



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

Whatever Is Happening At Christ Church??

In our last Messenger we confidently outlined the arrangements that were being put in place for the time after Helen left. However all this has been thrown up in the air by some other staff changes. Our congratulations go to the Rev Paul Davis who (subject to the approval of the Methodist Conference) will take up the post of Chair of the Lancashire District in succession to the Rev Stephen Poxon. Paul explained during a recent service how he had felt reluctant to apply for this post and he only did so after the first candidate brought to Synod was rejected. Paul and his wife Elizabeth would appreciate our prayers as they go forward in obedience to God's call. Paul (phone: 01772 726216) will still have pastoral responsibility for Christ Church until the staffing changes take effect at the beginning of September but will not be spending substantial time with us as he had originally planned because he will be involved in transitional arrangements and house moves.

With Paul moving from his post as Superintendent Minister of the Preston Ribble Circuit, the Circuit Meeting held on Ascension Day was asked to vote on the proposal that the Rev Mark Slaney become the new Circuit Superintendent. This was agreed with a large majority. Mark is currently a circuit minister responsible for Bamber Bridge and Trinity, Gregson Lane and was deputy Superintendent. He takes up the post in September but is also in a transition period and so came instead of Paul to chair our Annual General Meeting and began to get to know us. Mark is married to Rachel and has two school age children, Jacob and Anna. They too will value our prayers during this time of major change and we look forward to seeing more of Mark in the future.

Stephen Poxon and the current circuit leadership team have begun to discuss the deployment of clergy from the beginning of September and Mark felt confident that by our next Council Meeting on June 25th, he would be able to tell us who would take Pastoral Charge at Christ Church (and all the other circuit churches affected by the staff changes) as from September Ist.

The Rev David Coker who is the minister of Penwortham and Leyland United Reformed Churches and the Convenor of the Fylde Area Pastoral Committee, also attended our AGM. He came to assure us of the continuing interest and support of the URC now that Helen has left and was prepared to answer any questions which we had.

It was very encouraging to see that both our parent denominations are taking their responsibilities for our future seriously.

Helen's Farewell

As announced, Easter Sunday morning saw Helen's last service with us before her move to Gosport. The service was very different from our usual pattern. Long tables were set radiating out from the centre of the worship area where the Communion Table was placed. Communion was served at the tables and then after the worship, a buffet lunch was provided and eaten at the same tables. A number of gifts were given to thank Helen and Colin for their time with us and to help them remember us. There was a print of a watercolour of Longridge Fell; National Gardens Token and a large handmade card incorporating all the 'balloons' on which we had written our personal messages over the preceding weeks. Finally Carol Rose presented Helen with a copy of the score for a setting of the Gaelic blessing which Helen had used in her letter in the last Messenger, which Carol had composed for the occasion. Jason, Daniel, David, John and Carol performed the new setting and then we were all able to join in to give Helen and Colin our final blessing before they left.

Christian Aid 2013

Thank you to all those who organised, contributed to and participated in the Music in the Afternoon Series Concert which raised £506 and the Quiz Night which raised £100. This magazine will go to print before the Civic Hall Coffee Day takes place so the results of this will be available in the church notices. Along with £702 from the Lent lunches, this is a great contribution to Christian Aid. Thank you - Pam Cliff.

Our thanks are particularly due to Pam for all the work, especially all her catering contributions and organisation, that she does year-in, year-out for Christian Aid and many other charities which we support.

We hope to have a more detailed report on the concert by the young group Volante in the next magazine. At this time when we are reviewing the year's work, it is timely to be able to thank Carol Rose and Geoff Balson for organising the excellent series of Music in the Afternoon concerts.

Our thanks go to Hazel Scott who completes a stint of six years as a Circuit Steward in August. The job of Circuit Steward is not an easy one at the best of times but these last few years have seen the closing of a number of churches and the combining of the old Preston and South Ribble Circuits to form the new Preston Ribble Circuit of which we are a part. We have seen the heartache and the amount of work involved when churches have run into difficulties whether these have been because of a shortage of money or of active personnel. Hazel has thrown herself into the work heart and soul as well as trying to maintain her contributions here at Christ Church; with CTL and with ADA. Recently it has been common to have a diary with three or four meetings happening at the same time several times each week and trying to work out which should have priority has produced extra stress.

Thank you Hazel for another job well done.

Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASPS !!!!)

This is a new scheme which will work in addition to the Gift Aid scheme currently in operation. It will enable us to claim a payment from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in circumstances where it is currently difficult to obtain a Gift Aid declaration. At Christ Church this will mean that we can claim money from HMRC for two main groups:

- those who currently make their offering using the weekly envelopes but who are not currently part of our Gift Aid Scheme
- money received each week as a cash offering

We anticipate that this will be a valuable source of additional income but there are some rules and guidance to follow.

Under the scheme a small donation is defined as £20 or less. Any amount received in excess of that will not qualify. Furthermore, only amounts received as cash will qualify (i.e. no cheques will count).

We would therefore ask that:

- I. If you have not used your weekly envelopes for a few weeks, please put your offering in each week's envelope, rather than putting the whole amount in one envelope (since this may exceed £20 in one envelope).
- 2. Do not put any bank note of greater than £20 in the cash collection.

Thank you for your help and support in this. If you do have any questions about this new scheme, please see our Gift Aid Secretary Sue Lawson.

This does not affect the current Gift Aid system for tax payers. Sue manages our Gift Aid efficiently and with total confidentiality so please talk to her if you have any questions about your giving to the church. Our thanks go to Sue for the quiet and unassuming way she goes about this and all the jobs she does on behalf of the church.

Walk For March - Rivington

This month, our Bolton division told us that they could organize a scenic, (fairly), mud free walk, so we decided to take them up on their generous offer. The walk was centred on what is locally known as the Lancashire Lake District, in the area between Bolton, Horwich and Chorley. The lakes concerned are the three reservoirs, Lower and Upper Rivington and Anglezarke.

Our meeting place was the Lower Rivington Barn. From here, our group, (A good turnout of ten), started walking northwards. The weather was bitterly cold with slight rain. In a short time, we arrived at the road across the dam that separates the two Rivington reservoirs, which we crossed and then entered a path that followed the western shore of the lake. The views were excellent, looking across to Rivington Pike and the paths were good until we came across a large fallen tree which proved challenging to negotiate.

Next, to our right, we passed another dam that separates the Upper Rivington and Anglezarke reservoirs and continued on the western shore, following a series of paths and quiet lanes, again enjoying splendid views all around. Our leader for the day gave some thought to the venue of our lunch stop, cleverly deciding to extend the walk slightly to arrive at the White Coppice Cricket ground and the shelter of the veranda of the cricket pavilion. However, the law of sod prevailed and a large walking group managed to get in before us, but we managed to squeeze in.

After lunch, we returned on the eastern side of the lakes and if anything, the views were even better, still with the good pathways thanks to United Utilities. Perhaps the experience will make the paying of their bill this month a little less painful?

Eventually, we arrived back at the barn after covering eight and a half miles and we then rounded off the walk with coffee and scones at the café.

Many thanks to Bill for leading us on this walk in one of the prettiest areas of old Lancashire and somewhere where we could explore a little more in the future.

Linda & Eddie Grange

AGM 2013

Thank you to all those 19 people who made the effort to attend the It would be wonderful to see more people at these really AGM. important meetings but now is an opportune time to thank everyone who contributes to the on-going work at Christ Church by service, prayer, presence or material contributions. Everyone's part is really important especially at this time of substantial change. All the existing members of Council were re-elected after being duly proposed and seconded on the noticeboard list. Members are elected for a three year term and ideally one third of the council retire or stand for re-election each year. Various changes have meant that there were an unusually large number for re-election this year so, to avoid this situation arising again, three members agreed to serving for a two year period before again standing for re-election. Howard Roscoe was elected to fill the vacant place left by Colin There are currently 14 members on the Council Higgin-Botham. but the number is not fixed and we could accommodate more members if anyone else was interested in serving but no further nominations were received before the meeting. Because of the 3 year pattern, fifteen or eighteen members would be ideal. condition to standing for election is that you should be a church If you are interested, please see Mel Watson or if you want to know more about what is involved, talk to any member of the Council:

Geoff Balson Carol Rose Carol Spencer

Pam Cliff David Rose John Spencer

Elizabeth Hodgkiss Henry Rose Betty Warren

Susan Lawson Hazel Scott Mel Watson

Margaret Mohyla Howard Roscoe

For URC purposes all elected members of the Church Council count as Elders. There is a tradition in the URC that once a person is an Elder they remain an Elder for life. This does not mean that they cannot retire but that they should be given the respect due to an Elder for the rest of their lives. When an 'Elder' retires from the Church Council they are accorded the title 'non-serving elder'. Currently we have three non-serving elders who still play an active part in Christ Church: Megan Crew, Olive Hurlstone and Frank Warren. We are grateful to them for all that they have done and still do for our church. We wish Olive every good wish as she recovers from her recent stroke.

All office holders were confirmed in office except that the Sunday Coffee Rota will no longer be compiled by Geoff Balson alongside the Stewards' Rota but will be managed by Margery Cook alongside the Friday Coffee Rota. Thank you Margery and all who serve on the coffee rotas.

With delight the meeting noted that the land on Whittingham Road which included the Tennis Courts had now been sold by the URC and Christ Church had received money from this. Mel was thanked for the enormous amount of work and worry which this process had required not to mention the enormous phone bills!!!!

The AGM received brief reports from all the church organisations and the meeting closed at 2.30pm with the saying of the Grace.

Letter From Helen

There are no words which could adequately express the way Colin and I have felt today – other than to say thank you for all the cards, presents and good wishes given to us.

Thank you for letting me make mistakes and being gracious about them....

Thank you for accepting us -- warts and all....

Thank you for the love and respect in which we have been held and supported....

Thank you for being you! - All of you!!

May God bless you and hold you in His hands.

Helen x and Colin x

Sadly one of the last things that Helen had to do was to conduct Ranjan's funeral. The news of Ranjan's sudden death just before Easter came as a terrible shock for all of us. We miss his wit and wisdom, love and service and it's hard to believe he is no longer in his place at Friday Coffee or Sunday services. Our sincere condolences and prayers are especially with Sheila and Paul. It was good to have them here in church with us a few weeks ago when Paul was visiting from Oxford. We trust that we will not lose touch with them in the future.

Walk For April - Cinderbarrow / Leighton Hall

The start of this month's walk was the Cinderbarrow Picnic Site, which is also the home of a model railway club and coinciding with our visit, they had an open day and offered rides behind their splendid locomotives. Additionally, a catering van arrived which created much excitement from some members of our party.

We started the walk by crossing the busy A6 and walking up a narrow lane before entering a series of fields that took us to a quiet lane and on to the small hamlet of Yealand Manor. From here we left the road and started the steep climb up Summerhouse hill, eventually climbing the final escarpment and reaching the summit. The view from here is regarded as one of the best in the whole of the country and we couldn't argue with that. Below us was the attractive Leighton Hall, home of the Gillow family and in the distance was the broad expanse of Morecambe Bay with the Lakeland Hills, with a little snow on the tops forming a backdrop. Some seats had thoughtfully been provided here, so we decided on an early lunch stop.

Having enjoyed our stop and thankful for the splendid weather, we now made a long fairly steep descent down to the hall and after a short walk down a private road, we entered a long stretch over a series of fields that we have crossed during other walks in this area, eventually arriving at Yealand Storrs. From here we took a path that skirted an area of woodland and took us to a tricky paddock and back onto the A6 again, which we crossed and later picked up a bridleway that came out at another hamlet, Hilderstone. From here, our route took us through the back garden of a house, something that we feel a little guilty about, and battled through the washing on the line and out to a farm track that took us over the railway and through a gap stile to the canal. From here, we had a pleasant mile or so along the towpath, with the spring flowers appearing and on the opposite bank, a magnificent Swan was sitting on her nest.

Arriving back at the start, the Bolton contingent headed straight for the catering van in some desperation for their bacon butties, rounding off what had been a splendid walk with beautiful scenery, good weather and at long last, a dry walk, free of mud.

Linda & Eddie Grange

One Crazy Weekend In April

April 19th saw the start of a really mad weekend. After finishing work Carol and Henry set off for Gosport arriving late Friday night. Meanwhile John and Carol played host to all the three Lancashire District Mission Teams who had returned from their travels, listening to their stories and giving them supper. When the visitors had all left about 11.00pm, Carol and John climbed into their Motorhome and also headed for the South Coast. After stopping for a short sleep at a motorway services and indulging in a cooked breakfast, they continued their journey and arrived in Gosport mid- morning. By prior arrangement, they met our erstwhile members Jim and Janet Sommerville who had arrived at the campsite the day before and checked out the whereabouts of Helen's new church and the times of the buses that would get us there in time for the 2.30pm Induction Service. The weather was beautiful and the church was filled with People from both of Helen's new churches were present and had formed a joint choir and there was also a worship group. people had come from around the Wessex Synod of the United Reformed Church and large numbers of 'dog collars' evidence, although the Synod Chair who conducted the service did not herself wear a clerical Collar!! One of Helen's friends preached and representatives of many groups brought welcoming greetings. The 'Longridge contingent' (including Jim and Janet) were asked to sit near the front where we met up with the rest of the Higgin-Botham clan.

After the service almost everyone stayed for a sumptuous afternoon tea. There were one or two more speeches of welcome, Henry presented Helen with a portable lectern which he had been intending to make for some time and there was a fabulous cake in the shape of a lighthouse (complete with real light).

Afterwards the family and those who had travelled from the north were invited to have drinks at the manse where we were reacquainted with Basil who seemed to have settled in extremely well. The manse is an absolutely amazing house and we were all able to inspect the garden in the glorious sunshine.

Henry then transported the four 'campers' back to the campsite. I'm not sure what time Carol and Henry began their return journey but they were back in Longridge in time for Carol to play for the evening service on Sunday. Carol and John were able to spend an hour or so catching up with the news from Jim and Janet who seemed really well and thoroughly enjoying life in Sunbury-on-Thames and have settled into a local church but still miss the fellowship here at Christ Church. After a better night's sleep Carol and John waved farewell to Jim and Janet and made it back to Lancashire just too late to make the evening service.

The conclusion is that Helen, Colin and Basil appeared delighted with their new home and churches; Janet and Jim seem really well and Gosport is an awful long way from Longridge.

FLOWER ROTA JUNE to SEPTEMBER

June 2 nd	Esther Wolstenholme	Aug 4 th	Val Fletcher
June 9 th	Hazel Scott	Aug 11 th	Margaret Mohyla
June 16 th	Mel Watson	Aug 18 th	Audrey Barnes
June 23 rd	Val Fletcher	Aug 25 th	Beryl Murrant
June 30 th	Mary Hughes	Sept 1 st	The Lee Sparks Foundation
July 7 th	Sandra Ashcroft	Sept 8 th	Val Fletcher
July 14 th	Margery Cook	Sept 15 th	The Lee Sparks Foundation
July 21 st	Sue Lawson	Sept 22 nd	Margaret Mohyla
July 28 th	Beryl Murrant	Sept 29 th	Sue Lawson

The 'Ministry of Flowers' is greatly appreciated. The artistry and colour add greatly to our worship but the flowers are also appreciated by the sick, bereaved and housebound who receive them and on occasion, the flowers are placed in the windows of the porch so that the people of Longridge in general can appreciate them. We would therefore like to express our sincere thanks to all those who place flowers in church and those who donate through the collection box in the foyer. Above all we would like to thank Pam Cliff for organising the rota; looking after the money; making sure that there are flowers or plants in place each Sunday and last but not least distributing the flowers on behalf of the church. Thank you all.

FRIDAY COFFEE ROTA JUNE to SEPTEMBER

June 7 th	Mrs S Lawson	Aug 2 nd	Mrs L Grange
June 14 th	Mrs M Cook	Aug 9 th	Rev E Hodgkiss
June 21 st	Rev E Hodgkiss	Aug 16 th	Mrs A Barnes
June 28 th	Mrs A Barnes	Aug 23 rd	Mrs E Marven
July 5 th	Mrs E Marven	Aug 30 th	Mrs S Lawson
July 12 th	Mrs B Warren	Sept 6 th	Mrs B Warren
July 19 th	Mrs S Lawson	Sept 13 th	Mrs L Grange
July 26 th	Mrs M Cook	Sept 20 th	Mrs M Cook
		Sept 27 th	Rev E Hodgkiss

Ladies' Guild - Summer Activities

May 22 nd Visit to Preston Playhouse. A come	.yb£
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June 24 th	Summer	walk	followe	d by	suppe	r at	Guys	at
	Bilsborro	w. The	e walk	starts	from	bwO	Nell's	at
	6.30pm,	strollin	ng alon	g the	canal	towp	ath u	ntil

supper time at 7.30pm.

August 12th Dinner at the Corporation Arms. 6.30pm for 7pm.

September 2nd Coffee evening in the foyer at 7pm. Bring and Buy stall.

September 9th Ladies' Guild commences.

October 4th 50th Anniversary of The Ladies' Guild.

Walk For May - The Jumbles to Affetside

The dear leader has recently been neglecting his duties due to house renovations, so our Bolton division kindly stepped in to provide us with a good walk in their home territory.

The Jumbles is a wooded valley to the north-east of Bolton that was flooded some years ago and is now a pleasant nature reserve, popular with Boltonians.

From the car park, we started walking northwards along the bank of the reservoir, the water being large enough to support a sailing club and this was followed by a walk by a connecting stream, quite fast flowing, until we arrived at Turton Bottoms. Here, we changed direction to easterly and started a long steady climb across fields, good paths and farm tracks, skirting Walves Reservoir on the way until we arrived at the village of Hawkshaw. In the distance we could see the Peel Tower, dedicated to Sir Robert Peel, overlooking Bury. We now turned south-east to the village of Affetside, on the Roman Road. Affetside used to be a remote community relying on hand weaving and the products carried by pack horse. For the Millennium, the locals converted a 'bus turning point into a pleasant garden and it was here that we stopped for lunch.

On our way again, it was all downhill. The weather up to now had been pleasant with a breeze, but we now headed directly into a fierce, bitterly cold gale all the way down to Bradshaw. From here, we entered the woodland which gave us some shelter and headed back to the start. However, we have a strict rule that we never finish a walk with a steep climb, a rule that was broken when we had to scramble up a very steep path to the car park!

Many thanks to Bill for yet another good walk on their home patch. Hopefully, we will be able to show them what we have to offer on the next walk.

Linda & Eddie Grange.

Dates for Your Diary

For regular meetings and services please see back cover. Please check weekly notices and noticeboards in the foyer for additional activities in the community and in our various partner churches.

Monday June 3rd

7.30pm LWPT (preachers) Meeting at Ashton Methodist Church

Saturday June 8th Longridge Field Day

(Please see John Spencer if you can help with pitching and/or striking the marquee or staffing the marquee during the day.)

Sunday June 9th

3-4pm Connexion Zone (Please see John if you can help.)

Sunday June 16th Christ Church Anniversary

10.45am Preacher: Rev David Wood (includes Holy Communion)

6.30pm Preacher: Rev Kathleen Wood

Thursday June 20th

7.00pm Ordinands Testimony Service at Leyland Methodist Church ----- meet all those probationary ministers from the Lancashire District going forward for ordination at the Methodist Conference.

Monday June 24th

6.30pm Ladies Guild Summer Walk. Meet at Owd Nell's - supper at 7.30pm

Tuesday June 25th

7.30pm Church Council/Meeting (all welcome)

Wednesday June 26th

7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Ingol

Saturday June 29th

URC NW Synod Big Day Out (See notice on board in foyer for full details)

Celebration Service at Deepdale (formerly Guttridge) Church (See notices nearer the time for details)

Monday July 1st

9.00am Craft Club Trip to York (There may be some spare places on the coach. Please see Carol Spencer if you are interested. Price £13.)

Tuesday July 2nd

7.30pm CTL business and discussion meeting at Alston Lane. Speaker the Vicar of St Michael's Grimsargh ----- everybody welcome.

Saturday July 6th Goosnargh and Longridge Show
Any help would be appreciated as for Longridge Field Day earlier.

Sunday July 7th

9.00am Prayer Breakfast 3-4pm Connexion Zone

Monday July 8th

10-noon Craft Club

Wednesday July 10th

9.30am (for 10.00am start) Connexion Zone with Barnacre Road and 2toSchool. Open to all young children and their carers. (Help is needed with setting up furniture etc; serving refreshments and assisting in craft activities)

Sunday July 14th

3.30pm District Farewell for Rev Stephen Poxon at St Annes

Wednesday July 17th

7.30pm Celebration Communion Service at Lea following the Rev Ray Borg's recent ordination.

Sunday July 21st

Circuit Farewell to Myrtle Poxon and Paul Davis

Sunday August 4th

3-4pm Connexion Zone

Monday August 12th

6.30pm (for 7pm) Ladies Guild Dinner at the Corporation Arms

Tuesday August 27th

7.30pm Welcome Service for new District Chair, Rev Paul Davis (Venue to be announced)

Saturday August 31st

4.00pm Welcome to the new Circuit Superintendent (Rev Mark Slaney) and new circuit staff at Longton.

Advance Notice

Mon Sept 2nd 10.00am Craft Club resumes

7.00pm Ladies Guild Coffee Evening and Bring

and Buy Stall in the Foyer

Tues Sept 3rd 7.30pm CTL meeting at Alston Lane

Sun Sept 8th 3-4pm Connexion Zone

Mon Sept 9th Ladies Guild Autumn Programme begins
Sat Sept 14th North Lancs. Methodist District Synod

Sun Sept 29nd Harvest Festival

Sunday Connexion Zones from October to December will be on the FIRST Sunday of the month.

Sat Oct 12th All day URC NW Synod inc Fylde Area Meeting

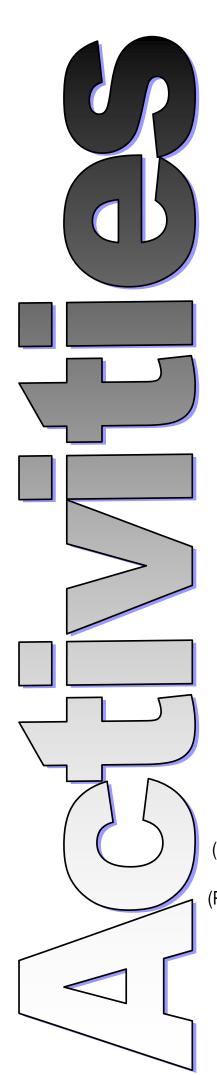
at Oasis Academy, Media City, Salford

Mon Oct 14th 50th Anniversary of the Ladies Guild

Regular Activities

Wednesday Connexion Zones take place once every half term. Please watch out for dates. Children, staff and parents from Barnacre Road School and 2toSchool Preschool attend but the sessions are open to all young children and their carers. It is mainly aimed at 2 to 7 year olds. Helpers are needed from 9.30am. Sessions start at 10.00am and finish by 11.00.

What used to be the Churches Together in Longridge (CTL) business meetings take place on the first Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November. The early part of the meeting still deals with business matters but the bulk of the evening is given over to a speaker or discussion on a currently relevant topic. The meetings are therefore open to EVERYONE. This year's meetings all take place at Alston Lane Church but the Chairmanship of CTL will pass to Christ Church in 2014 and all meetings will then take place in our church.



SUNDAY

9.00am Prayer Breakfast*

*Normally 1st Sunday of month

10.45am Morning Worship &

Junior Church

3.00pm Connexion Zone*

*Normally 1st Sunday of month

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*

*At Alston Lane in 2013

10.00am Coffee Morning

SATURDAY

9.30am Christ Church Ramblers*

*2nd Saturday each month

MINISTER: If you have pastoral need to see a minister

or wish to arrange a baptism, wedding or

funeral, please contact:

(Church Secretary) Mrs Mel Watson 01772 783581 or

(Senior Steward) Geoff Balson 01772 655129 or (Pastoral Secretary) Dr Carol Spencer 01772 782829

and they will make the appropriate

and they will make the appropria

arrangements.

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