

# The Messenger



**Christ Church, Longridge "Living for Christ  
at the heart of the community"**  
[www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk](http://www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk)

# Our New Minister

Before Helen left us at Easter, it seemed that we had everything sorted out for a smooth handover to the Rev Paul Davies, the Methodist Superintendent, to be our minister for the foreseeable future. However, as many will know, Paul was then 'elevated' to replace Rev Stephen Poxon as Chair of District. In turn Paul's position as Superintendent had to be filled and quite unusually, this post was given to another of our Circuit ministers, the Rev Mark Slaney. Mark stood in as chair of a couple of Council meetings but it became clear that he could not take on the extra burden of being minister at Christ Church. All these changes meant that we were not the only church in the Circuit in need of a new minister and Mark and Paul promised that they were working hard to find a suitable person for us. We had expected someone would be drafted in to the Circuit on a temporary basis so we were delighted to hear that the Rev Ray Borg who has been a probationary minister in our Circuit for the last two year's had been appointed to serve for the next twelve months at least and would hope to continue beyond that if the Circuit resources allow.

Ray was ordained at the Methodist Conference in July and has already taken Edna Hall's funeral and an evening Communion Service here and we are looking forward to welcoming him at the beginning of September when he formally becomes our minister. We are also looking forward to meeting his wife Chrissie and his son (aged 20) and daughter (aged 18). They will continue to live in the Manse at Cottam and Ray will be minister at Lea and Ingol as well as Christ Church.

## Music In The Afternoon - Ed 5

The fifth event in 'Music in the Afternoon' series of concerts at Christ Church, Longridge took place on May 12th.

On this occasion it was in the form of a recital by 'Volante' a wind quintet made up of students from the University of Manchester and the Royal Northern College of Music.

The ensemble was:- Tessa Watson: flute; Amy Roberts: oboe; Jason McMahon: clarinet; Ed Spencer: horn and Sam Gee on bassoon. Jason is no stranger to the people at Christ Church having performed on a number of occasions.

In every respect the performance could only be described as professional. The ensemble was superbly balanced musically, their introductions were slick and informative and their presence on stage immaculate.

They performed a mixture of old and contemporary repertoire for wind quintet, demanding instrumental skills of the highest order. Although I suspect that many in the audience were hearing this repertoire for the first time, there was much to admire in the skills of the players. Highlights for me included an oboe solo by Benjamin Britten, which showed up the versatility of the instrument and indeed the player. The sea shanties of Malcolm Arnold were full of humour and fun.

This memorable concert was arranged by Carol Rose, who spoke about the work of Christian Aid, to which the proceeds of £506 were being directed. During the concert, a short film was shown highlighting how some of the funds raised are used.

During this year's Christian Aid week, the people of Christ Church have been constantly active in supporting this worthy cause. A quiz organised by John Spencer raise £100 and a Longridge Market Coffee Day raised a further £371.

Geoff Balson

# URC Big Day Out

On Saturday June 29th, the URC hosted a 'Big Day Out' at Blackpool's Norbreck Castle Hotel. The day was an opportunity for members of all the United Reformed Churches of the North to spend the day together in worship, fellowship, Bible study and also take part in various creative workshops and exhibitions. Around 800 people of all ages took up the invitation and booked in. Many came from beyond the Synod boundary too. One striking memory of the day was the family atmosphere and all age activities which were shared by everyone.

I was invited by Rev Richard Church, The URC NW Synod Moderator to consider being involved with the music and so set about planning the music for the opening worship which took the form of a 'Songs of Praise'. Due to recovering from shoulder surgery, Geoff kindly agreed to assist me with the keyboard and along with David, Jason and Daniel and Henry, we formed the 'Christ Church Players' who accompanied the hymns and songs whilst I conducted. The hymns and songs had been chosen and submitted by the Churches. We survived some technical hitches, that were beyond our control and our music was very much appreciated. The singing was good too! Radio Lancashire covered the event and we heard 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord' over the airwaves.

The day continued with presentations in the main arena from various groups ranging from Christian Aid to Kids Praise. Alongside sessions with keynote speakers including Martyn Atkins, General Secretary of the Methodist Church, many of the rooms were given over to creative workshops including Circus, Gospel Magic, Puppeteers, Pilot tasters, World music, Shawl Ministry, Quizzes and Games, Bollywood Dance, Messy Church, iChurch and Fresh Expressions. I was also invited to lead a music workshop so decided on a 'Play 'n'

Praise' session for instrumentalists and singers introducing ideas for accompanying in worship with any instruments and voices- we opened the door and let the corridor ring with our own version of Silent Night - not forgetting Emma on her ukelele!

Our Big Day Out became a Long Day Out and concluded at 7pm following a closing worship session. Having arrived in convoy at 8.30am - we packed up all our equipment and made our way home at 8pm.

You can see photographs of the Christ Church Players on our Christ Church website - and of the day in general on the site of URC North West Synod.

Carol Rose

## **Bible Study House Group**

This group has been meeting for about six or seven years at 61, Chaigley Road. It began when Michael Tindsley asked, at a Church Council, if anyone was willing to open their home and lead one. We meet about once each month, usually on a Tuesday evening, and fix the dates for the next two or three meetings at each gathering, so that the dates are convenient, as far as possible, for all who come. We are now studying the letters to the seven churches of Asia from the Revelation of St John. Topics for study can be suggested by members of the group, and if anyone wishes, they may offer to lead an evening or a series. We start at 7.30pm and end around 9pm. Thereafter we share tea, coffee, scones, cakes etc. All are welcome to come. The next meeting will be on August 20th and dates of meetings are in the weekly church notices. Why not join us?

# District Farewell Celebration

On the afternoon of July 14th at The Drive Methodist Church Lytham St Annes - the District held a celebration to say farewell to Rev Stephen Poxon who has been Chair of the Lancashire District for the past 13 years and had served in the Preston Circuit for 4 years prior to his appointment.

Stephen and Myrtle are moving to Tottenham - where they believe God is calling them to work. After fun on the beach - and refreshments in the church hall, the church was filled with well over 500 as the celebration began. Many representatives from the District and Lancashire Churches Together including Rev Richard Church on behalf of the URC, related their good wishes to Stephen and Myrtle. Many people were thanked for their work in the District over the past years and Mr David Walton, who was Vice President of the Methodist Conference when Stephen was President, gave the address.

The celebration was led by Rev Paul Davis, who takes up the post of Chair from September 1st. Stephen, of course, wanted a variety of music making in his farewell service and with the URC Big Day Out still ringing in my ears, he rang me to persuade me to assist in planning this. In a very short space of 2 weeks planning, we had a worship band of Ministers from the District leading some worship songs, Nigel Ogden played the rousing hymns on the organs and I led an open invitation (60 minute rehearsal!) District Choir in some World Church songs in procession, recession and threaded through the worship We also sang a fuller choir setting of the Gaelic Blessing which I had composed for Helen and which was sung at her farewell on Easter Sunday. All ably assisted by Henry, Jason and Daniel.

David's fine solo singing was commented on - which was strange as he was away at the time!!

The District Welcome for Rev Paul Davis is taking place at Poulton Methodist Church on Tuesday August 27th - I've had two telephone calls already - but hopefully this time I will be able to sit at the back!!

Carol Rose

## **Edna Hall**

It was with great sadness that we heard of Edna's death on July 15<sup>th</sup> aged 87. Edna's slight figure might have suggested that she had been quite fragile for some time, however she was a surprisingly strong person. Her strength seemed to come from her dogged determination to be there for her family as long as she possibly could. It is certainly many years since she collapsed in the Christmas Nativity Service and had to be rushed into Royal Preston Hospital with a serious heart condition. This was not her only health problem, yet she somehow found the strength to deal with the premature death of her only son, Stephen, and her husband, Norman's long last illness and death. When she was no longer able to get to church, she was very much missed and it was sad to see her during her last few months when she finally had to move into Longridge Hall. Our sincere condolences go to Chris., Anne, Pauline and Susan and all their family and we want to assure them of our continued prayers and concern in the future.



# Walk For June - Sabden Brook

This month's walk was centred on Sabden Brook, starting from The Spring Wood Picnic Site, Near Whalley and taking a north - easterly route to Sabden and returning on the other side of the valley. The walking conditions were superb, a warm, clear day and dry underfoot.

Leaving Spring Wood, the first part of the walk was along country lanes, starting the first of many ascents until we arrived at a stile which led us into a series of fields and a gradual drop down to the Roman road, which we followed to the start of a farm track. From here it was all cross country until we arrived at a riding centre and some beautiful horses. A torturous route through this establishment again got us back into fields and we were now heading for a wind turbine. Sometimes, we walkers complain about farmers and the problems that they occasionally create, but on this occasion, we were very impressed, as a "Path" had been cut for us through the long grass across the field.

We were now at the highest part of the walk, with Sabden clearly in view as we descended with woodland on our right and as spring is quite late this year, the ground was covered in wild flowers and masses of Bluebells.

Eventually, we arrived at Sabden, historically a small mill town, but now probably best known for the famous Pendle Antiques Centre. Seats, in memory of local people, were provided for us by the track, where we stopped for lunch.

Leaving the centre of the town, we crossed a bridge over Sabden Brook and what did we find? Public toilets provided for the benefit of visitors like ourselves. Such facilities give the impression that visitors are welcome in the town and the Dear Leader was so excited that



he inadvertently used the ladies. Should have gone to Specsavers!, they said.

We now headed back via a parallel track on the opposite side of the valley, with the clear conditions providing superb views across to Winter Hill and beyond and we finally dropped down to the local golf club, with signs warning us of flying golf balls.

We all agreed that this had been a very scenic walk of about eight miles. Although the conditions were excellent, there had been some challenges, not least over twenty stiles, not all of them the easiest to cross.

Linda & Eddie Grange

## **95<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations**

It was a delight to join Mary Hughes and some members of her family for a buffet lunch to celebrate her birthday on July 4<sup>th</sup>. It was good to see her looking well and enjoying the attention. Our thanks to her niece, Margaret and the staff at Longridge Hall Care Home for arranging the occasion and also for inviting Hazel, John and Carol to represent the church.

## **Walk For July - Parlick At Last!**

Some time ago I included this local fell into our programme as, surprisingly, a number of our group had never been up it and many wished to do so. However, on the chosen day, the weather started out somewhat poor and got progressively worse, so that when we got to Higher Fairsnape Farm, the rain was torrential and the cloud was at the level of the farm. I therefore decided to abandon the ascent.

This attempt was so different, being in the middle of a heatwave and the hottest day of the year so far. We decided not to take the very steep climb from Fell Foot, but to walk around the fell and take the long but easier route up Fairsnape Fell. The long walk through the fields was quite easy until we passed through a gate that led us onto the flank of the Fell itself where the path was less clear and we eventually descended to a farm track, followed by a field that led to the River Brock, a tiny stream here and unfortunately, the footbridge was washed out, so we had to paddle across.

We were now at Higher Fairsnape Farm and the start of the climb. The path zigzag's and is moderately steep, but we took our time, frequently stopping to admire the splendid view and it took us about one hour to arrive at the top, from where we headed for the lunch stop at the cairn called Paddies Pole and the adjacent shelter, which usually keeps the wind off you, but today it was shade we were after.

After lunch, and the knowledge that the hard work was behind us, we now headed south across Blindhurst Fell and by now, the paragliders were out in force and managing to keep up in the gentle thermals and slight hilt lift. At one point, we heard a gentle whistle followed by a pair of size nine boots skimming over our heads, a very close encounter indeed! A pair of "real" gliders were gracefully soaring the ridge and staying up for some time.

Now we were approaching Parlick, but due to the aerial activity on top, we opted for the path to the East of the fell which gave splendid views to Chipping, Pendle and the East. This path eventually joined the main route down to Fell Foot and the end of the walk.

Although the heat was oppressive at times, this was an enjoyable walk on "our" fell and was appreciated by the Bolton group who compared it very favourably to "their" Winter Hill.

Linda & Eddie Grange

## **Are You in your Golden Years?**

We have received an invitation and a few free tickets (on table in foyer) from the Golden Years Roadshow who are staging an event at the UCLan Foster Building, Fylde Road, Preston on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> from 9.30am (last entry 3.30pm). Entry on the door costs £2 with money raised going to St Catherine's Hospice. There are a range of entertainments and activities from quizzes to Zumba dancing!! There are also a number of commercial exhibitors.

More details on the noticeboard in foyer.

**The Bi-monthly Reform Magazine** is available to be borrowed from the foyer. It often has quite surprising and unusual articles. Well worth looking at!

In July/ August we learn that: --

- Amazon received £75,000 more in grants from the UK government than it paid in taxes!
- One third of British people find Sunday the most stressful day of the week .
- 346,992 people have used foodbanks run by the Trussell Trust in the last year (5 years ago it was 13, 849)
- The average age of Christians in England and Wales is **45** according to the last Census while the average age of Muslims is 25.
- The UK has spent £1,716,306 since 2005 on trying to remove Abu Qatada.

It gives us food for thought!!!

Elsewhere we read:-

John Ellis (treasurer of the URC Mission Council) updated members on the results of a recent survey on the giving that takes place in local churches. The General Assembly of the URC has a guideline of 5% of after-tax income, and the survey results showed that average giving is around 3 – 4%. Perhaps more interestingly, the survey showed that on average, the poorest 10% of our members give at least 10% of their income but, as the survey moved up the income scale, there was a marked and consistent decline in the percentage given --- with the richest 10% of people giving on average only 2% of their income. Mr. Ellis concluded; ‘There is much to ponder here’!

### Flower Rota

<b>Sept 1st</b>	The Lee Spark Foundation	<b>Nov 3rd</b>	Mary Hughes
<b>Sept 8th</b>	Val Fletcher	<b>Nov 10th</b>	Ellen Kerfoot
<b>Sept 15th</b>	The Lee Spark Foundation	<b>Nov 17th</b>	Olive Hurlstone
<b>Sept 22nd</b>	Margaret Mohyla	<b>Nov 24th</b>	Beryl Murrant
<b>Sept 29th</b>	Sue Lawson	<b>Dec 1st</b>	Margaret Croasdale
<b>Oct 6th</b>	Megan Crew	<b>Dec 8th</b>	Kath Keighley
<b>Oct 13th</b>	Jean McNeill	<b>Dec 15th</b>	Pam Cliff
<b>Oct 20th</b>	Esther Wolstenholme	<b>Dec 22nd</b>	Esther Wolstenholme
<b>Oct 27th</b>	Brenda Gornall	<b>Dec 29th</b>	Lee Spark Foundation

### Friday Coffee Rota

<b>Sept 6th</b>	Mrs B Warren	<b>Nov 8th</b>	Mrs M Cook
<b>Sept 13th</b>	Mrs M Cook	<b>Nov 15th</b>	Rev E Hodgkiss
<b>Sept 20th</b>	Mrs L Grange	<b>Nov 22nd</b>	Mrs A Barnes
<b>Sept 27th</b>	Rev E Hodgkiss	<b>Nov 29th</b>	Mrs E Marven
<b>Oct 4th</b>	Mrs A Barnes	<b>Dec 6th</b>	Mrs S Lawson
<b>Oct 11th</b>	Mrs S Lawson	<b>Dec 13th</b>	Mrs B Warren
<b>Oct 18th</b>	Mrs E Marven	<b>Dec 20th</b>	Mrs L Grange
<b>Oct 25th</b>	Mrs B Warren	<b>Dec 27th</b>	Mrs M Cook
<b>Nov 1st</b>	Mrs L Grange		

*Sunday September 29th*  
*2.30pm at Christ Church*

## **MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON**

(Edition 6)

With **LOUISA STIRLAND**  
(2012 BBC Young Chorister of the Year)

Louisa lives in Preston and is about to take up 'A' Level studies at Runshaw College - she presents a program of sacred and secular songs from Bach to Bernstein, Rutter and Lloyd Webber.

Accompanist: Carol Rose

also : Instrumental Performances by the  
Christ Church Players.

Tickets £5 : incl. refreshments

Proceeds to the Methodist Fund for World  
Mission & URC Commitment for Life.

Contact: Carol Rose 01772 783680

# Dates for Your Diary

**Sunday September 1<sup>st</sup> PRAYER BREAKFAST**

*9.00am* 30 minutes of prayer followed by a breakfast of cereal and toast -- come and join us)

**Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*10.00am* Craft Club resumes

**Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*7.30pm* CTL planning and discussion meeting at Alston Lane. All welcome

**Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>**

*12.00pm* (after morning service) Church Council/ Meeting. All welcome

*3.00pm* Connexion Zone

**Wednesday September 11<sup>th</sup>**

*7.30pm* Circuit Meeting , Lea

**Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>**

*9.30am* Lancs Methodist District Synod

**Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>**

*7.30pm* URC Preachers' Meeting at Lytham URC

**Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> HARVEST CELEBRATION**

*10.45am* Morning Worship

*2.30pm* Music In The Afternoon

No Evening Service

**Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup>**

*7.30pm* Methodist Preachers' Meeting, New Longton

**Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> CTL Harvest Supper**

**Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>**

9.00am Prayer Breakfast

**Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>**

*10.30am* URC NW Synod at The Oasis Academy, Media City UK, Salford. This Synod will include the Lancashire Area Meeting in the afternoon. If you would like to find out more, please see our representative Mrs. Sue Lawson. (The next Lancashire Area meeting will not be until May 2014)

**Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup>**

*3.00pm* Connexion Zone

**Wednesday October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*6.00pm* Hall Users' Meeting

**Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> FILLING SHOE BOXES**

*10.00am* onwards Please help if you can spare any time at all.

**Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> Craft Fair**

**Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*9.00am* Prayer Breakfast

*10.45am* Shoebox Service

**Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>**

*7.30pm* CTL planning and discussion meeting at Alston Lane. All welcome

**Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday**

*10.15am* Shorter morning worship so that we can join with the town service at St Paul's

*3.00pm* Connexion Zone

**Tuesday November 26<sup>th</sup>**

*7.30pm* Circuit Meeting at Longridge



**Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>**

*9.00am* Prayer Breakfast

**Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>**

*7.30pm* Methodist Preachers' Meeting at Ingol

**Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>**

*3.00pm* Connexion Zone

Please watch out for Christmas arrangements.

There will as ever be two midweek Connexion Zones during the Autumn term but the dates have not yet been agreed with the School. Please watch the notices for details as help will be needed as usual.

## **Ladies' Guild**

Monday August 12<sup>th</sup> a meal at the Corporation Arms 7pm. If you would like to join us, there is a list on the left hand noticeboard in the foyer.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> a Coffee Evening from 7pm in the church foyer. There will be a Bring and Buy stall, raffle and competitions plus coffee/tea and home-made scones and bran loaf.

The first regular meeting is on September 9<sup>th</sup> – speaker Sheila Richardson. I would like to thank everyone for cards, visits and flowers while I was in hospital. I am improving slowly.

Olive



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Lancashire Area

Open gatherings for fellowship, discussion, and exploration



## 7th Aug: Gentle Jesus?

Rev'd Richard Church, Moderator of NW Synod, will share a reflection and lead a discussion about who Jesus was and what that means for our faith today.

*Please be aware that there will be road works on the church entrance which may mean parking in neighbouring streets.*

## 4th Sept: Spirituality

Rev'd Michele Jarmany will lead us through a series of reflections and discussions as we explore different spiritual practises together.

## 2nd Oct: Pillars and Propellors

Rev'd Paul Pells will lead an interactive evening of reflection concerning the joys and frustrations, opportunities and limitations of Eldership and Local Leadership in the URC today and tomorrow.

## 6th Nov: Christianity as a minority faith

Aftab Alexander Mughal will offer a reflection and enable a discussion grounded in his experience of being a Christian in Pakistan.

Penwortham URC, Liverpool Road, PR1 0QB  
7.00pm for refreshments and a bring and share meal

We hope this will create opportunities for us to build relationships, discuss issues relevant to our lives together, and experience different ways of being Church to help discussion and activities within congregations.

**For more details contact: Rev'd David Coaker**  
(01772) 462229, [pastoral.urclancs@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral.urclancs@gmail.com)

# Services

# Timeline

# Activities

## SUNDAY

- 9.00am** Prayer Breakfast\*  
\*Normally 1st Sunday of month
- 10.45am** Morning Worship & Junior Church
- 3.00pm** Connexion Zone\*  
\*Normally 2nd Sunday of month
- 6.30pm** Evening Worship\*  
\*2nd Sunday at Park House

## MONDAY

- 10.00am** Craft Club
- 7.45pm** 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:** Rev Ray Borg      01772 768112  
15 Millersgate, Cottam. PR4 0AZ

(Church Secretary) Mrs Mel Watson      01772 783581 or  
(Senior Steward) Geoff Balson      01772 655129 or  
(Pastoral Secretary) Dr Carol Spencer      01772 782829

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