

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

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

Being a relatively active person, it was with some dismay that I found myself having a period of 'enforced rest' towards the end of January. This was due to an existing problem with my knee being exacerbated by a loss of balance one morning as I stepped into the shower, and the twisting of said knee!

'Knee'd-less to say, after a trip to A&E, I found myself with time on my hands, and inability to get about without the aid of crutches, and a new found respect and admiration for those who find getting around a challenge.

It amazed me just how much I had taken my own mobility for granted. Suddenly not being able to pop upstairs for whatever I'd forgotten to bring down, became a particular sore point. And the fact that I had to totally rely on my daughter/husband to fetch and carry for me, made me appreciate them in a new light. Seeing something out of place on the coffee table or mantelpiece had to simply be put out of my mind, or else I faced having to explain why I needed things moving or tidied away (Which seemed totally irrelevant when voiced!)

But the greatest, humbling revelation came to me when, after a couple of weeks, I managed a trip to the supermarket – with daughter Charlotte and partner Patrick coming along to supervise! I quickly realised that struggling around the aisles on crutches was not going to be possible – so after a quick consultation with Customer Services and the exchange of a $\pounds 2$ coin for a Key – I was unceremoniously 'parked' in a Mobility Scooter.

I followed the instructions, got the green light, but found that my scooter was not going anywhere. Fortunately, with the help of an elderly gentleman and his wife (who had come to use the scooter next to me) who explained that it needed to be 'unplugged' from the power socket on the wall, I set off, though rather falteringly at first, but with greater confidence as I mastered my new found freedom.

You'll be pleased to hear that I did not crash into anyone or anything! In fact, pretty soon, I was zooming around the aisles like a pro'.

However, something rather alarming became very apparent to me.....I may have felt like I was sticking out like a sore thumb, but to my fellow shoppers I became almost invisible.

People simply steered their trolleys as if I didn't exist – and several times had to stop in order to avoid a collision. Being below their eye-level had rendered me undetectable it seemed, and actually asking for assistance became something I avoided – seeking out Charlotte instead – who incidentally found the whole debacle quite amusing!

Now that I am 'upright' once more, and able to get about under my own steam, I find myself reflecting on the past few weeks with some concern. In conversations with others who have more permanent limited mobility, I find that my experience is not uncommon. Many of those who are wheelchair bound find themselves ignored or 'talked over' – those who have to take their time walking to and from places find that the more able-bodied become quickly impatient when they can't get out of the way quickly. What a sad reflection on humanity this is. Rather than make allowances we've become intolerant. Rather than being more willing to assist, we've become ignorant.

Of course, not everyone reflects this way of being – and I did find that there were some who positively went out of their way to see if I needed help. So now, freedom regained, I find that I appreciate my mobility as I did not always do before – and I find myself respecting those who resolutely hang on to theirs, no matter what!

Yours in Christ,

Helen <><

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Preston Faith Forum

and the Guild



Our purpose is to improve the lives of Preston people by fostering inter-faith dialogue, understanding, co-operation and joint working on a range of issues.

Guild year is an opportunity to celebrate together our rich and varied heritage, and below is a list of celebrations which we welcome you to share in.

Festivals and feast days

April 6th Good Friday: the Preston Passion, a collaboration between Preston Guild and the BBC. Go to guild website to register to take part.

April 15th Vesak festival: the enlightenment of the Buddha - prayers at the Buddhist centre, 11am - 2.30pm.

June 3rd Langar: Sikh tradition of cooking, serving and eating together; food served on Millar park.

July 20th: Muslim month of Ramadan begins, a sponsored fast will be held during this month.

October 1st Sukkot: Jewish feast of tabernacles.

November 13th Diwali: five day Hindu festival of lights, reaffirming hope and the joys of life; open evening at the Hindu temple during the festival.

Other activities we are organising during Guild year:

- Faith trail, to run three times in the year. See the web-site for more details and how to sign up for a tour.
- Community procession in Guild week (September 7)
- Inter-faith week (November)

For more information on the Faith Forum and the activities we are organising during Guild year, go to www.prestonfaithforum.org.uk or contact skovariwala1@uclan.ac.uk, or peterlumsden@tiscali.co.uk.

Walk for November - Coast To Carnforth

After last month's aborted attempt at Parlick, we chose a very flat walk this time, along the Lancashire Coastal Way to Carnforth and returning via the Lancaster Canal.

We started the walk from Hest Bank, having eventually got our cars across the level crossing over the very busy west coast main line. Those Virgin trains certainly go at some speed here.

Our route north was along the coastal path, for the most part quite easy. The weather turned out to be ideal, warm, sunny and with little wind. The tide, something to be respected in these parts, was well in but didn't provide a problem. After some pleasant walking, we encountered the first of two tricky bits where the grassy area was indented with many water filled channels which took some time to negotiate. But once passed this it was up onto the sea wall and time to admire the splendid view across the bay to the lakes. Another awkward stretch followed and then an easy path took us to join the River Keer channel and then away from the beach to our lunch stop at a convenient old metal seat, facing Warton Crag.

Lunch over, a quiet lane took us to the centre of Carnforth and a Brief Encounter at the station. We spent a little time here looking at the restored features and, of course, having our photo's taken under the famous clock. Then it was onwards through Carnforth to enter the canal for the three mile trek back to Hest bank. This part of the walk couldn't have been more different than the first, with a paved path all the way. The canal parallels the A6 most of the way, so wasn't as tranquil as it usually is, but very pleasant and we passed some beautiful homes on the opposite bank with splendid sea views and a narrow boat called the African Queen with a large picture on the cabin wall of its famous namesake taken from the film. Eventually, we arrived at bridge No. 118 where we left the canal and walked down to the level crossing. It was closed!

The bird watchers amongst us were pleased with what they had seen and a pleasant day was finished off with tea at the local beach café, watching a beautiful sunset.

Linda & Eddie Grange



Walk for January - Fleetwood

For the past two years, the January walk has been along Blackpool Promenade, due to severe snow and ice. However, this time the culprit was the soggy terrain after the recent heavy rain. For a change, we started at the top, at Fleetwood and headed for the central pier at Blackpool.

Starting from the boating lake in beautiful walking conditions, we first headed west towards Fleetwood Golf Club. The tide was well out and the twitchers amongst us managed to bag a few species, including Turnstones, Goldeneye, Oyster Catchers, ringed Plover, Mute Swans, (Landing on the lake), and a Redshank.

Now, the path turned South, with the Tower looking a very long way off. The huge concrete sea wall in this part of the walk is rather ugly, but very effective, looking how far debris from the recent severe storms had reached close to the top of the wall. On our left we passed Rossall School and eventually arrived at Cleveleys and had a look at the splendid sea front development that has recently been completed. We stopped here for a pleasant lunch, overlooking the sea and then part of our party left us to complete the trip by 'bus. (The tramway system is again closed for the winter as part of the upgrade, prior to the new fleet of trams entering service at Easter).

We now walked steadily onward, passing miserable fishermen, one asking us for a loan so that he could buy some fish at Sainsbury's for his tea! Next it was Bispham and then on to the North Pier, where we met up with the rest of the group and a welcome cup of coffee.

During our break, we were approached by a chap from the RSPB, inviting us to a talk about the local Starlings. Apparently, The North Pier is a popular roosting venue for the Starlings and at dusk, up to forty thousand of the birds suddenly arrive, making a very spectacular sight.

The walk over, it was now time to catch the No I 'bus back to Fleetwood. This direct service sticks to the promenade and is a good alternative to the trains. Back at Fleetwood, we now had a mile or so back to the lake and the end of the walk.

Altogether, we walked about nine miles and added to the variety of the type of walks that we do. No mud, stiles or hills, but perhaps the next walk will be a little different?

Linda & Eddie Grange

The Cost Of Running Our Church

At the Church Council meeting held on January 15th 2012, the Finance Group was asked to produce this article to help everyone understand how much it costs to keep Christ Church running. This followed a discussion about our financial position. Everyone was pleased and relieved to learn that the backlog of funding to the URC had now been resolved and all the payments made for 2011 as well. In total, we had paid more than £34,000, but this meant that we started 2012 with a 'clean slate', not owing money to anyone. Whilst this had reduced the savings of the church significantly, it also meant that we should plan for the future and budget more accurately. However, the Church Council felt that it was important for everyone to understand the costs involved.

Our costs fall into 3 categories:-

<u>I. OUR ASSESSMENT</u>: This is the money we pay to the URC and Methodist denominations. The amount is calculated on the number

of members the church has; it does not take account of their attendance or financial circumstances. In 2012, we will have to pay \pounds 308 for each member registered at this church. The total amount is \pounds 21,252.

<u>2. OUR PASTORATE COSTS</u>: These are the local expenses of running the current joint pastorate arrangement (Minister's expenses and manse costs) shared between Christ Church and Fulwood URC. The cost for Christ Church in 2012 will be a minimum of £5,600.

<u>3. OUR RUNNING COSTS</u>: This category covers utility bills, insurance, licenses, publications and visiting preachers. At the moment, we know that all these will total approximately £5,000 for 2012, but maybe more.

Adding these amounts together gives an overall total of nearly \pounds 32,000 for 2012. However, it does not include other costs we may incur during the year. For example, urgent maintenance, or repair or replacement that may be needed. It doesn't include any refurbishment or improvement we may want to make to the church. By definition, these costs can be very unpredictable and difficult to plan for. They can also be very expensive.

In the last financial year, our income was just over \pounds 35,000. Comparing these figures, shows that it is going to be difficult to balance our income and expenditure this year. Also, settling the funding shortfall for previous years has used up a lot of our savings, so we do not have those to fall back on. In short, the church requires an income of approximately \pounds 3,000 every month to remain financially viable.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

I. The most important thing is for everyone to be aware of the situation. We must reduce and minimise our expenditure as much as possible. So if you are involved in purchasing or arranging aspects that cost money, please speak to a member of the Church Finance Group <u>before</u> you commit to the church spending money - we must see if it essential and if we can afford it.

2. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your offering. For every $\pounds I$ you give, the church can claim an additional 25p from HM Revenue and Customs. This soon adds up and is a valuable source of income. Please see Sue Lawson for further information.

3. If you make your offerings using the weekly envelopes, please remember that if you are unable to attend church, you can save up your envelopes and bring them on the next occasion. Weekly envelopes can be used whether you wish to Gift Aid your offering or not, and can be started at any point in the year. There are also gift aid envelopes available for one-off gifts. If you are interested in using envelopes, please see Sue Lawson.

4. If you are a member of the church, but not able to attend regularly; please consider making your offering using a standing order from your bank account. This is easy to set up and we can claim Gift Aid as well if you are a UK taxpayer.

If you have any questions or comments about financial matters, please see me or contact the Church Finance Group.

Henry Rose

On behalf of Christ Church Finance Group

Walk for February - Adlington

After last month's walk along the prom, we now needed to return to something a little more challenging.

Unfortunately, the planned walk, Beacon Fell and the River Brock was changed because of ice on a couple of the steeper paths, so Bill, from our Bolton group, came up with this alternative, a walk to the East of Chorley, utilising the canal and a series of farm tracks and quiet country lanes.

Starting from a lay-by on the A6, we quickly joined the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, heading North to Chorley. The canal was frozen in places but the weather was quite pleasant for walking, with little wind.

After a couple of miles, we left the canal and started our steady ascent of Healey Nab, a wooded hill offering splendid views in all directions. A memorial woodland has recently been planted here, complete with two benches which provided an excellent place for our lunch stop.

Lunch over, we descended the Nab and joined a good bridleway heading south with excellent views over Anglezarke Reservoir and the West Pennine Moors beyond. At the end of the track we passed a beautiful new large house called Kays Farm. Not Peter Kay's, we wondered?

Our route now took us westwards, along a series of good footpaths and little lanes, some a little icy in places, under the M61 and ending with a lovely path which followed the River Douglas, fast flowing today, and on under the railway to arrive back at the canal and on to Fredricks café for a well earned coffee. Afterwards, we walked the short distance along the canal and back to our cars for the journey home.

Many thanks to Bill for coming up with this interesting walk at short notice. The area to the East of Chorley is very attractive and is always appreciated.

MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON FOR CHRISTIAN AID at Christ Church



A concert of Classical And Contemporary Instrumental and Vocal Performances By Guest Young Musicians

Tickets £5 (incl. refreshments)

Available from Carol Rose

Or on the door

Contact/Information: 01772 783680

Christian Aid Week

Organised by Christ Church

Thursday 17th May

From 9am

Coffee day at the Civic Hall

Cake stall, bric-a-brac,

Refreshments, lunches.

Friday 18th May

7.30pm

Quiz night at Christ Church

Churches from Longridge and Preston have been invited

If you would like to be part of a team of four, contact John Spencer:

01772782829

Paul Spencer (1964-2012)

It was with great sadness that the Preston Ribble Circuit announced the death of Rev Paul Spencer, aged 48, on 21st January this year. Paul first ministered with the Methodist Church as a Lay Worker at Central Methodist Church, Blackpool. He trained for ministry at Queens College, Birmingham and from there entered his first circuit appointment in Hartlepool. It was during this appointment that Paul underwent major heart surgery. He travelled from Hartlepool to Bolton Road Methodist Church in Bury where he ministered for nine years before arriving in the new Preston Ribble Circuit in September 2010 to serve the congregations and communities of Longton and Penwortham. From September 2011 he also took pastoral charge of Hoole Methodist Church.

Services of Vigil, Committal and Thanksgiving were held in Paul's home town and home churches in Southport, according to his wish, on 2nd February. The Thanksgiving service included contributions by representatives from congregations who had known Paul's ministry, past and present. The whole occasion was a moving and fitting tribute to a man with a passion for ministry and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul's time in the Preston Ribble Circuit was cut short by his death. We barely had time to get to know him. The Circuit Ministry Team enjoyed his company and fondly remember his sense of humour and passionate faith commitment.

Prayer Breakfasts

On the first Sunday of each month, there is the opportunity to meet together for a time of prayer for the needs of our church and our world. The time of prayer lasts for about half an hour and is followed by a light breakfast of cereal and toast. The morning service on the first Sunday is a Communion Service and is usually led by Helen.

Connexion Zone

The half termly meetings have continued through the winter although in February, it wasn't possible for the children to walk up an icy Berry Lane from Barnacre Road School so John Spencer and Geoff Balson went down and led a slightly abbreviated session in the school hall. This meant that 2toSchool were unable to join in and there were no mums and dads with prams.

The next one will probably be on Wednesday March 28th and confirmation will be in the Notices nearer the time.

We tried to hold a meeting for people who might be able to help with an extended version of Connexion Zone but few people attended. However we have done a bit more research and it seems that the most popular time for a monthly activity for children and their families would be Sunday afternoon. The Wednesday 'Zones' rely heavily on staff from Barnacre Road and 2toSchool to support our small church team. If we are to extend to Sundays independent of the School, we will need many more helpers. Some would be needed to help with craft activities or refreshments; some to help with storytelling and leading music and some just to keep an eye on the safety and welfare of the children and their parents. If you would like to help and could spare a couple of hours on a Sunday afternoon, please see our minister Helen or John Spencer.

Maternal Mortality

It is close to a century now since the death of young women in child birth was a common occurrence in Britain. Sadly, this is still a very serious problem in many parts of the world especially sub-Saharan African. Pat Donovan of VSO is trying to raise money to fight this enormous problem. The 'ONE VOICE CHOIR' is to give a concert on Wednesday March 28th at 7.30pm at Ingol Methodist Church in aid of this fund. Tickets are £6 and can be bought at the door or ordered from Pat Donovan on 01772 612593.

Many people will know Vanda Gulsher who has preached at our church a number of times. Vanda is a member of the One Voice Choir but soon after this performance she is to leave this country and take up a new life and ministry in Cyprus. The Concert will be the ideal opportunity to bid her 'Bon Voyage' and 'God Speed'.

Enid Balson

It was a devastating shock on Boxing Day when Geoff rang to tell us that Enid had died during the night. Although she had had surgery a few days before Christmas, none of us, least of all Enid's family, had expected that this would be the outcome. Over the last few years, I had come to rely on Enid as a 'prayer warrior'. Despite her physical limitations because of the chronic pain she suffered, she was always interested in and supportive of those who were working in Christ's Service. This work was carried out quietly and discreetly and I am conscious of her absence whenever I am faced with the serious problems of sick and sad people. Enid wasn't able to lead worship as often as she would have liked but her services were always full of deep meanings expressed in a way that all of us could understand and take strength from. She had also recently, found the strength to help organise the beautiful concert to raise money for the Sierra Leone project.

The packed church and rousing hymn singing at the Service of Thanksgiving spoke volumes about her faithfulness to her calling despite the hard and painful road that she had been given and the countless numbers of people who had benefitted, either directly or indirectly through her quiet, unassuming but determined ministry. Many of us miss Enid a great deal but our loss can be nothing as compared to that faced by Geoff; Emma, Martin, Olivia, Alice and Adam; and Matthew and Alison. Our continuing love and prayers go out to them.

Our Minister

At the time of Enid's funeral, Helen was suffering severe pain in her knee and needed a walking stick for support. Unfortunately, over the following weeks the pain continued to become worse and then she had a nasty fall at home, which was no doubt, caused by the painful knee but which also considerably aggravated the problem. The doctors in the A & E department told her not to put her weight on it more than absolutely necessary for two weeks at least. It was therefore good to see her back on her feet and leading worship again last Sunday (Feb. 19th). However Helen's knee is not fully healed and she may need treatment for some time so please support her and Colin (who is also not very well) with your prayers and consideration.

Sue Spencer

Sue is the widow of the Rev Paul Spencer whose obituary appears elsewhere in this magazine. Sue came with Paul when he led the only service he led at our church and in conversation; we were surprised to learn that both Sue and Paul had been part of a Cliff College Mission at the Methodist Church in 1984. We also learned that night that Paul had had serious heart problems but didn't realise that these were still continuing. We were sad to hear that Sue is herself not very well at the moment. Please pray for her and her two adult children, Jayne and Peter.

Arthur Smith

A number of people have missed Arthur over the last few months both in church and on his frequent shopping trips up and down Berry Lane. After a couple of months in an assessment unit in Fulwood, we understand that he is coming to live in Alston View as he is no longer able to live independently. We pray he will settle in quickly and not be too frustrated by the limitations he is now experiencing. He will be joining a distinguished company, not least of whom is Margaret Mohyla's husband Peter and Maurice Kelly who was until recently, frequently seen scooting around the town on his mobility scooter. Let us support them all and their families with our prayers.

Thanksgiving and Thanks

We were delighted to have a new grandchild, Patrick James, but slightly concerned by his premature arrival on December 14th -- a full eleven weeks before he was due. Patrick has now put on quite a bit of weight but is still in hospital waiting for his systems to fully develop. We want to thank everyone for their greetings, gifts, prayers and all the support and concern we have received. Thank you all. Carol and John

Ladies' Guild

By the time you read this we will have had our first meeting of 2012, when Mike Arnold spoke on "Natural Health", obviously a very interesting subject as there were lots of questions asked. Our next meeting is on February 27th when Clem Talbot, of Ribchester, will speak about "Gideon's International". There are two meetings in March and these will be followed three weeks later on April 16th, owing to it being Easter Monday (April 9th), when we shall be going down to the Longridge Heritage Centre to hear Emma Hewitt speak about Berry Lane past & present. We shall probably meet at the centre – tea and biscuits will be served and the cost is $\pounds 5$ – more details later.

Olive

| Mar | | May | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 2 nd | Mrs L Grange | 4 th | Mrs A Barnes |
| 9 th | Mrs B Murrant | 11 th | Ms O Hurlstone & |
| 16 th | Mrs S Lawson | | Mrs B Warren |
| 23 th | Mrs M Crew | 18 th | Mrs L Grange |
| 30 th | Rev E Hodgkiss | 25 th | Mrs B Murrant |
| Apr | | Jun | |
| 6 th | Good Friday | 1 st | Mrs M Crew |
| 13 th | Mrs M Cook | 8 th | Mrs S Lawson |
| 20 th | Dr R Mazumdar | 15 th | Rev E Hodgkiss |
| 27th | Mrs E Marven | 22 nd | Mrs E Marven |
| | | 29th | Mrs A Barnes |

Friday Coffee Rota

Dates for the Diary

Have you been caught out by the arrival of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent?

We are here at the beginning of March and we are already into the second week. If you have missed the start of the Lent Course -- 'Everybody Welcome' -- don't worry. The sessions are self-contained so you can join in at any point or even just attend the odd session. The accompanying little book is available in church for \pounds 3.99. (See Poster in Foyer)

<u>Thursday March Ist</u>

7.30pm 'Everybody Welcome' (Lent Series 2) in church.

Friday March 2nd

12noon to 1.00pm Lent Lunch at St Paul's followed by Women's World Day of Prayer Service 'Let Justice Prevail' prepared by the women of the church in Malaysia. See Poster in Foyer.

Sunday March 4th

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

<u>Tuesday March 6th</u>

Preston Ribble Circuit Meeting.

Thursday March 8th

7.30pm 'Everybody Welcome' (Lent Series 3) in church.

Friday March 9th

12noon to 1.00pm Lent Lunch in Christ Church.

Tuesday March 13th

7.30pm Church Council/Meeting

Thursday March 15th

7.30pm 'Everybody Welcome' (Lent Series 4) in church.

Friday March 16th

I2noon to I.00pm Lent Lunch at St Paul's

Sunday March 18th MOTHERING SUNDAY

Tuesday March 20th

7.30pm Preachers' Meeting at Longton.

Thursday March 22nd NO LENT STUDY THIS WEEK

Friday March 23rd

I2noon to I.00pm Lent Lunch at Christ Church.

Saturday March 24th

9.30am Safeguarding Coordinators' Training at Ingol.

Sunday March 25th

British Summer Time begins – clocks go forward!

Wednesday March 28th

7.30pm Concert in aid of fund to prevent maternal mortality in Africa (for details see elsewhere in magazine).

Thursday March 29th

7.30pm 'Everybody Welcome' (Lent Series 5) in church.

Friday March 30th

12noon to 1.00pm Last Lent Lunch for 2012 at St Wilfrid's.

Sunday April 1st

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

Thursday April 5th MAUNDY THURSDSAY

7.30pm Holy Communion

Friday April 6th GOOD FRIDAY

Morning worship at Christ Church followed by Churches Together joint act of worship at the War Memorial.

Sunday April 8th CHRIST IS RISEN. Hallelujah!

| 6.30am | Sunrise Service on Beacon Fell. | |
|---------|---|--|
| 10.45am | Holy Communion led by Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss. | |
| 6.30рт | Evening Worship at Park House. | |

Thursday April 12th

Christ Church Coffee Day at the Civic Hall. (see Church Notices for details)

Saturday May 12th

Methodist Synod

Sunday May 13th

Christian Aid Week begins. If you can help in any way please see Pam Cliff. This year we are having a series of activities to raise money for Christian Aid. See details elsewhere in the magazine.

2.30pm Sunday afternoon Concert for Christian Aid.

Wednesday May 16th

7.30pm Preachers' Meeting at Ingol.

Thursday May 17th

Christian Aid Coffee Day at the Civic Hall.

Friday May 18th

Quiz in aid of Christian Aid.

Sunday May 20th

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING after morning service. Bring your sandwiches!!

May 27th to June 2nd

Churches Together in Longridge Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

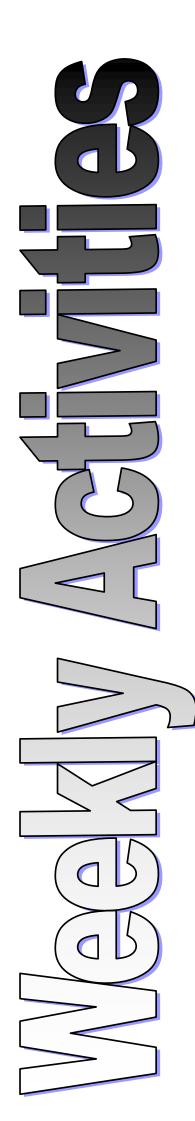
ADVANCED NOTICES

Saturday June 9th Longridge Field Day

Sunday June 10th Christ Church Anniversary

Thursday June 14th Christ Church Coffee Day at the Civic Hall

Monday July 9th Craft Club Trip to the Lake District



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 **Coffee Morning** 10.00am

SATURDAY

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

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