

The Messenger



Winter 2012

Christ Church, Longridge "Living for Christ
at the heart of the community"

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

One of the main difficulties faced by some churches today is the reality of an aging congregation and a lack of younger people willing to help out or take over key roles. It can be a real problem – not just when it comes to mission, but also to the nurture and growth of those within the faith community.

Sadly, at Christ Church, we are not immune to this. More and more we are finding that the things we want to do are made more difficult by a lack of those who are able to do them. So either we do less, or we concentrate on doing what we can, not by looking to one or two individuals, but by taking a few lessons from Geese.....!

'Lessons from Geese provides a perfect example of the importance of team work and how it can have a profound and powerful effect on any form of personal, business, or church endeavour. When we use these five principles, it helps to foster and encourage a level of passion and energy in ourselves, as well as those with whom we walk alongside in our journey of faith.

But, it is essential to remember that teamwork only happens when it is continually nurtured and encouraged.

Lesson 1 - The Importance of Achieving Goals

As each goose flaps its wings it creates UPLIFT for the birds that follow. By flying in a 'V' formation the whole flock adds 71 % extra to the flying range.

Outcome

When we have a sense of community and focus, we create trust and can help each other to achieve our goals.

Lesson 2 - The Importance of Team Work

When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds in front.

Outcome

If we had as much sense as geese we would stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Lesson 3 - The Importance of Sharing

When a goose tires of flying up front it drops back into formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Outcome

It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks. We should respect and protect each other's unique arrangement of skills, capabilities, talents and resources.

Lesson 4 - The Importance of Empathy and Understanding

When a goose gets sick, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to the ground to help and protect it.

Outcome

If we have as much sense as geese we will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.

Lesson 5 - The Importance of Encouragement

Geese flying in formation 'HONK' to encourage those up front to keep up with their speed.

Outcome

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups and teams where there is encouragement, production is much greater. 'Individual empowerment results from quality honking'

(Author Unknown)

However we deal with the issues we face as a worshipping and missional community – I pray that we face them together, through seeking the will of God, being empowered by the Spirit, and taking Christ as our example and guide.

Yours in Christ,

Helen <><

My thanks to all friends at Christ Church for the cards and good wishes on my birthday. The patio rose given to me by Mel should remind me in warmer weather of your kind thoughts.

Megan

World Church News

Having just watched the television programme 'Four Born Every Second', which compared giving birth in Britain, Cambodia, the USA and Sierra Leone, I was drawn to think about how difficult it would have been giving birth in Bethlehem 2000 plus years ago. Of course God had a plan for that birth in Bethlehem - as he does with every birth.

The infant mortality in Sierra Leone is among the worst in the world with 83 out of 1,000 babies dying during their first year and 495 out of every 100,000 mothers not surviving child birth. This is where I will be going in January along with nine others from Methodist churches around the Lancashire District. Some of the members of the Mission Team have a medical background and will be working for part of the time at a Methodist Hospital in Segbwema. In 2011 they



were able to help teach in the School of Nursing offering courses on caring for expectant mothers and their unborn babies.

Others members of the team will be travelling to Kailahun in the far

east of the country to continue the work started in 2006 where we were able to help the local community build and equip a skills training centre. The aim of the centre is to teach practical skills, such as tailoring and carpentry, to the young people, enabling them

to earn a living. After three years of operating as a centre, the staff are keen to expand the work. We will be helping to build more accommodation and share in the teaching.

Living, working and worshipping with the people of Sierra Leone is a challenging experience. It is incredible to see the way they live out their faith in such difficult circumstances, totally relying on God's provision for their daily lives. By the time you read this they will have elected a new President and Members of Parliament and will be anticipating a future that is brighter.

As we enter the season of Advent the challenge is are we relying on God's provision and prepared to welcome Christ again?

John Spencer

Here's an 'Oldie, but Goldie' – and always worth repeating!

EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

Connexion Zone @ Christ Church

For some time now, Connexion Zone has been an initiative run by John Spencer, myself, and a handful of volunteers. It grew from the 'Pram Service' we hosted, with nursery and reception children from Barnacre Road School and the 2toSchool Playgroup which meets on our premises – and became 'Connexion Zone' in order to develop it into a programme of outreach to children in the community.

As we are all aware, the lack of children and young people in our Sunday morning worship is a cause of sadness and concern – but it is not one that we face alone.

The amount of choice that children and families face these days is enormous – sports and recreational activities, family time, all make demands on what little free time people have – and often coming to the traditional Sunday morning worship is simply not a priority for many.

As a church, it means that we must adapt in how we 'do church' – and the once a month Sunday afternoon Connexion Zone – is an attempt to respond to this.

The response, up to now, to this 'Second Sunday' initiative has been small but positive – but we've all had a great time exploring the 'Story', 'Song', 'Games', 'Craft', and 'Picnic' Zones. Currently we are using material from the BBC 'Friends and Heroes' series – but this may change and develop as time goes by.

What we need from our faith community and beyond, is the willingness to participate, to get involved – both physically, and by seeking God's will for this venture through prayer and reflection. We also need you to spread the word – to encourage families to come along – to make the 'Connexion'.

We still host the half-term, Wednesday morning Connexion Zone – and for this we do need those willing to come along and help serve refreshments to the children, teachers and parents who attend, and simply be the ‘face’ of Christ Church.

The next editions of ‘Connexion Zone’ will be on Sunday 9th December at 3pm (helpers need to be there by 2.30, please), and Wednesday 12th December at 10am (helpers by 9.30, please). Why not put the dates in your diary!

My thanks go to those who have already helped to get this venture off the ground – my hope is that it will continue to grow and develop as we seek to ‘Live for Christ, at the heart of the Community’

Yours in Christ,

Helen <><

OUR THANKS go to all who contributed to this year’s Shoe Box Appeal in any way and especially to Pam Cliff who took a major role in ensuring that we had enough boxes and that they were all covered with Christmas paper. A total of 186 were dispatched on Tues. Nov.13th. This included more than forty from Fulwood URC and a number from Calder Vale Primary School and about 120 from Longridge.

Christ Church, Berry Lane, Longridge,

Music In the Afternoon (4th Edition)

Aspects of Christmas

All are welcome to come and participate in preparing for the festive season and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, in words and music.

*Sunday 16th December
at 2.30pm*

No tickets—Donations welcome

**In aid of the McCabe Educational Trust
at Shurooq School for Blind Children in Bethlehem**

**Contacts : Carol Rose (01772 783680)
Geoff Balson (01772 655129)**

Walk For September - Chorley Circular

A decade ago, the local council organized a good, well signed route around Chorley, but the information is now somewhat out of date, creating some navigational challenges in places.

Starting from a lay-by on the A6, our little party quickly joined the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and headed north, enjoying good walking weather, warm and sunny. After half a mile, we left the canal, walked through woods to the A6, which we crossed to enter Duxbury Park and enjoyed a pleasant stroll through Duxbury woods. Eventually, we left the woods and climbed a steep banking and followed a series of paths to emerge at the Yarrow Valley Country Park and our lunch stop on a seat overlooking the lake. Considering that this area used to be a large dye works, the transformation to a nature reserve is remarkable.

Lunch over, we now headed through woods and fields to emerge at a disused sand quarry, then along a lane to the main road and in to Astley Park, where we decided to stop for a coffee at the café. We must be getting old!

Leaving the park, we had now to negotiate the back streets of Chorley, the council map proving to be quite useful here. After this complicated section of the walk, we crossed the M 61 and arrived at the canal once more.

The last part of the walk was now a quite long stretch of the canal, this time heading south. The tow-path was very busy with families out walking, dog walkers and courteous cyclists. Many canal boats were out, their owners giving us a cheery wave as they passed. The twitchers in our party said that the walk had produced a satisfying number of species.

We all thoroughly enjoyed this varied walk, but the council need to update the information and signage so that inexperienced and local walkers can share the delights of the best that Chorley can offer.

Linda & Eddie Grange.

- ❖ Our deepest condolences and prayers go to Judith and Peter Dawson and all of Isabelle Hardman's family. Isabelle has been such a faithful member of the URC and then of Christ Church, it is difficult to get used to having services without her. We know that she was ready to return to her Saviour and that she is at peace with him.

- ❖ We also send our sincerest condolences and prayers to Hilary and Howard Roscoe on the recent death of Hilary's mother.

- ❖ We were sad to hear of the death of Liz Routledge who served the Methodist Church as a Junior Church Leader in the 1980s. We remember her husband Robert, daughter Nicola and son, Geoffrey in our prayers.

- ❖ It was a joy to welcome Iris Pearl Faraday into the church at her baptism on November 4th and to see her sisters Hope and Verity, mum and dad Debbie and Shaun and all her family there to support her.

Walk For October - Grizedale Bridge

The October walk was one of the many variations on the Nicky Nook theme, an area that is always popular.

The original plan was to start from Garstang, but this would have been a little too long, so a Scorton start was decided on, which would bring the distance to our usual seven miles.

Leaving the village, we turned into Snowhill lane and the long slog over the M6 and up to the start of the climb over Nicky Nook Fell. The path up the fell is quite steep, but we soon made the top and the famous trig. point. The early rain had now stopped and we were able to have our photograph taken in the pleasant sunshine.

Now, it was down the fell to Grize Dale, followed by a stroll along this lovely path as far as the head of Grizedale Reservoir, from where we entered pleasant woodland following Grizedale Brook to our lunch stop at Grizedale Bridge. Here is a shelter with seats for our convenience, but, alas, no roof.

The second part of our walk started with a section of road walking as far as Calder Side, where our party of six turned into a good track which took us to the famous radio masts that can be seen for miles around. The path now headed west and opened up to a fabulous broad view over the Irish Sea and Morecambe Bay.

The final part of the walk was a steady descent, through farmyards and green lanes, with Pheasants fluttering about, until we arrived at the truly awful Woodacre pasture which had to be crossed. We had to negotiate continuous, ankle deep mud for a quarter of a mile. The Dear Leader came in for some stick from his loyal followers, but he is thick skinned. And what is a Pleb. anyway?

At last we left this nightmare and climbed a stile on to a wooded banking and back down to Grizedale, which we crossed and walked up the embankment opposite, up to Higher Lane followed by the last field and on to Tithe Barn Lane which led us back to Scorton.

Despite the ground conditions, which have been a problem all year, this turned out to be a good walk which we all enjoyed.

Linda & Eddie Grange.

Electronic Notices

If anyone is interested in receiving the weekly notices by Email please send an email to cook71marg@talktalk.net

Friday Coffee Rota

Dec	7th Dr R Mazumder 14th Rev E Hodgkiss 21st Mrs S Lawson 28th Mrs M Cook	Feb	1st Mrs B Murrant 8th Dr R Mazumder 15th Mrs S Lawson 22rd Mrs M Cook
Jan	4th Mrs A Barnes 11th Mrs E Marven 18th Miss O Hurlstone & Mrs B Warren 25th Mrs L Grange	Mar	1st Rev E Hodgkiss 8th Mrs E Marven 15th Mrs A Barnes 22nd Miss O Hurlstone & Mrs B Warren 29th Mrs L Grange

Charity Concert at Christ Church

Saturday evening the 29th September went really well. £838 was raised in 2½ hours the Garndiffaith Choir Make Voice Choir were wonderful and also sang at the Harvest Festival service on Sunday 30th. In the short interval a tin of roses unexpectedly appeared and started to be auctionedmany of the audience raised their hands as the bidding went higher and higher....finally the bidding stopped and raised a fantastic £30.50...within the hour the other gentleman that was outbid by 50p passed on his £30 as a wonderful gesture..surely this has got to be entered into the Guinness Book of Records £60.50 for a tin of Roses Chocolates.

Many of the audience were deeply moved by the singing of the choir and this seemed to encourage more people to donate. The Garndiffaith Gleeman Ladies Committee also presented Doreen with £150 as they had a raffle on the coach driving up to Lancashire from South Wales and Doreen gave a short presentation on the work of her charity and explained how she had lost her son through the horrific infection necrotising fasciitis (gangrene)

Doreen was quite overcome with the generosity showed over the weekend and CANNOT thank everyone enough for their support including Christ Church Longridge for helping to organise this successful evening.

Many many thanks for all your hard work and for the donations of cakes and biscuits after the concert. Money raised will help us provide support to the survivors and bereaved of this horrific infection and to raise awareness.

Kind Regards,

Doreen Marsden

(Founder & Chair - The Lee Spark NF Foundation - www.nfsuk.org.uk)

Walk For November - Martin Mere

The Martin Mere Wetland Centre, situated between Preston and Southport, is a well-known and splendid place for bird watching and a good location to start our walk.

Before starting, we had a look around. The centre attracts many species of bird, particularly vast numbers of Pink Footed Geese and Whooper Swans, together with Bewick Swans, Harriers, Bullfinches, Common Crane and many others.

The first part of the walk took us over a number of well drained fields with easy walking. This part of Lancashire is very flat! The fields eventually gave way to quiet country lanes. We passed a charming country pub and restored farmhouses and finally came to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, following the tow path for a couple of miles.

Our lunch stop was by a swing bridge, sat facing the warm sun and watching the various Narrow Boats pass by. After lunch, on our way again, we came to a terrace of cottages with their pretty front gardens forming the canal bank.

Eventually, we arrived at Burscough, a communications centre for road, rail and canal. In the centre of the town, we had a look at the new development, with a central square surrounded by shops, a café and, unlike Longridge, a place to spend a penny. As we headed out of Burscough, we could see the large industrial estate which was previously a wartime Fleet Air Arm training airfield. (HMS Ringtail). The old hangars and control tower are still there.

We now started our return by way of a marked footpath to Martin Mere and passed some enormous fields with the farm machinery equally gargantuan. Our route now took us along fields and farm tracks, a little muddy in places, then along a lane and back to the

start. Our return coincided with the afternoon feeding at the centre and what an impressive sight with thousands of large birds noisily swooping down to grab their feed. Apparently, many birds have arrived early this year due to very cold conditions in Northern Europe.

Many thanks again to Bill, from our Bolton contingent, for organising this interesting walk and adding to the variety of the walks that we enjoy.

Linda & Eddie Grange.

Ladies' Guild

Following a Coffee Evening on September 3rd we began our Winter programme by travelling with Helen, our minister, to the Holy Land, where she had very much enjoyed visiting the Holy sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem and further afield. The next speaker was Gwyneth Jones who spoke about her time in Indonesia, as a missionary. On October 8th we stayed in Longridge to hear from Emma Turver, Geoff Balson's daughter, who, along with a friend who also works at Hillside, a school for children with special needs, who travel from many parts of Lancashire, being brought daily - usually by taxi, accompanied by an adult. The classes are very small - depending on the needs of each child - much use is made of Visual Aids, cards for example matching picture to the words.

Then off on our travels again - this time with Mel Watson and her husband going by air to Perth, Western Australia - travelling North to the coast. From there they hired a car. At one of their one night stops they were told it would be impossible to get to their next port of call because of flooding. However Mel went to the police station

where a very helpful policeman routed them on more minor roads and though some were flooded they got to their destination and continued on their journey, visiting Norman's brother, before travelling north again and returning home.

On November 12th we were off again, this time to visit the Great Wall of China with Pat Ascroft. The company had arranged a 7 day walk along the wall, walking some days for 11 hours: they had Chinese Ladies who helped them scramble up very steep steps, carrying rucksacks etc. Sleeping arrangements were very primitive – a hole in the floor, in the room where they slept, for a toilet. Pat has done a number of these treks for MENCAP. We meet on November 26th to hear about Pilates – if there are exercises – having tried these – I think I'll be a spectator! Our usual Christmas meal is on December 10th.

A Happy Christmas to all. We won't be meeting again until February 11th 2013 when Irene Reid MBE will speak about her visit to Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen and receive her medal.

Olive

Dates for your Diary

This year's Christmas theme is CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

We are inviting local schools and organisations and any individual or group who wishes to submit exhibits on the theme of carols. There are two main kinds of exhibit that you may wish to consider: --

Pictures depicting all or part of the story of a carol. These can be in any medium (e.g. crayon, paint, collage etc.) and can be any size. Pictures may be the work of an individual or any size of group.

Models depicting all or part of the story of a carol. These should be on a rigid base no more than 50cm. square. As above they can use any materials and may be the work of an individual or any size of group.

Contributions should be placed in church between Sunday Dec 9th and the evening of **Thursday Dec 13th** at the latest. To ensure that the church is open and there is someone there to help place your contribution, please ring John and Carol on 782829 to make arrangements.

This is not a competition and no prizes will be awarded, however the church will be open for people to view the exhibits and refreshments will be available. Any donations received from visitors will go to support a Palestian School in Bethlehem for children with visual impairments.

The church will be open from Friday Dec 14th and a full list of opening times will be posted on the church window. A list for volunteers to staff the opening times and make refreshments will be placed in the foyer early in December.

We are invited to share with Fulwood URC in a series of Advent Bible Studies led by Helen.

Thursday November 29th

7.30pm First Advent Bible Study

Sunday December 2nd (Advent Sunday)

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

Monday December 3rd

Craft Club Christmas Lunch

Thursday December 6th

7.30pm Second Advent Bible Study

Sunday December 9th

3 - 4pm Connexion Zone

Sunday December 9th

6.30pm Carols at Park House

Wednesday December 12th

10.00am Connexion Zone

Wednesday December 12th

7.30pm Third Advent Bible Study

Wednesday December 12th

7.30pm Recognition of Peter Lumsden as a Local Preacher at
Ashton Methodist Church

Friday December 14th

7.30pm Fourth Advent Bible Study

Saturday December 15th

11.00am Blessing of the Crib by the War Memorial

Sunday December 16th

2.30pm Music in the Afternoon for Christmas

(All donations to the School for the Blind in Bethlehem)

There will not be an evening service.

Thursday December 20th

7.00pm Lancashire Sings Christmas event at the Towneley Arms

Come and sing carols with people across Lancashire linked together by Radio Lancashire. This event is organised by Churches Together in Lancashire; Churches Together in Longridge and a range of Church organisations from across the County.

December 25th (Christmas Day)

11.00am Christmas Service led by Henry Rose

Sunday December 30th

10.45am Morning Worship as normal but there will not be an evening service

Monday December 31st

11.30pm Watchnight Service

Sunday January 6th

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

10.45am Covenant Service

6.30pm Circuit Service at Bamber Bridge for Epiphany

Sunday January 20th

6.30pm CTL Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Alston Lane
(no evening service at Christ Church)

Tuesday January 29th

7.30pm Church Council/ Church Meeting (Note change of date)

Sunday February 3rd

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday February 12th

SHROVE TUESDAY

Wednesday February 13th ASH WEDNESDAY

Circuit Service at Longton

Friday February 15th

12 noon First Lent Lunch at St Paul's

Friday February 22nd

12 noon Second Lent Lunch at St Wilfrid's

Friday March 1st

12 noon Third Lent Lunch at Christ Church followed by CTL service for Women's World Day of Prayer prepared by women from the churches in France.

Advance Notices

The Church Council/Meeting for March has been changed to Sunday March 17th following the morning service.

We will be sharing Communion for Maundy Thursday with our friends at Fulwood URC at Fulwood.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday services will be as normal.

June 29th URC North West Synod Big Day Out at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool

Watch out for further details. If you book by Feb. 1st the cost will be £4; after that it will be £5. Under 18s go free but need to book.

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

MINISTER: Rev Helen Higgin-Botham
9 Hurstway Close, Fulwood
revhelation@yahoo.co.uk
01772 788 827

EDITOR: Robin Spencer
20 Market Place, Longridge
robspencer@o2.co.uk
01772 782 829