

The Messenger



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

Rev Ray Writes

The story that caught my attention on the BBC News this week was that of the stabbing of a supply teacher named Vincent Uzomah, by a pupil in a Bradford school. The highlights are that this teacher reminded the boy of the school policy on (not) using mobile phones during lessons. The boy took umbrage and stabbed the teacher in the stomach and ran out.

To say that the story shocked me would be an understatement. But what really shocked me was the fact that the boy put the story out on social media (probably on Facebook) and that nearly 70 people “liked” the story. For those who are not familiar with it, people on Facebook can click on a “Like” button under a story to show their appreciation of it. The boy was bragging about his racially motivated attack on this mild-mannered and conscientious teacher who was just doing his job. And nearly 70 people liked what he had done!

Once the initial shock had abated, I started to think about the dynamics going on between the teacher and the 14 year-old who stabbed him. I was impressed by the mature and balanced way in which Vincent talked about the incident to the BBC reporter. This was national TV, with a length of interview and level of exposure most politicians would give their right arm for. He could so easily have used the interview to play the race card, but instead he chose to describe the incident, explain his reaction at the time and then to calmly and empathically talk about the boy who could so easily have killed him.

As a minister and fellow Christian I was delighted by Vincent’s witness to his faith and particularly to his prayer for God’s help at that shocking time. He had the presence of mind to ask for help from the one source that trumps all others. And that raised a question for me; would I have done the same? Would you? Those

of us who have a vibrant relationship with God know that he can do amazing things so He should be our first port of call. But often, we wait until we've exhausted our own resources and we've "run out" before we turn to God. And in case you're wondering, yes I do it too! But maybe we should try a different tack in future. Maybe we should go to God first. He might just show us a way in which we can conserve our energies and provide ideas we can use more effectively. It is just as miraculous to be shown how to use what we have as to feed 5000.

What is truly amazing in this whole story, is the fact that Vincent saw the boy who could have killed him, as a damaged person who needed understanding and care, not vilification. Vincent set aside his "right" to be indignant and high handed as the victim and spent at least half his interview showing understanding for the perpetrator. When I look at Vincent's example and compare it to a recent episode of unwarranted and wholly OTT apoplexy over a trivial incident, I am humbled.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves. This is sometimes hard to do in normal circumstances. However, to love the person who could have killed you is a mighty testimony to a powerful God who can turn the values of this world upside down through the power of his Holy Spirit. I pray that I too can be transformed to look more like Jesus, to look more like Vincent Uzomah.

Ray

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Connexion Zone

The two versions of Connexion Zone continue fruitfully but there will be some changes as from September. At our last Sunday Connexion Zone in July, we had a little portable barbecue and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day although there was some concern about smoke blowing into the rear yard of the Durham Ox. We thought this a bit strange as one of the main functions of the outdoor area is for the customers of the pub who want to smoke!! Nevertheless it is another important lesson in being aware of our neighbours.

Our friends at 2toSchool have moved into their new premises but are keen still to attend the Wednesday Connexion Zones. Unfortunately they were unable to attend the last service of last term which had to be moved down to Barnacre Road School. We tried to find a date to do a special one just for 2toSchool but so near the end of term, this wasn't possible. Instead they asked if they could have one early in the new term in September. We hope to do this but we won't know the date until the new term begins. Similarly, we won't know which dates Barnacre Road want for the other Wednesday Connexion Zones until the term begins. There is no point in us setting the dates if the school can't attend. This however sometimes means that we have only a few days' notice as to when they are going to take place.

If you are able to help in any way (setting up; helping with craft; serving drinks; clearing away or even accompanying children on the walk to and from school) please keep your eye on the notices. Part of the purpose of Connexion Zone, is to familiarise children with what a church is like. It is therefore important to have the children come into church. This is not an easy thing for the school to arrange as they have to have a certain number of adults for

different ages of pupils and they must be sure of having the right number of volunteers by the day before. If they have problems with this, they can only walk up if we can find enough appropriate volunteers to make up the numbers. Problems with inclement weather can also interfere with our plans but we believe that it is worth persevering, especially when we see the faces of so many happy children in the church. We do need a regular supply of helpers (for some kinds of help, we will have to ask people to undertake a DBS check) but if you come along, we're sure you will find it a really encouraging experience.

The Sunday Connexion Zones have had an extra complication as the second Sunday of the month is the same one as the Park House Service. We have therefore decided that, as from September, we are moving to the third Sunday in the month. Otherwise we hope to continue as normal. Please hold all the children and leaders in your prayers.

An Open Invitation to 'Come and Sing'

Beginning on Friday August 28th, Carol Rose is leading some singing sessions with a view to re-launching 'Christ Church Musicmakers'. 6 Sessions will be held on Fridays at 12 noon and 7.00pm in Church. This is an opportunity to be involved in the exploration and preparation of music for worship. Please contact Carol for more information. (783680).

Shoebboxes

Once again we are asking people to contribute to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox appeal. We hope to have our shoeboxes ready by the beginning of December. There are many ways of helping with this project and it is important to get started as soon as possible. Here is a list of ways in which you might be able to contribute.

1. Complete a shoebox from start to finish by following the instructions in the Samaritans' Purse leaflet which will be available in the foyer in the next few weeks.
2. Contribute empty shoeboxes for others to fill. Bring them into church on Mondays, Fridays or Sundays.
3. Help to cover shoeboxes with Christmas wrapping paper. You can cover the box(es) before bringing them in OR take some boxes and wrapping paper home and cover them OR join the good folk of the craft group on Monday mornings and spend a session covering boxes and having a brew and a chat.
4. Donate items to be packed into the boxes including woolly hats, scarves and gloves; toiletries and toys.
5. Donate cash to help cover the cost of transporting the boxes to their final destination.
6. Join us on Friday November 20th to pack the boxes.
7. Join us on Sunday November 22nd at the morning service to learn more and pray for those who will receive the gifts.

We are privileged this year to have Ian Taylor of the Samaritan Purse organisation to talk to us during the service on November 22nd so do come and join us.

‘Stable Story’

Perhaps it is something we don't want to think about, but Christmas isn't far away. Some of the arrangements have to be decided in good time so that we can involve the schools and other organisations. The provisional theme for this year's decorations is 'Stable Story'. There are two ways in which we hope you would like to contribute. We would like loans of unusual nativity sets to be displayed in church over the Christmas period. Last time we did something similar to this, we had a glass one; an olive wood one; an embroidered one and a knitted one as well as ones from different cultures in various national costumes. If you have anything of this sort that you could spare from your home decorations, please let Carol Spencer know by the middle of November. Additionally we are inviting individuals or groups to make mini stable scenes. These should be in cube shaped boxes with one side removed and should have no more than eight inch long sides. The maker can decide which figures etc. or which point in the Christmas story they want to illustrate and they can use whatever materials they wish --- paper and cardboard would be obvious options but if more unusual materials could be used, that would add to the interest. The story of Christmas is a 'stable story' in that it is in some ways unchanging and yet every year we see something new and learn different lessons and it means different things to each Christian and we hope to make an attractive exhibition that will encourage all who come in to church to think again about what the 'stable story' means to them.

A New Term

September is a nerve racking time for many pupils, students (and teachers!!) as they face the change into new classes or even new institutions. Please continue to remember those you know in your prayers. This year, there is also a big change in the training courses for Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in the Methodist Church. The Rev Ray Borg is chairing the working group which is planning how the new course will be implemented in our Circuit and Carol Spencer has been designated the Lead Tutor in delivering the training. We have decided to take advantage of the two year transition period and do not intend to put new starters on to the new course until September 2016 at the earliest. Meanwhile those designated as tutors and mentors will be attending training courses themselves. Please pray for all those involved and also pray that God will call more members of our churches to become Worship Leaders; Local Preachers and Ministers (both Deacons and Presbyters) and that we will be able to offer them really good quality training.

In the past we used to designate one Sunday per year as 'LPMA (Local Preachers' Mutual Aid) Sunday' when preachers would swap pulpits with those from other circuits. This was an opportunity to appreciate the ministry of Local Preachers. When Worship Leaders were introduced, LPMA was replaced by LWPT (Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust) and the special Sundays simply disappeared. Recently it was felt that we needed something to highlight the work of Preachers and so a special Circuit Service has been arranged for the evening of Sunday September 20th at Fulwood Methodist Church. If you appreciate the ministry of the Preachers or would just like to know more about it, please try to come. Local Preachers are not paid. Methodist preachers can only claim expenses if they can prove 'need' while URC lay preachers are entitled to expenses for every service they lead including a contribution toward the purchase of books or attendance at courses. LWPT as an organisation depends on the contributions mainly of the Preachers and their families as well as gifts from appreciative congregations, to provide some help for sick or elderly preachers and their families who have need of extra help.

Walk For May - Mellor Brook To River Ribble

I have been waiting to undertake this pleasant walk for some time, as it requires a reasonably long dry spell, which we had until the night before, when it bucketed down!

Mellor Brook has plenty of parking, as the remnants of the old A59 still remain and from there we started the walk down a quiet lane and under the by-pass until we came to a stile, entering the first of many large fields, which, after the overnight rain, were a little muddy in places. Eventually, we left the fields and joined a lane at the very impressive Oxendale Hall. Our route now took us around the perimeter of this large estate with security cameras everywhere, so we were on our best behaviour. At the end of this section of the walk, we encountered a deep valley with very steep sides and an extremely slippery path that needed to be approached with care. Having survived this ordeal, (I didn't tell them that we had a further two similar ravines to negotiate!), we crossed into a pleasant field and had our lunch sitting on a fence used for equestrian activities, watching the deer in the distance.

We were now steadily descending to the Ribble at Osbaldeston Hall where we joined a good path that took us along the fast flowing river with a pair of swans deciding to travel backwards for some reason. This path didn't last and we were soon presented with another challenge, to negotiate a bracken covered embankment with the river on one side and a swamp on the other. Needless to say, the Dear Leader took some stick by now, someone suggesting that this walk could be offered to the S. A. S. for advanced training, another replying that most of them would fail the course.

The final part of the walk required a steep climb from the river and through a series of meadows with spring flowers in abundance until we came to a lane. As we walked along this lane, we were met by a procession of parishioners from the local church complete with brass band. Then it was back into the fields and on to Mellor Brook.

Despite the difficulties, this was considered to be a good walk. Longridge walkers are obviously made of the right stuff! And did we break the stile record, at thirty three?

Linda & Eddie Grange

The Guild

Harking back to the past again, we at Christ Church used to have an annual service to support the work of the Ladies' Guild. This disappeared for a few years until the special celebration of the 50th Anniversary last year. This was a very enjoyable occasion so we are having another Guild Service this year on September 13th at 10.45am. Since last year, the Guild has changed its name and made a greater effort to make the meetings open to both men and women so please come and celebrate with us and even better, look at the notice board in the foyer or get a copy of the programme and join the regular monthly meetings.

'Family' News

We send our prayers and sincere condolences to the family and friends of Vena Slater who died recently and we ask your prayers for many of our congregation who are experiencing serious ill health especially Lois Cowell, John Dixon and Norman Watson. We continue to remember Eddie and Linda Grange and their family as they care for their very premature new grandchild.

Friday Coffee Rota

Sep 4th Mrs A Barnes	Nov 6th Mrs S Lawson
Sep 11th Mrs E Marven	Nov 13th Mrs B Warren
Sep 18th Mrs B Warren	Nov 20th Mrs L Grange
Sep 25th Mrs S Lawson	Nov 27th Rev E Hodgkiss
Oct 2nd Mrs L Grange	
Oct 9th Rev E Hodgkiss	Dec 4th Mrs A Barnes
Oct 16th Mrs A Barnes	Dec 11th Mrs E Marven
Oct 23rd Mrs M Cook	Dec 18th Mrs M Cook
Oct 30th Mrs E Marven	

Flower Rota

Sep 6th **Hazel Scott	Nov 1st June Roebuck
Sep 13th Val Fletcher	Nov 8th
Sep 20th Margaret Mohyla	Nov 15th
Sep 27th Sue Lawson	Nov 22nd Beryl Murrant
Oct 4th Megan Crew	Nov 29th
Oct 11th Jean McNeill	Dec 6th Kath Keighley
Oct 18th Esther Wolstenholme	Dec 13th
Oct 25th Brenda Head	Dec 20th

Christ Church Worship and Events

September 6th

AM Rev John Maiden (HOLY COMMUNION)
 2.30pm MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON (please see poster)

September 9th

7.30pm Church Meeting/Council (all welcome)

September 11th

11.00am Pastoral Team meeting

September 13th

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (GUILD SERVICE)
PM Mrs Carol Rose (PARK HOUSE)

September 15th

7.30pm Circuit Meeting

September 20th

AM Mrs Lynne Watson
3.00pm CONNEXION ZONE
PM Circuit Service at Fulwood to celebrate the ministry of
Local Preachers and Worship Leaders

September 24th

Women's World Day of Prayer preparation day at Our Lady and St Edward's, Fulwood. We need one or two representatives so if you could volunteer, please see Carol Spencer

September 27th

AM Mr Ernest Wrennall
PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (HOLY COMMUNION)

October 4th OUR Harvest theme this year is BREAD. Watch the notices for details of how to get involved.

AM Rev Ray Borg (HARVEST /HOLY COMMUNION)
Followed by Church Family Lunch
PM No evening Service

October 8th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall
CTLG HARVEST SUPPER

October 11th

AM Rev Mark Slaney
PM Sister Janet Edwards (PARK HOUSE)

October 17th District Preachers' Day Leyland 9.00am

October 18th

AM Rev Ron Lewis
3.00pm CONNEXION ZONE
PM Rev Ray Borg (HOLY COMMUNION)

October 25th

AM Mrs Sue Davies
PM Mr Les Kelsall

October 29th

Coffee Day at the Civic Hall

November 1st

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (HOLY COMMUNION)
PM Rev Katharine Bland

November 8th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Remembrance CTLG)
PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (PARK HOUSE)

November 11th

District Conversation on relationships including same sex marriage etc. (please watch noticeboards for details)

November 14th

10am–3pm Christ Church Crafts Fair (please see notices)

November 15th

AM Sister Janet Edwards
3.00pm CONNEXION ZONE
PM Rev Ray Borg (HOLY COMMUNION)

November 20th

Shoebox assembly day from 10.00am

November 22nd

AM Mr Ian Taylor/Rev Ray Borg (SHOEBOX SERVICE)
PM Rev John Fisher

November 25th

District 'One Mission' Forum for updates on our links with Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Uruguay. Details later

November 29th ADVENT 1

AM Dr Carol Spencer
PM Mr H Rose Rev Ray Borg (ADVENT CAROL SERVICE)

December 6th ADVENT 2

AM Rev Ray Borg (HOLY COMMUNION/MEMBERSHIP SERVICE)
PM Dr Carol Spencer

December 13th ADVENT 3

AM Mr Henry Rose
PM Mrs Carol Rose (PARK HOUSE CAROL SERVICE)

December 17th

Lancashire Sings Christmas. Details later.

December 20th ADVENT 4

AM Dr Carol Spencer
4pm Rev Ray Borg (CAROL COMMUNION)

See article elsewhere for information on future dates of Connexion Zone

December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00am Mrs Carol Rose

Services

Worship

Activities

SUNDAY

- 9.00am** Prayer Breakfast*
*Normally 1st Sunday of month
- 10.45am** Morning Worship &
Junior Church
- 3.00pm** Connexion Zone*
*Normally 3rd Sunday of month
- 6.30pm** Evening Worship*
*2nd Sunday at Park House

MONDAY

- 10.00am** Craft Club
- 7.45pm** The Guild*
*1st Monday of month

FRIDAY

- 7.45am** CTL Morning Prayers*
*At Christ Church in 2015
- 10.00am** Coffee Morning

SATURDAY

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

MINISTER: Rev Ray Borg 01772 768112

(Church Secretary) Mrs Mel Watson 01772 783581 or
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