

The Messenger

Winter 2016



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

*'Hear the Call of the Kingdom!
Explore the Hope of Advent!*

Advent 1. Nov 27th 'Judgement & Hope'

10.45am: Dr Carol Spencer

6.30pm: Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

Advent 2. Dec 4th 'Justice & Respect'

10.45am: Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

6.30pm: Mr Henry Rose

Advent 3. Dec 11th 'Holiness & Loyalty'

10.45am: Dr Carol Spencer

6.30pm: Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

Advent 4. Dec 18th 'Power & Patience'

10.45am: Mrs Carol Rose

3.00pm: Rev Ray Borg (Carol Communion)

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas!

Find the Love of Jesus!

Rev Ray Writes

Well it's that time of year again! The beginning of another liturgical year and the commencement of another annual cycle of accounts which retell the story of Jesus. Since ancient times, people have gathered around warm fires, in homes and in churches to listen again and again to stories of God, humans and of the relationships between them. This year we will tell the same stories with a particular focus on the one - Jesus of Nazareth. The two highlights of the Christian calendar will be celebrated in the seasons of Christmas and Easter.

But curiously enough, we don't start our church year with the birth narrative. The worldwide church has inserted this curious period of four weeks leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth which it calls 'Advent'. What is it and why have it?

There are, of course, several answers to these question depending on where we are on our faith journey and what thread of faith me might be following this year. For me this year, Advent is about setting the scene and the context into which Jesus was born around 2000 years ago. Its purpose is to help us understand why God chose to take the form of a human being, chose to live a human life and why God gave that life up for the healing of all people. I suppose that's not so personal a view. Anyone (including you) could appropriate it and use it as a sort of map to navigate the period of Advent 2016. If you want to explore, come to Christ Church for the next few weeks and you'll see a whole series of themes which open up the Advent theme.

If you don't manage to get to Christ Church, here's a thumbnail sketch; Advent reminds us that our ancestors made a mess of things and cried out to God for help. God heard that cry and promised that when the time was right, he would send a Messiah to put things right. God isn't one for rushing and several millennia elapsed between the promise and its fulfilment. It's not that God is slow! It's that he can see the whole of space and time as if it is one great, big, panorama. He knew that Palestine around 2000 years ago was good. Given recent events we could be forgiven for thinking that a better time would be now and a better place might be the United States of America. But let's not go there!

Advent focuses on that time of waiting - that time when it is "not yet". Question is, what are we to do with that waiting time? This is a modern question because in today's world, waiting isn't something we do much of. Everything is instant! Our ancestors, on the other hand, expected to wait. So what do you do with this waiting time? You sit still and ponder. Ponder what in your life could this Jesus come and affect and possibly heal? What in your life needs loving better? Once you know what that might be, just ask him!

Ray

Reverend Ray Borg

Methodist Minister

Ingol, Lea & Christ Church

Telephone 07734 229135

Winter Weather

It seems that we have had the warmest year since records began but now the cold has really set in. Autumn colours are beginning to fade and the sound of sniffles is to be heard at almost every turn. Please remember in your prayers and in any practical ways you can, those who find the winter particularly difficult. Please pray for all our friends at Christ Church who are seriously ill and all those who care for them; please pray for those who are waiting for test results and those who are waiting to go into hospital for treatment; please pray for those who are recovering from illnesses or operations and praise God for bringing them safe through; pray for those in Nursing and Care homes as well as those living alone and struggling with mobility issues.

We also remember those for whom this will be a first Christmas without a loved one and those who always find the festive season particularly difficult because of sad or painful memories. May God bring them peace.

Please pray for those you know by name.

Mayoral Visit

Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, our town mayor, has changed the way we do things this year. Instead of having one Civic Sunday service, he has decided to visit all the churches individually and so he joined us for the morning service on October 2nd. It was not at all a 'normal' service. Being the first Sunday of the month, it was a Communion Service; three new members were welcomed by transfer from other churches; two members were commissioned as

Worship Leaders and the Mayor took part in an interesting question and answer session with our minister, Ray. Phew!

We welcome our new members - Sue and Mike Prendergast and Karen Yates. Sue has already settled in to the Monday morning Craft Group and Mike is a Local Preacher and has already taken two of our evening services. We look forward to continued fruitful fellowship in the future.

Jason McMahon and John Spencer have completed what is called the 'old' Worship Leaders' course and have been formally recognised as Worship Leaders, both have been contributing to leading worship for some time (and in the case of John, a very long time!) so we may not be aware of many changes.

We warmly thank the Mayor (and Mayoress) for attending the service and for being so frank and straightforward in answering Ray's questions and look forward to seeing more of him around Longridge in the future. We were pleased to welcome him back during the ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday when he placed a poppy wreath on our table of remembrance.

The dates for Churches Together meetings for next year have not yet been decided. However, the early morning prayers for 2017 will be at Our Lady and St Michael Church, Alston Lane.

The Blessing of the town Crib will be at 6.30pm on Friday December 2nd which is late shopping evening. We are expecting Longridge Band to accompany the short service.

Circuit Services

Each quarter, on our plan, the Superintendent arranges for one or more services to take place in one of the Churches of the Circuit, to which all congregations are invited to share together in. These services, which can be at 3pm, 4pm or 6.30pm, will be services for Healing and Wholeness or have some other special purpose.

Our stewards have decided to try to support these services where possible, so at Christ Church, in place of our 6.30pm service, we are trying to make these services more accessible for everyone to be able to go. On a Sunday when there is a Circuit Service being held, there will be an opportunity to request transport and where possible, lifts will be arranged. Please sign each time on the notice board, if you would like to go or can offer help with transport, or see John or Henry.

The date planned on the next quarter is January 29th at Bamber Bridge Methodist at 6.30pm which will be a service for Healing and Wholeness.

Carol Rose

Quiz News

After our own successful quiz in May to raise money for Christian Aid, a team from Christ Church enjoyed an excellent Quiz evening at Fulwood UR Church, also to raise money for Christian Aid. We don't think we let you down but we were beaten on a tie-break question by a team from Kingsfold Methodist Church.

The Mighty Mite

In October 1985, the late Roy Barnett, whilst preparing a sermon on the Widow's Mite, was moved by a report that 5 million children were dying each year through diarrhoea. On hearing of the development of a cure to save lives through Oral Rehydration Salts, costing 5p a sachet, he took up the first collection in his service. UNICEF took up the project and the Mite Scheme was born. Since then thousands of pounds have been raised simply through donations of these tiny coins week by week.

Our Mite Scheme box is on the table in the foyer. Every week it is brought up and dedicated with our freewill offering. Since starting the scheme at Christ Church, we have been able to send several hundreds of pounds to support this work.

By donating a mite or two when we come to worship, we can make a big difference to lives of children around the world.

Shoebboxes

Thanks again to everyone who helped with this year's shoebboxes -- those who covered shoebboxes; who gave generous gifts with which to fill the boxes or brought ready-filled boxes; those who gave cash donations to pay for transport; those who helped to fill and label the boxes and Pam Cliff for generally organising and encouraging us throughout the process.

We finally passed 126 boxes to the collection team on Monday November 14th.



Worship Preparation

Fridays at 7pm

Explore and Enjoy

Hymns, Psalms and Spiritual Songs!

(Please check weekly notices for any changes)

Walk for November - The Longridge Circular

This month, we decided to undertake a walk very close to home, quite literally, starting from Grange Towers. The walkers were treated to morning coffee in the conservatory and a boot room was provided at the front of the garage.

Leaving the estate, we crossed the playing field and worked our way across the adjacent farm to emerge at Preston Road and across to Alston Reservoirs, stopping briefly to have a look at the hides and the wildlife, or lack of it. From here we entered "Happy Alley", then on to Alston Grange and Higher College Farms. We were now heading in a Northerly direction, crossing the Ribchester road and

on to the very muddy track past Spade Mill Reservoirs, climbing steadily until, at the top, we had to decide whether to take the shorter option and on through Willows Park, or extend the walk via the Caravan Site. As the weather was good and the worst of the mud was probably behind us, we chose the latter and ended up at the collection of picnic tables kindly provided for us, or maybe not, but nobody chased us off!

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch stop, admiring the splendid views to the south and we were joined for a while by a friendly Robin. Now it was time for the second part of the walk, through the caravan park, from where we worked our way to the top of the Lords Quarry area, stopping to admire a beautiful newly built house with fabulous views to the North. A quick calculation confirmed that, if we all sold our respective homes, we could form a co-operative and live there. Maybe not.

Now it was all downhill, negotiating a tricky overgrown path to arrive at the old quarry railway and Billingtons Farm, down Lords Lane onto the Chipping road followed by a pleasant pathway to Inglewhite Road at Belmont Garage, after which we negotiated a short field path to emerge at Halfpenny Lane. The last part of the trek was down the very quiet Green Nook Lane and back to the start.

This popular walk has been done a number of times and its creation is a credit to the council. However, like everywhere else, there has been a deterioration in the maintenance of the facilities, particularly stiles. Many are in a dangerous state and more and more walks are becoming unsafe, particularly for elderly walkers. In recent times, we have had to abandon potentially good walks for safety reasons. However, despite the challenges, we all had an enjoyable adventure.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Friday Coffee Rota

Dec 2nd	Claire Tuffin	Feb 3rd	Linda Grange
Dec 9th	Liz Marven	Feb 10th	Margery Cook
Dec 16th	Sandra Ashcroft	Feb 17th	Elizabeth Hodgkiss
Dec 23rd	Margery Cook	Feb 24th	Sue Lawson
Dec 30th	Sue Lawson		
Jan 6th	Elizabeth Hodgkiss	Mar 3rd	Linda Grange
Jan 13th	Sandra Ashcroft	Mar 10th	Claire Tuffin
Jan 20th	Claire Tuffin	Mar 17th	Liz Marven
Jan 27th	Liz Marven	Mar 24th	Sandra Ashcroft
		Mar 31st	Margery Cook

Flower Rota

Dec 4th	Esther Wolstenholme	Feb 5th	June Roebuck
Dec 11th	Kath Keighley	Feb 12th	Sandra Ashcroft
Dec 18th	<i>Church Flowers</i>	Feb 19th	Susan Lawson
Dec 25th	<i>Church Flowers</i>	Feb 26th	Elizabeth Hodgkiss
Jan 1st	Carol Rose	Mar 5th	Linda Grange
Jan 8th	Judith Dixon		
Jan 15th	Jason McMahon		
Jan 22nd	Judith Dixon		
Jan 29th	Hazel Scott		

Thank you to all who have responded to the invitation to provide flowers for worship services. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers, please use the flower fund box on the table. Thank You

Christmas Cards

As usual, we will be placing 'strings in the foyer' for those who want to send a greeting card to the whole congregation. If by doing this you save on postage, then a donation to aid refugees resettle in this country would be appreciated.

Please note, we do not have the facilities to deliver individual Christmas Cards. If you leave cards in church and they are not collected by the intended recipients themselves, we will have to dispose of them in the New Year. Please check in case anyone has left one for you!

Christ Church Advent and Christmas Themes

This year, as usual, the people of Christ Church are inviting church and community organisations to take part in a number of Advent and Christmas activities. This year we are planning to decorate the church in such a way as to draw attention to the main Christian messages relating to Advent and Christmas, in particular judgement, hope, justice, respect, faithfulness, holiness, patience, power, love, joy, peace and humility. Each of our eight main windows and the area around them will be devoted to one of the first eight of these (i.e. judgement, hope, justice, respect, faithfulness, holiness, patience and power). There will be a special focus on two of the themes at our services on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas and there will be a central display for Christmas itself focusing on love, joy, peace and humility.

If you would like to contribute an individual picture, collage or model of some sort on any of these themes showing how they are relevant to today's world, please see Carol Spencer before Dec 13th please.

New Shoots?

As winter passes into spring, take time to pause on your way out of church and take a look in the front garden. You will, we hope, see some new shoots pushing through in the planters and pots, the result of a busy morning's work by a squad of enthusiastic and expert young gardeners from Barnacre School.

We were given 400 crocus corms as part of the spring flowers in Longridge scheme and the children braved a wet and chilly November morning to come and plant them with us. At that time of year, the weather is against us and there is little they can do in the school garden, so it was a welcome change to come and plant the crocuses. We worked in the church hall to stay out of the hail and rain and as always the children were impeccably behaved. They got themselves organised and worked well together to fill the containers that we could free up for them. They went happily back to school with great satisfaction at what we had achieved together.

A big thank you from Barnacre School to Claire, Sheila, Linda and John who helped the children, kept us supplied with drinks and biscuits and cleaned up the hall when we had finished.

Working in the garden on this little project made me realise that there is scope for more gardening sessions to keep up with the plants and shrubs there. If this is something you would like to join in with, please let John or me know.

Once the weather warms up, of course!

Howard Roscoe

Christ Church Worship and Events

(Sundays 10.45am & 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

10am–3pm Crafts Fair

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20TH

AM Rev Ray Borg Loved and Lost Communion
3.00pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23RD

CONNEXION ZONE with Barnacre Road School

We would appreciate help with refreshments and craft. If you can help please come to church for 9.30am.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27TH ADVENT SUNDAY

AM Dr Carol Spencer
PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2ND

Longridge and District Schools Advent Service at Christ Church

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4TH ADVENT 2

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)
PM Mr Henry Rose

MONDAY DECEMBER 5TH

Guild Christmas Meal --- see foyer noticeboard

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7TH

7.30pm Worship Leaders and Preachers meeting at Longton Methodist Church

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH ADVENT 3

AM Dr Carol Spencer
PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

MONDAY DECEMBER 12TH

Craft Club Christmas Meal

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14TH

CONNEXION ZONE at Barnacre Road School

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15TH

7.00pm Lancashire Sings Christmas at Towneley Arms

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH ADVENT 4

AM Mrs Carol Rose (Carol Service)

3pm Rev Ray Borg (Carol Communion) at Christ Church

MONDAY DECEMBER 19TH (no craft)

10am – noon Church open for coffee and viewing Advent displays

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 21ST

10am – noon Church open for coffee and viewing Advent displays

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23RD (no CTL morning prayers)

10am – noon Coffee Morning

12.30pm – 1pm Christmas Shoppers Carol Service

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00am Rev Ray Borg

FRIDAY DECEMBER 30TH

NO EARLY PRAYERS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31ST NEW YEAR'S EVE

3pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

SUNDAY JANUARY 1ST

11.00am Dr Carol Spencer

SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH

AM Prof Alan Gillies

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11TH

7.30pm Circuit Forum Strategy and Resources venue TBC

SUNDAY JANUARY 15TH

AM Rev Malcolm Hickox
followed by Church Council Meeting at 12.30pm

3pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

SUNDAY JANUARY 22ND

AM Rev Ray Borg (Covenant Service)

PM Mr Mike Prendergast

SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH

AM Rev Michele Jarmany

PM Circuit Service for Healing and Wholeness
(at Bamber Bridge Methodist)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5TH

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Dr Carol Spencer

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12TH

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

PM Rev Katharine Bland

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

AM Mr John North

3pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

AM Rev Sue Griffiths

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

Wednesday March 1st Circuit Ash Wednesday Service

Friday March 3rd Womens' World Day of Prayer (Please see notices)

Sunday March 5th 2pm Preston Venue TBC Faithful and Fruitful District Event

Monday March 6th 7.30pm Worship Leaders and Preachers Meeting TBC

Tuesday March 14th 7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Fulwood Methodist

Christmas & New Year Services

Dec 25th 'Love, Peace, Joy & Humility'

Christmas Day Worship

11.00am: Rev Ray Borg



Saturday Dec 31st

New Year's Eve Celebration

3.00pm: Rev Ray Borg At Plessington Court

Sunday Jan 1st

New Year's Day Worship

11.00am: Dr Carol Spencer

Services Festival Activities

SUNDAY

10.45am Morning Worship &
Junior Church

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 St Wilfrid's in 2016

10.00am Coffee Morning

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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