

# The Messenger



Winter 2015

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

# Rev Ray Writes

This year at Christ Church we're going to make more of Advent! We're going to focus more on that four-week period of waiting which leads us to Christmas. We want to squeeze more value out of this time which is laden with symbolism. We want to encourage everyone in our congregation to look back on what God has done in the past. We want to encourage people to hold the brokenness of the world around us up to God in prayer. We want to help people to perceive what God is doing in our midst. And we want to encourage people to look forward to a hopeful future. All this perceiving needs us to STOP! Stop buying, cleaning, cooking, wrapping, inviting, phoning, messaging, googling, etc. etc. etc. Then, once we've stopped, we need to LOOK. And once we've looked, we need to SEE.

And what do I see right now? Well at the time of writing I see TV coverage of the Paris terrorist attacks. At first sight, the serene-looking nativity scenes on Christmas cards seem to be at odds with the horrific TV images of terrorist attacks worldwide (they're not just happening in Paris). But there is a link between the nativity scene and the TV coverage which is subtle yet powerful if we are willing to LOOK past the glitter, the tinsel and the incessant seasonal music playing in the shops. We have to SEE the real story behind the sanitised nativity scenes depicting a clean baby smiling at a well-dressed mother watched over by a smiling father, in a stable full of animals, shepherds and kings.

The Christmas story is, essentially, the story of vulnerable healing coming into the midst of brokenness. The world into which Jesus was born was troubled, unjust, unequal and broken. Indeed, the manner in which Jesus was conceived and born brought its own measure of trouble and brokenness. A conception wrought within a

teenage girl as yet unmarried, engaged to a good man who had to spend his adult married life in the shadow of something much bigger than himself and a child who would always upstage him. Because of this child, which wasn't his, Joseph would be hunted and become a refugee in Egypt. The child would court controversy and not be 'normal'. And on reflection, it seems to me that all of that is totally appropriate for a God who wants to share in our brokenness and bring hope to the world.

So what hope is there in the atrocities we see on our TV screens? What can we salvage from the wreckage that evil intent has left behind? The answer is vulnerable healing. Jesus came into the world as a vulnerable baby and worked his healing by going from person to person. Yes, he preached to thousands but his healing (physical, emotional and spiritual) was meted out person-to-person, one-by-one. Jesus was not a superhero who stopped the villains' treachery. He worked on a personal level. And as I LOOK around me at that vulnerable healing spreading through people like you and me, I can SEE that the world is better in places. But we have a way to go. We have pockets of healing but we are still waiting for complete renewal. We are still in Advent. So, what are you waiting for?

Ray

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# Music in the Afternoon

A 'Music in the Afternoon' concert held on September 6th at Christ Church has raised money for the ongoing aid needed in Nepal following the earthquakes in April and May.

Guest performers for the 10<sup>th</sup> in the series, Jane Pembleton-Smyth and Fenella Haworth-Head brought a varied programme of pieces ranging from Bach to 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'.

Jane, a flautist with 30 years' experience in teaching, has also performed in Master Classes and concerts around the North West and is a regular member of Preston Flute Group.

The first half featured the popular 'Badinerie' from Bach's Suite No 2 in B minor and Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Flight of the Bumble Bee'. Contrasting with these were delightful, lyrical pieces which demonstrated both Jane's technical expertise and her impressive breath control.

As well as playing pieces which demonstrated the virtuosic capabilities of the modern flute, Jane also played the Alto Flute. 'Le Chant du Vent' by Donjon demonstrated this lower pitched member of the flute family very well. In her very relaxed style, Jane presented the audience throughout with informative introductions about both the history of the flute and the music being played.

Fenella, like Jane, studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, graduating in 1987. A piano teacher by profession, she has regularly accompanied soloists all around the North West. She and Jane present themselves as a very successful partnership and perform together with a great passion giving careful attention to the demands of the music. Fenella chose a Grieg Notturmo and Arabesque No 1 by Debussy for her solo performances. She showed great flair and musicality in her interpretation of these expressive pieces.

The programme moved on through Romantic styles into the 20th century with a mesmerising performance of Debussy's 'Syrinx', a Lament for a Fallen Wood Nymph. More modern film themes brought this most enjoyable concert to a close. These consisted of three of Henry Mancini's orchestral works, arranged for flute and piano by James Galway. Following appreciative applause, the audience was treated to yet another gentle, lyrical piece, 'Alone in the Rain' as an encore.

John Spencer took opportunity in the break, to give an insight into the ongoing work in Nepal in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes and the need for continuing support of their established mission partners.

Ticket sales and donations amounted to £400 for Aid for Nepal through 'All We Can' (The Methodist Relief and Development Fund)

Carol Rose

Please could anyone who has a collecting box for either the Methodist World Mission Fund or Commitment For Life pass it to Sue Lawson as soon as possible for emptying. Cheques will then be sent to both denominations.

If there is anyone else who wishes to have a collecting box, please also see Sue Lawson. – Thank you.

Sue Lawson

It's easy to forget what has happened in the life of Christ Church since the last Messenger came out. Here are some reminders:-

There has been a 'Music in the Afternoon'; Jenna has run the Junior Great North Run for the Down's Syndrome Society; John has run the full Great North Run for the Sierra Leone projects; Leanne, Mungo and Josh have run the Alzheimer's Society run in memory of Donald and they would all like to give a great big 'thank you' for all the generous support they received. There were harvest services around the theme of 'Bread' and the Churches Together Harvest Supper at the Civic Hall with 'home-grown' entertainment including music from Jason and the Remembrance Day commemorations. The Craft Club has held its annual Craft Fair and Shoe Boxes have been covered and goods to fill them collected. There have been 'Coffee' Days at the Civic Hall (probably should be called 'Market Café Days') and Sunday and Wednesday Connexion Zones. Ray has been running courses on Basic Christianity and Church Membership and the Bible Studies continue at Janet and Elizabeth's.

Linda and Eddie's baby granddaughter has come out of hospital although she is still on a ventilator; Anne Norcross and Sue Lawson have had new baby grandchildren and Hazel Scott has got another great granddaughter ----- have I missed the additions to your family? (We'd love to hear so we can put them in the next edition). The regular activities have continued. There have been Steward's Meetings; a Pastoral Team meeting; Church Council; a Methodist Circuit Meeting and URC Synod and Area Meeting; Finance Committee Meetings; Property/Lettings Group meetings; Guilds (now Monthly); Friday Coffees and Friday prayers; the start of a new music group and lots more. I wonder if you've noticed any big gaps? We have! We are really conscious of the missing reports from the monthly Rambles. The Rambling Club is one of the longest running (or should that be walking??) activities at Christ Church and the

couple of months without a ramble while Linda and Eddie have been supporting their family in Millom have only highlighted how much we owe to them for their quiet work in the background to keep the monthly walks happening so smoothly. Our deepest gratitude and best wishes go to them. We hope you will be excited by the news that we are going to have some mid-week walks in the future. Watch out for further details.

Thanks too, to all those who do the quiet, unsung and often unnoticed jobs around the church. What you do **is** noticed and appreciated.

*Ed.*

## **Christ Church Guild**

The Guild has now settled into its regular monthly slot. Meetings are on the first Monday Evening in the month at 7.30pm in the church foyer. The programme for the next few months is as follows:-

No meeting in January as its too close to New Year.

February 1<sup>st</sup> 'The Adventures of a Suitcase' by Jean Clark

March 7<sup>th</sup> Stained Glass by Rev John Bell

April 4<sup>th</sup> 'It's Thursday Again' by Pam Cliff

June 1<sup>st</sup> Guild Walk and Supper at Owd Nell's

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the friendly meetings, with a chat over tea and biscuits afterwards.

# Craft Club Fair

The Craft Club Fair went very well despite the inclement weather and the indisposition of some regular contributors. The rent from the stalls along with money raised from goods sold raised more than £150 for Sierra Leone. Some of the other stalls also raised funds for charities. More than £50 was raised for the Leprosy Mission and substantial amounts for Camp Peru; Christian Aid; Tear Fund and Methodist World Mission. Many people contribute to the success. There are of course, the hours put in making the items for sale; some members also helped with publicity and a number of friends helped to fill in the gaps left by those who were ill. Thanks to all who took part and especially Henry and David Rose and Pam Cliff for taking over the kitchen at very short notice. The refreshments were enhanced by a gift of several dozen cupcakes decorated with quilts, scissors, knitting needles and other craft related artefacts made of icing made by Irene Bell who regularly contributes baked items to church activities.

We are glad to report that Judith is beginning to recover and we send our best wishes to Sue Harris, a regular stall holder, who is recovering from surgery.

New members are always welcome on Monday mornings from 10.00am in term time --- bring your own craft projects and share your expertise with others.

# Flower Rota

The only Sunday claimed in December is the 6th when Kath Keighley has her name down. Pam will soon be compiling the new list for 2016. If you have a preference for a particular Sunday, please let Pam know as soon as possible. If you want to contribute to the floral decoration of church but don't want to be responsible for a



particular date, there is a 'Flower Fund Tin' in the foyer and gifts of any size placed in there will go towards providing flowers when there is no-one on the rota. Our thanks go to all who contribute.

## **Coffee Days**

About once every two months, our church or Churches Together run a 'Coffee Day' at the Civic Hall. As hinted earlier, this is probably mis-named. It is important to Longridge to keep its little market but it would be in danger of disappearing, if there were to be no café on Thursdays. It is not possible to have a commercial café so the café is run by a range of local charities in turn. We still pay a rental but can keep any profits for church or our designated charities. This is a great way to be 'at the heart of the community' as our church motto says, but we are finding that we are fewer in number than we used to be and Pam would be really grateful for additional help in the kitchen and with a range of other tasks. The early starters get to the Civic Hall before 8am to set up tables and transport the food, bric-a-brac and other equipment to the hall. From then on Toast and Marmalade and tea, coffee, cake and biscuits are served through the morning. At lunchtime, the staple is Pam's Hot Pot with mushy peas, red cabbage or pickled beetroot but there are also sandwiches made to order and pre-prepared hot and cold desserts. We would welcome help from men and women, young and a bit older, so please watch out for future dates and see Pam Cliff or any of her helpers if you could offer to help out in any way.

PS We also need more helpers for Connexion Zone. Please see John Spencer if you would be willing to help.

# Good News

There is always so much bad news to report and we need to pray for refugees and those injured in senseless wars and atrocities as well as those bereaved by the crazy actions of a minority of deluded people. It is therefore good to bring some happy news for a change. The terrible scourge of Ebola in West Africa seems to be almost over. Liberia was declared free of Ebola some time ago. In early November, Sierra Leone was also declared free of the disease and today we heard that the last patient in Guinea was due to be discharged today and, if there are no more cases in the next six weeks, that country where the epidemic started, will also be Ebola free. The people are indeed rejoicing and trying to make sure that if Ebola ever raises its head again, they will be ready so they can avoid such a disaster hitting them again.

In Sierra Leone more than 4,000 people died and about as many again had the disease but recovered. For them life will continue to be hard. Many find that all their possessions including their homes have been destroyed so as to rid the community of the dreadful disease. Others like the nurse Pauline Cafferkey are suffering after effects such as stiff limbs and loss of sight. Clearly there is much to do to help these folk re-establish their lives.

It is hoped that John Spencer and someone else from the team, will be able to visit Sierra Leone in the New Year and discuss with the church leaders what sort of help they would like from us. Meanwhile, we have collected a great deal of equipment for the Nixon Hospital and the Training Centre at Kaihalun and this will be sent off in a container in the next few weeks.

We are grateful to God that all the staff of the Training Centre have been spared. With the easing of restrictions, students are beginning to return to classes. The Principal of the Centre, Sarah Moiwo has been in hospital for surgery and has also lost her elderly father in the last few weeks but she remains positive and confident in God's power to stand beside them in all the ups and downs.

# Christ Church Worship and Events

## December 6<sup>th</sup>

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion and Membership service)

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss and Deacon Janet Edwards

## December 13<sup>th</sup>

AM Mr Henry Rose

PM Mrs Carol Rose (Carol Service at Park House)

## December 16<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Connexion Zone with Barnacre Road School and 2toSchool. Helpers from 9.30am please. If you can help, please see John Spencer

## December 17<sup>th</sup>

7.00pm Lancashire Sings Christmas at the Towneley Arms organised by Churches Together in Longridge and Grimsargh in conjunction with Radio Lancashire

## December 20<sup>th</sup>

AM Dr Carol Spencer

4.00pm Rev Ray Borg (Carol Communion Service)

5.30pm Connexion Zone

## December 25<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Christmas Day Worship Mrs Carol Rose

## December 27<sup>th</sup>

AM Mr Henry Rose

3.00pm Carol Service at Plessington Court led by Rev Ray Borg

## January 3<sup>rd</sup>

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

PM Deacon Janet Edwards

## **January 10<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Ray Borg (Covenant & Membership Service)  
PM Mr Eric Bainbridge

## **January 17<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Kate Bosman  
3.00pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

## **January 24<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Zoe Ainsworth  
3.00pm Circuit service at Central / Homelessness Sunday

## **January 31<sup>st</sup>**

AM Rev Nigel Lemon  
4.00pm Circuit service for Healing and Wholeness at Trinity  
Gregson Lane  
6.30pm Unity Service at St Wilfrid's

## **February 7<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)  
Followed by Church Council Meeting – no evening service

## **February 10<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Connexion Zone with Barnacre Road School and  
2toSchool. Helpers from 9.30am please.

Circuit Ash Wednesday Evening Service - venue TBA

## **February 12<sup>th</sup>**

12-1pm First Lent Lunch at St Wilfrid's

## **February 14<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mr Harry Duckett  
PM Dr Carol Spencer

## **February 19<sup>th</sup>**

12-1pm Lent Lunch run by Christ Church

## February 21<sup>st</sup>

AM Rev Malcolm Hickox

3.00pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

## February 26<sup>th</sup>

12-1pm Lent lunch run by C of E at Christ Church

## February 28<sup>th</sup>

AM Rev Ray Borg

PM Rev Mark Slaney (Holy Communion)

## March 4<sup>th</sup>

11.00am (Provisional time)

Womens' World Day of Prayer Service at St Wilfrid's RC followed by Lent lunch at St Wilfrid's run by Alston Lane

## ADVANCE NOTICE

March 11<sup>th</sup> Lent lunch run by Christ Church

March 18<sup>th</sup> Lent lunch run by C of E at Christ Church

March 25<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY

# Friday Coffee Rota

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Barnes

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs E Marven

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Mrs M Cook

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> No Coffee

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> No Coffee

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Mrs B Warren

Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Mrs S Lawson

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Mrs L Grange

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Rev E Hodgkiss

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Mrs A Barnes

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> Mrs M Cook

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Mrs E Marven

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Mrs S Lawson

Mar 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs B Warren

Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Mrs L Grange

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> Rev E Hodgkiss

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday (No Coffee)

# Services

## SUNDAY

**9.00am** Prayer Breakfast\*

\*Normally 1st Sunday of month

**10.45am** Morning Worship &  
Junior Church

**3.00pm** Connexion Zone\*

\*Monthly – dates to be announced

**3.00pm** Afternoon Worship\*

\*Normally 3rd Sunday at Plessington Court

**6.30pm** Evening Worship

## MONDAY

**10.00am** Craft Club

**7.45pm** The Guild\*

\*1st Monday of month

## FRIDAY

**7.45am** CTL Morning Prayers\*

\*At Christ Church in 2015

\*At St Wilfrid's in 2016

**10.00am** Coffee Morning

**12 noon** Music Makers

**7.00pm** Music Makers

## SATURDAY

**9.30am** Christ Church Ramblers\*

\*As announced – please see notices

**MINISTER:** Rev Ray Borg 01772 768112

(Church Secretary) Mrs Mel Watson 01772 783581 or

(Senior Steward) Mrs Carol Rose 01772 783680 or

(Pastoral Secretary) Dr Carol Spencer 01772 782829

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