. When the children arrived, they were grouped round tables with their teachers and helpers and given gingerbread men to turn into 'Bob the Builder' biscuits by carefully (!) rolling out yellow icing to make his helmet and blue icing to make his trousers. Quite a feat with 77 young children! It was decided to buy rather than bake the required number of plain 'men' to decorate but this proved more difficult than expected. It seems that most bakers and supermarkets stop making gingerbread men before Hallowe'en and make gingerbread ghosts and goblins etc instead. Several were asked to make us a special batch but the only ones who were willing to help us out were Gregg's the Bakers on the Deepdale Retail Park. We are very grateful to them for their cooperation (and for the extra biscuits that the duty manager added to the order.) Well done Greggs! Overall this has encouraged Helen and John to include more craft in future.

We want to develop from this a more frequent activity for younger children on a weekday. So far we are short of volunteers to come forward so that this can become a reality but in the meantime we have renamed the Wednesday mornings, Connexion Zone and intend to use this as the title for any further developments with this age group so if you want to get involved in any capacity, please have a word with Helen, John or Jane.

Shoebboxes

At lunchtime today (November 11th) a white van drew up outside the church and collected 148 shoeboxes covered in attractive Christmas paper and full of presents for deprived children in Eastern Europe. The two men who collected them were delighted to see so many as they had received very few at their previous collecting points and one church appeared to have got the wrong date altogether so their boxes will probably not make it for this Christmas. Our boxes looked very good indeed even though we have not managed to do quite as many as last year. Many people worked very hard during the year so that so much could be achieved. Several ladies have knitted enormous numbers of hats and scarves. The Monday Craft Group have contributed in many ways but especially in the rather tedious task of covering the boxes and many more people from both Christ Church and Fulwood URC and indeed from our neighbours round about have contributed a wide range of toys; toiletries; stationery and lots of other things as well as cash to cover transport. It really is a 'tour de force' so thank you to everyone who helped. Don't forget to start saving your empty shoeboxes now so we can make a good start for next Christmas.

Walk for August - Fairy Steps and Haverbrack

Veronica volunteered to lead this month's walk and chose one of the most popular and scenic in North Lancashire. After the heavy rain of the previous week, the excellent drainage of the limestone country was most welcome.

The Longridge contingent got off to a bad start, due to a confrontation between a 'bus and a police car at the Broughton Crossroads, blocking the A6 and necessitating a long detour via the Horns Inn and the Roebuck Hotel, making us a little late for the start.

Our starting point was at the junction of the River Bela and the Arnside road, from where we quickly entered Dallam Park for quite a long stretch, with the famous deer much in evidence. Eventually, we arrived at the paper mill and turned west along a narrow, overgrown path to a lane, followed by a steep ascent along a path through the woods. The low cloud and mist had now given way to hot and sunny conditions which caused much stripping off of waterproofs along the way.

Eventually we arrived at the famous escarpment of Whin Scar and its well-known cleft of Fairy Steps. This was our designated lunch stop, but due largely to the unbridled zest of our leader, we arrived a half-hour early, so, as we are a democratic group, we were offered a choice of routes and chose one that took us on to The Great Northern Quarry. The top of the quarry was now the venue for lunch and to admire the breathtaking views across the Kent Estuary and Morecambe Bay.

From the quarry, it was now a steady descent down the coast road and across to a pleasant path that followed the sands. As the tide was in, the water was almost to our feet. Eventually, we arrived at the River Bela again and back to the start.

Many thanks to Veronica for re-introducing us to an old friend, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. The walk gave us a lot of variety, good views and the quality of the facilities – stiles etc were first class.

Eddie Grange

Craft Fair

Last year, the Craft Group had a really successful Craft Fair so we thought we'd try another one this year. November 5th saw the church full of stalls although perhaps not quite as many as last year. We only managed to attract one outside stallholder and the rest were staffed by our own Craft Club members. However the public response was much improved. In the morning especially, quite a lot of people came round and bought Christmas Cards and Christmas presents; home-made baking and jams and marmalades; jewellery and handbags; calligraphy pictures and hand-knitteds and much, much more. Many people stopped to enjoy Judith's refreshments and she kindly kept the stall-holders well-supplied with lubrication throughout. By early afternoon, three stalls had sold out!!!! The Sierra Leone craft stall could have sold more bags if there had been any. We haven't yet got totals from all the participants but it is clear that there is going to be a very useful contribution to church funds and the Sierra Leone projects will benefit by £80 (and a further £10.50 received at the Sunday afternoon concert) as well as the money received for the bags, tablecloths and tunics etc. made in the Training Centre in Kailahun.

Walk For September - Around Lancaster

Due to the exceptionally wet conditions following the recent heavy rain, the planned ascent of Parlick had to be abandoned and this pleasant tour of Lancaster substituted at the last minute.

We met at St. Georges Quay, on the River Lime and as some of us had done this walk before, it was suggested that, if we walk in the reverse direction, this could be considered to be a new walk. We really do have some clever people in our walking group!

Heading south, we followed the bed of the Glasson railway, now a popular and splendid footpath, with the estuary on our right. Numerous ducks and a lone swan passed us on the high tide and the many cyclists proved to be considerate with their bell ringing on the shared path.

After a couple of miles, we arrived at the sewage plant and our turning point. Now it was quiet, pleasant country lanes, heading for Stoddy; the only traffic that we met being a beautiful chestnut horse with a young lady rider.

Eventually, we arrived at Ashton Road and started to head towards Lancaster. The weather had turned out to be splendid, warm but humid and after a short while, we arrived at the canal. The canal here is in a deep cutting, so our path descended gradually towards the tow-path and on to Aldcliffe and to where the West Coast Main Line crosses the canal, where we found a convenient seat for our lunch stop.

During lunch, we were entertained on the other bank by the activities of rabbits and Yankee squirrels. Then it was onwards to the city centre, noting how well the canal area has been developed in recent years. Now, we had a choice. Either walk along the canal to the magnificent aqueduct by John Rennie and down the steps to the Lime, or take up an offer by Veronica of a tour of the back streets of the city, which we did. And very interesting it was. We next picked up the Lime Way and the Millennium Bridge and the return to our cars.

This proved to be a good walk to fall back on at short notice. Also, we may have introduced a new category of walk, namely, The Wrong Way Round Walk. The possibilities are endless.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Music in the Afternoon

Only two weeks following the Longridge Band Concert, Christ Church was yet again the venue for a musical feast. Joyce Tindsley (Mezzo Soprano), making a welcome return visit along with Matthew Balson (Trumpet) and Geoff Balson (Piano and Organ), delighted the hundred plus audience with a varied programme of vocal and instrumental items.

Matthew's solos (on both Piccolo and Bb trumpets) were by Purcell, Handel and Thalben Ball with a final demonstration of his virtuosic abilities in a vibrant performance of 'Carnival of Venice'.

Geoff, who accompanied on both piano and organ, also gave an enthusiastic solo piano performance of 'Hymnody', an original selection of some of his particular favourite worship hymns and songs.

Joyce began the concert by presenting a favourite of Kathleen Ferrier, 'What is life to me without thee' by Gluck followed by the folk song, 'Blow the Wind Southerly', another song with a Ferrier association. Her songs journeyed through the years and gave an impressive presentation of her vocal range and expertise with American Songs by Copland, two songs each from Elgar's 'Sea Pictures' and Ivor Novello's 'The Dancing Years'. 'The Gas Man Cometh', by Flanders and Swann, brought a smile to all and was followed by a beautiful rendition of 'Slipping Through My Fingers' from Mama Mia. Her final set of three songs flowed together in a relaxed medley of popular blues.

The appreciative applause of the audience, who had gathered from a wide area, was rewarded with a trio arrangement of the popular sacred song 'The Lost Chord'.

The concert, which was in aid of the Sierra Leone Project, was introduced by John Spencer, who has made several visits and been involved in the project for some years now. He gave an update on the work and hopes for future developments. Crafts from Sierra Leone and items of 'One Off' jewellery were available to browse and buy afterwards and light refreshments were served. It was good to welcome back Joyce's husband, Michael, our former minister, along with members of the family.

Thank you Joyce, Matthew and Geoff for a truly enjoyable performance; and for sharing your musical gifts for such a worthy cause with over £550 being raised on the day.

Watch this space for 'More Music in the Afternoon'!

Carol Rose

Friday Coffee Rota

Dec	2nd	Mrs E Marven	Feb	3rd	Dr R Mazumdar
	9th	Mrs A Barnes		10th	Mrs E Marven
	16th	Mrs L Grange		17th	Mrs A Barnes
	23th	Mrs M Cook		24th	Mrs M Cook
	30th	Mrs B Murrant			
Jan			Mar	3rd	Mrs L Grange
	6th	Mrs M Crew		10th	Mrs B Murrant
	13th	Rev E Hodgkiss		17th	Mrs S Lawson
	20th	Mrs S Lawson		24th	Mrs M Crew
	27th	Ms O Hurlstone & Mrs B Warren		31st	Rev E Hodgkiss

Flower Rota

2011

December 4th Kath Keighley
December 11th Margaret Croasdale
December 18th Pam Cliff
December 25th Esther Wolstenholme

Provisional Rota for 2012 based on previous rotas. Please let Pam Cliff know as soon as possible if you wish to change or add to any of this. The new rota is available in church if you want to add your name for the rest of the year. Thank you for all who contribute to the flowers for church either by putting flowers in church on a particular Sunday or by contributing to the Flower Fund box via the box in the foyer.

January 1 st	Vacant	February 5 th	Mandie Walker
January 8 th	Judith Dixon	February 12 th	June Roebuck
January 15 th	Mary Hughes	February 19 th	Judith Dixon
January 22 nd	Arthur Smith	February 26 th	Vacant
January 29 th	Eileen Lynch		

March 5 th	Vacant
March 12 th	Vacant
March 19 th	Sue Lawson
March 26 th	Olive Hurlstone

October Walk - Parlick

One or two of our regular walkers, having often seen Parlick in the distance, have said that they haven't been up it and would like to experience the fell, so today was their lucky day, perhaps.

The first challenge was to find the start by navigating the maze of lanes and having got there, to make sure that the weather conditions were suitable for the ascent. Unfortunately, most of the hill was enveloped in thick cloud, but as we weren't due to go up until lunch time, there was time for the cloud to lift later.

Starting from Fell Foot, we entered the fields for our walk around the base of the fell. Most of the structure of the Parlick area is composed of Millstone Grit, covered in a thick layer of peat, which in places is badly eroded, making the simple task of crossing the a field sometimes difficult, particularly after wet weather.

Eventually, we arrived at Higher Fair Snape Farm, from where the long, winding and fairly steep path starts. However, the cloud, rather than lifting, now enveloped us and it was very, very wet! We took shelter in a barn and decided that the only option was to return to the start and leave Parlick for another day.

Linda and I checked out this walk a week earlier and the conditions couldn't have been more different. If you remember this was the Indian Summer with record temperatures. The climb was quite hard in the heat, but we made it to the top and enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the shelter provided for walkers. Now it was a pleasant stroll along the top, along Blindhurst Fell towards Parlick. The Para-gliders were making the most of the superb conditions and we counted fifteen in the air at one point. These Para-gliders seem to have replaced the Hang-gliders, probably because they are much lighter to

carry up to the top. A couple of 'real' gliders came past and were gaining height as they traversed the hill.

We decided to go around the summit of Parlick, to the East, as the top was akin to Heathrow, with a take-off and landing every minute. The superb views that we had enjoyed to the West were now replaced with an easterly landscape, equally good. The final stage was the steep descent to Fell Foot. It was a pity that the day of the walk was so poor, particularly after the success of the previous week. However this is definitely one to return to.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Dates for the Diary

December 2nd – 10th

Church available for decorating of Christmas Trees.

If you could be 'on call' to let people into church and look after them while they decorate their trees, please let Carol or John know when you would be available. Groups coming into church will let us know in advance so you should know at least a couple of days before, if and when you will be needed.

Sunday December 4th

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

Sunday December 11th

6.30pm Carol Service at Park House

Wednesday December 14th

10.00am Connexion Zone (service for younger children)

Saturday December 17th

11.00am Blessing of Crib in Towneley Gardens

Sunday December 18th

10.45am Family Carol Service
(No Evening Service)

Thursday December 22nd

6.30 for 7.00pm Lancashire Sings Christmas

Friday December 23rd

No Early Morning Prayers

Sunday December 25th

11.00am Family Worship
(No Evening Service)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday December 31st

11.30pm Watchnight Service (No Communion)

2012

Sunday January 1st

NB No Prayer Breakfast or Morning Service

3.00pm Covenant Service (with Communion) followed by tea

Friday January 6th

7.45am CTL Prayers resume at St Wilfrid's throughout 2012

Sunday January 8th

6.30pm CTL Epiphany Carol Service at St Wilfrid's RC Church

Sunday January 15th

Church Meeting/Council after morning service.

All welcome.

There is a wide range of Christmas and New Year Services and other special activities around Longridge and the Circuit. For details watch notices; notice boards and the back page of the new Circuit Plan

3.00pm Launch of District Year of Prayer. Venue to be decided

Sunday January 22nd

3.00pm As part of the Preston Guild Celebrations there will be an Ecumenical service at the Guild Hall. Entrance is by ticket. Please see Helen if you wish to attend. There will not be an evening service at Christ Church.

Sunday February 5th

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday February 22nd

7.30pm ASH WEDNESDAY Circuit Service.

Venue to be decided.

Watch out for details of the Lent Study Series

Saturday February 25th

9.30am 'Inspire' Conference on Prayer at Runshaw College

Tuesday March 6th

7.30pm Circuit Meeting

Tuesday March 13th

7.30pm Church Council/Meeting. All welcome

Sunday March 18th

Mothering Sunday

Saturday March 24th

District Safeguarding Training

Christ Church Coffee Days at the Civic Hall (Thursdays)

January 12th | April 12th | June 14th.

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

10.45am Morning Worship &
Junior Church

6.30pm Evening Worship*
*2nd Sunday at Park House

MONDAY

10.00am Craft Club

7.45pm Ladies Guild*
*2nd and 4th Monday each month

FRIDAY

7.45am CTL Morning Prayers

10.00am Coffee Morning

SATURDAY

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

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