

The Messenger



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

Rev Ray Writes

The news in August that the comedian and film star Robin Williams took his own life will have come as a profound shock to many people. The question that immediately arises from a tragic event like this is "How can someone so witty, so talented, so funny and so capable of bringing joy to others be so tormented as to take his own life?" The truth of the matter is that we don't know what led to this tragedy and I suppose we can never know.

Whilst we can empathise with people who struggle with mental health issues or addictive personalities, we cannot really know how they are in their inner being. What we do know, is that when we are suffering and someone else "gets us" and really understands where we are, we feel less isolated and a light continues to shine at the end of that dark tunnel.

Those of us who believe and trust in God have a distinct advantage when it comes to the struggles of life. Psalm 139 tells us that God knows us better than we know ourselves. He was intimately involved with our development in the womb as he knit our DNA and graced us with the building blocks for our skills and personalities. Of course, the nurture of our parents, friends and local church played its part too, but the foundational blocks were laid by God himself. The psalm tells us that he knows us in our inner being.

God knows what we're doing and how we're feeling all the time. He knows a word before it is on our tongue. He totally "gets us", including what troubles us and brings us down. Whilst our friends and family may not always "get us", God does - completely! That means we need never be so alone that we feel we have no way out.

But there's more! Jesus understood the need for mutual support from fellow Christians. He instituted the local church and ordained it to be a place where people could be disciplined and cared for. Part of

our ministry as the people of God is to share his love by caring for those who are vulnerable.

We do this primarily through the Pastoral Team but all of us need to be vigilant and lend a hand. But that is only one side of the coin. Those who are vulnerable need to stay connected and to avail themselves of support that's available. All of us need to remain in the fellowship in order to get the support of the fellowship. Staying away and becoming isolated does nothing to help us. In fact, isolation causes us to lose perspective, increases the feeling of helplessness and causes us to lose hope.

And just in case you think you're beyond the pale and that God wouldn't countenance helping you because your past sins are so heinous, think again!

The allegorical story of the prodigal son clearly depicts God "on his roof" looking out for you in the hope that someday you will return to him. He'll welcome you into his arms, and so will the fellowship at Christ Church.

Trust me, I'm a minister!!

Reverend Ray Borg

Minister

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For Your Prayers

We send our sincerest condolences to Margaret Mohyla on the death of her husband Peter after a long illness and to the family of Anne Hesmondhalgh who was a faithful attender until she had to go into residential care.

Our prayers are with Olive Hurlstone who is seriously ill in hospital. We are aware that so many of our fellowship are not well at this time and several have had recent surgery so we lift up all who are in need to the God who loves us with an everlasting love.

We also remember our members and friends in Residential Care or Sheltered Accommodation Margaret Ashton; Ann Conroy; Lois Cowell; Connie Gaunt; Donald Gilchrist; Alan Grant; Maureen and Stan Helm; Mary Hughes; Anne and Mick Hull; Fred Hunter; Ellen Kerfoot; Jenny Parkinson; Harry Slater and Edna Taylorson.

We would also ask you to pray for our friends in Sierra Leone as they cope with the Ebola Virus outbreak and our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are suffering because of war; natural disaster or poverty and poor health care.

We praise God that there is a great deal of good in our world. We thank him for all those who put their lives on the line to help those in need and for all the joys of our own lives. We rejoice with Hazel Scott as the family have recently celebrated the marriage of her granddaughter Sally and we wish the newlyweds every happiness. We also rejoice with several members of our church who have had new grandchildren in the last few months.

We would love to disseminate more news of what is happening in the church family so please let Rob know about anything you would like to share.

‘If you want me to be a Deaconess, Lord... can you let me know today, please?’

Such was the ‘impatient’ prayer of a young Christian girl seeking to know in what direction the Lord wanted her to go.

The answer came as she opened her beloved Methodist Hymn Book and she went forward into the Deaconess Order of the Methodist Church followed about 12 years later by ordination as one of the very first Women Methodist Ministers.

Our own Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss shared this with us during worship on the morning of August 3rd, when our minister, Ray, interviewed her in order that we might hear her testimony. The interview took the form of a ‘Desert Island Discs’ format – a program Elizabeth confessed she had never heard.

In July, the Methodist Church had marked the 40th year since the ordination of women into the Presbyteral ministry by holding a special celebration in Wesley’s Chapel in London. Of the 17 original women who were ordained, 7 are still alive and only 3 were able to attend the celebration. Elizabeth was one of those 3 and she had the honour of presenting a special Conference Bible at the service.

Elizabeth’s choice of hymns reflected significant parts to her story. 4 of the 5 were of course Wesley hymns.

HP 753 ‘All praise to our Redeeming Lord’ - outlining the joy of gathering in fellowship and worship.

HP 41 ‘Thee will I praise with all my heart’ – highlighting the closing lines where we are promised never to be forsaken.

HP 216 ‘And Can it Be’ - declaring the spiritual experience of a life in Christ

HP 750 *'Thou Shepherd of Israel'* leading us to the Lord's Table

Elizabeth shared with Ray in leading our communion and the service closed with a non-Wesley favourite

HP 739 *'May the Mind of Christ my Saviour'*.

Thank you Elizabeth and Ray for leading us in such an enlightening, uplifting and encouraging service.

May it lead more of us to be inspired to share our own faith stories with others.

Carol Rose

Flower Rota

Sept 7th		Nov 2nd	June Roebuck
Sept 14th	Val Fletcher	Nov 9th	Ellen Kerfoot
Sept 21st	Margaret Mohyla	Nov 16th	Olive Hurlstone
Sept 28th	Sue Lawson	Nov 23rd	Beryl Murrant
Oct 5th	Megan Crew	Nov 30th	Margaret Croasdale
Oct 12th	Jean McNeil	Dec 7th	Kath Keighley
Oct 19th	Esther Wolstenholme	Dec 14th	Pam Cliff
Oct 26th	Brenda Gornall	Dec 21st	Esther Wolstenholme

'MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON'

(edition 8)

With Guest Performers

'CONTINENTAL BRASS'

A new Preston based Brass Quartet

Matt Balson - Trumpet

Alison Balson - Trumpet

Rachael Shore - Horn

Tim Bateman - Trombone

Sunday Sep 28th at 2.30pm

**Tickets: £5 incl. refreshments (or pay at
the door)**

**Proceeds in aid of the Lancashire Methodist
District Project in Sierra Leone**

Contacts / More Information

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Walk For June - Stocks Reservoir

Stocks Reservoir was constructed by the old Fylde Water Board in the early part of the last century and opened in 1932. The facility is now part of United Utilities and they have done a splendid job in providing a footpath around the entire lake.

We started the walk from the School Lane Car Park, adjacent to the remains of St James' Church, which was demolished and re-built on a new site to the south. Walking North and enjoying the splendid summer weather with a warm sun and clear skies, we considered that this area of rural Lancashire was similar to parts of Scotland. We soon arrived at Birch Hill Farm, one of a number of old buildings remaining from the pre-reservoir days when a whole community was removed.

After New House Farm, we headed South West and down the Hodder Valley, where we crossed the river by means of a footbridge, built in 2006. Before this time the river was crossed by means of, "Two bin liners on yer feet". How things have improved! We then climbed out of the valley on a path made of stone slabs, as found in the Lakes and not approved by everyone, but they are a good compromise and this one is neatly constructed. At the top of the climb, we joined a path that is the remains of a railway that was built from Long Preston to the construction site. We continued along the path, now going south and providing beautiful views until it was time for our lunch stop, on a banking overlooking the lake.

After a fairly long stop, (the day was nice and we were in no particular rush), we continued South past the café and a centre where boats can be hired for fishing. Trade was certainly brisk today as there were about a dozen craft scattered around the water.

By now we were at the southern end of the reservoir. We passed the offices, built from reclaimed stone and looking like a fine country house and on to the dam and well- screened support buildings. When I stand on such a dam, why do I always think I can hear a Lancaster approaching?

The final part of the walk, pointing north, was quite different, being on the edge of the Grizedale Forest and consequently the path meandered through pleasant woodland. At one point we briefly saw the re-sited St James' Church and eventually arrived back at the start, having covered eight miles in four hours.

The circuit of Stocks Reservoir is a splendid walk, with excellent, well-signed paths all the way round. The views are superb and you don't need to be a skilful, experienced biker to tackle it.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Ladies' Guild - 50 Years

This year, our Ladies Guild celebrates its 50th year. To mark this milestone, on September 14th our morning service at 10.45am, will take the form of a Ladies Service, as held in the past in the former traditions of our two denominations.

The service will be led by Mrs Carol Rose with music provided by members of the Christ Church Players. Members of the Ladies Guild will also be taking part in the service which will be followed by coffee and a celebratory cake.

Megan Crew

An Invitation to.....
CHRIST CHURCH
LONGRIDGE
(Methodist / URC)

Sunday September 14th
10.45am

'Celebrating 50 Years'
of the

LADIES GUILD

1964-2014

Worship led by
Mrs Carol Rose
and members of the Guild

Walk For July - Garstang To Calder Vale

The focus of this month's walk was the hamlet of Calder Vale, a beautiful little community centred on a very old but still operational textile mill.

We started the walk at the riverside car park in Garstang, from where we went through the busy town centre and on to enter the Lancaster Canal. Heading in an easterly direction and enjoying the beautiful summer weather, we soon came to the Wyre Aqueduct, another of John Rennie's wonderful structures to be found on this canal and a little later, we passed the remains of Greenhalgh Castle.

Eventually we arrived at Bridge 56, where we left the canal, crossed the bridge and followed a farm track that took us over the railway, closely followed by the busy and very noisy M6 and on to the farm. A short road section was followed by woods again and the skirting of Janet's Hill Wood in which there is a Eucalyptus tree that is dedicated to an Australian soldier who was killed in North Borneo in 1945. There must be a story here!?

We now followed a series of farms and lanes until we reached Sullom Side Farm, from where a track descended to the wooded Calder Vale and our lunch stop at Pete's Seat, kindly provided in memory of Pete. Interestingly, the old mill here produces Arab headwear and the factory is actually owned by Arabs.

The return journey followed a parallel course along a mixture of quiet lanes, fields and woodland until we arrived at the top of a steep descent where the whole of the Fylde Plain opened up in front of us and provided what must be one of the best views in the county. Later we re-crossed the motorway and the railway, closely followed by a derelict railway bridge. Decades ago, a branch line left the main

line at this point and went through Garstang to Pilling and was known as the “Pilling Pig”. The remains of this line now provide a splendid footpath that gave us an easy route back to Garstang.

For this walk we had a turnout of eight and we all enjoyed the ideal combination of lovely scenery, perfect weather (if a little too hot at times) and good paths. Had we attempted this walk during a very wet winter (as originally planned), we would be telling a very different story!

Linda and Eddie Grange

Friday Coffee Rota

Sep 5th	Rev E Hodgkiss	Nov 7th	Mrs E Marven
Sep 12th	Mrs A Barnes	Nov 14th	Mrs B Warren
Sep 19th	Mrs E Marven	Nov 21st	Mrs S Lawson
Sep 26th	Mrs B Warren	Nov 28th	Mrs L Grange
Oct 3rd	Mrs L Grange	Dec 5th	Mrs M Cook
Oct 10th	Mrs S Lawson	Dec 12th	Rev E Hodgkiss
Oct 17th	Mrs M Cook	Dec 19th	Mrs A Barnes
Oct 24th	Rev E Hodgkiss		
Oct 31st	Mrs A Barnes		

Christ Church Worship and Events

Monday September 1st

Craft Club resumes

Thursday September 4th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall. Please see Pam if you can help

September 7th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)
PM Mr Tony Bonser

September 10th

7.30pm URC Preachers Fellowship meeting at Cleveleys URC

Saturday September 13th

Methodist District Synod

September 14th *Ladies Guild Sunday*

AM Mrs Carol Rose
3–4pm Connexion Zone
PM Sister Janet Edwards (at Park House)

September 17th

7.30pm Preston Ribble Circuit Meeting at Longton Methodist

September 21st

AM Mrs Carol Poole
PM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

September 24th

7.30pm Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders' Meeting at Bamber Bridge Methodist

September 28th

AM Mrs Zoe Ainsworth

2.30pm Music in the Afternoon with guest performers

‘Continental Brass ‘ See poster for details

PM No evening service

Thursday October 2nd

CTL Harvest Supper

October 5th

AM Rev John Maiden (Holy Communion)

PM Rev Katharine Bland

October 12th

AM Mr Harry Duckett

3–4pm Connexion Zone (Can you help as Carol and John are away?)

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (at Park House)

Saturday October 18th

9.00am Introduction to new Local Preachers’ training course at Leyland Methodist Church

October 19th

AM **HARVEST THANKSGIVING** Mr Steve Gregory

Followed by ‘Bring and Share’ Lunch

No evening service

Thursday October 23rd

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall. As usual please see Pam if you can help

October 26th

AM **SHOEBOX SERVICE** Dr Carol Spencer

The launch of this year’s appeal but if you have empty boxes or items to place in them, they can be dropped off at church

at any time from the beginning of September. Boxes will not be despatched until later in November so please watch out for more details later.

PM Miss Gwyneth Jones

November 2nd

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Sister Janet Edwards

November 9th

AM **CTL SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE at St Paul's**
Because of the 100th commemoration of the First World War, we will be joining the morning service at St Paul's

3.00pm Connexion Zone

PM Dr Carol Spencer (at Park House)

Thursday November 13th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall

November 16th

AM Mr Eric Bainbridge

PM Mr Les Kelsall

Thursday November 20th

6.00pm Methodist District World Church Event at Lamack Methodist Church.

November 23rd

AM Mr Ernest Wrennall

PM Rev Malcolm Hickox

November 30th Advent

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

PM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Services Festival 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 St Paul's in 2014
- 10.00am** Coffee Morning

SATURDAY

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

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