

The Messenger

Spring 2017



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



'MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON'

With Guest Performers

'Preston Flute Group'

(Director: Rob Rainford)

Sunday May 14th at 2.30pm

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

Proceeds supporting Christian Aid

More Information

Carol Rose 01772 783680

ca.rose@btinternet.com

Missive From The Manse

As I sat on my sofa to write something for this edition of our magazine, I noted that the dawn is coming earlier each morning. The days are getting progressively longer, and that makes me look forward to a time when I shall be ditching jumpers, coats and scarves in favour of a pair of shorts and a shirt. Coming from the Mediterranean as I do, I don't do winter very well, despite being here in the UK for nearly 50 years. I like the light of the sun.

Christians often refer to Jesus as the light of the world. That's a shorthand way of saying that through the way Jesus lived his life and the teachings he left with his disciples, he shows us how we can aspire to be fully human. During Advent, Christmas and Easter we hear about Jesus as the light that shines in the darkness. But in his sermon on the mount Jesus turned this visual metaphor around by saying “**You** are the salt of the earth ...” and “**You** are the light of the world ...” and the “**you**” really is you! The original words were spoken to his disciples in Palestine but it is clear that the saying was intended for all people in all time and space. So “**you**” really means you!

Jesus is looking to make a difference in the world through people like you and me right now. We may not be on the world stage and we may not be movers and shakers in the town where we live. But we can still make a difference with the people we meet every day in our locale, people who could do with a little salt to preserve them in their living and a bit of light to help them keep their footing.

Jesus deliberately uses the present tense in these sayings. You **are** salt and light. He doesn't say you were salt and light in the days when you were more able, more mobile, when your life was less complicated and you were 'on it'. He doesn't say you will be salt and light once you've become more rounded, more enlightened, more

mature. No. Jesus says you **are** salt & light, right now, as you are. God can use you now to be just what others need.

“How can this be?” you might be asking. Well here’s the clever bit! God works in partnership with (or through) you to deliver a word, a touch, a smile, a helpful act just where it’s needed in the way that it’s needed. All you have to do is sense it (or to use technical jargon ‘feel the Spirit’s leading’) and go with it. God does the rest. I have lost count of the number of times I have been salt and light simply by sending a text to someone who comes to mind. I just tell them I’m thinking about them or praying for them. I have stopped in the street and listened to people. I have visited when I hadn’t seen someone in a while. It really isn’t rocket science, and if God can do it through me, he can do it through you!

So, as you look out from under your duvet and notice the lighter mornings, remember that God needs you to be salt and light that day and every day.

Ray

Reverend Ray Borg | Methodist Minister | Ingol, Lea & Christ Church | 07734 229135

Because of illness, we may not be able to do many visits this quarter. If you have urgent pastoral needs, please contact the minister Rev. Ray Borg on 768112 or ray.borg@btinternet.com or Carol Spencer on 782829 (carols@christchurchlongridge.org.uk) or the church website - www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

A Prayer For Lent

During Lent, we remember Christ in the wilderness making choices concerning the rights and the wrongs of his actions; and we contemplate what God is calling us to do.

Loving and Mysterious God

We give thanks for your inclusive Love:

the love that does not form barriers,
the love that welcomes all with arms wide open,
the love that suffers as we abuse it
and try to change it.

We praise you for your love that never fails

Forgive us for all the barriers we have created to your love

Forgive us for trying to change or reinterpret your never-ending love
to suit our own agendas.

We give thanks for your creative love;

the love that brings life out of the ashes,
the love that brings hope out of despair,
the love that invites us to journey together
through indescribable joys and valleys of pain and death,
the love that brings peace and joy to the core of our beings.

We praise you for your love which is beyond our understanding,

Help us accept your Love and your forgiveness

In the name of Christ, Amen.

(Adapted from Michele Jarmany 'Prayers for the Beginning of Lent')

Betty Warren

Christ Church was packed on Tuesday January 31st for the service of thanksgiving for the life of Betty Warren. The empty places have been so noticeable over the last few months while Betty has been ill and Frank has stayed at home to care for her. Their cheerful and encouraging presence has been such an important part of everything we have done at Christ Church from the very beginning of the joint church. Betty was always so concerned about everyone, remembering minute details of each person's needs and concerns. Her work as an Elder; Council Member; Steward; Pastoral Visitor and Secretary of the Ladies' Guild (now Christ Church Guild) has been done with such dedication and reliability. If Betty took on a job, you never had to be concerned about whether it would be done in the right way and at the right time. Apart from her unfailing presence at Sunday morning services, she could always be found with her apron on in the kitchen whenever there was any catering to be done and more often than not, she would be up to her elbows in soap suds doing the unpopular job of washing up. Betty shunned the limelight, yet she knew about all the little jobs that are required to keep a church like ours functioning from week to week and was always supportive.

She also had time to work with the Samaritans; support Frank in his work with the Rotary and generally make a positive contribution to the community. She delighted in her own family, and in children in general.

One special memory was of Betty and Olive coming down to Barnacre Road on a wet day when the children were unable to come up to church for Connexion Zone. The children sat on the floor and Betty and Olive sat on chairs behind and Betty was so obviously delighted to be back in what had been her class room. The children

were fascinated to learn that she had taught at their school and it helped them to see that there was a special relationship between their school and our church.

We praise God that Betty is safe in His sure keeping but we will miss her so much. Our hearts go out to Mark and John and the rest of the family and especially to Frank. He has supported so many people in times of trouble and bereavement. Our prayers are with him and we trust he will find some measure of peace in knowing that so many people loved Betty and are supporting him at this time.

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. These services, which can be at 3pm, 4pm or 6.30pm, will be services for Healing and Wholeness or have some other special purpose.

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 two dates planned for the next quarter are April 30th, which will be a service of dedication for the Easter Offering at Penwortham Methodist Church and May 28th, which will be a service for Healing and Wholeness at Ashton Methodist Church. Both services will begin at 6.30pm.

Carol Rose

One Stitch, One Life

When I was a child, my mother was keen for my sisters and I to learn key life skills, such as cooking, knitting and sewing. I am forever grateful for the hours spent in teaching me. Later in life I learned to crochet as well, although until recently this was not something I did very much at all. However, in the last few months this has all changed. Through my sister, I became aware of a group called Sixty Million Trebles and have become involved in a mammoth project, to which several of our Christ Church craft group are now also contributing.



Below is an extract from the Sixty Million Trebles Facebook page, written by Ellen, one of the instigators of the project:

“The UN at the end of 2015 estimated that there are 60 Million refugees worldwide.

The aim of this group is HUGE. The objective is that we create a yarn blanket containing 60 million trebles, one treble for every life and then if possible carry that on and create a world record.

This blanket will then be a yarn bomb in London. After the event the squares will be taken apart and half of the blankets will go to UK charities and the rest to Hand in Hand For Syria.



The squares you make must be 36-inch square, any pattern any yarn weight but they must come to that size. Are you sitting comfortably? To beat the world record and to do 60 million trebles, we need 13,050 36-inch squares. For the 60 million alone we need 8,050”

(For those of you who are not familiar with crochet, a ‘treble’ is a type of crochet stitch. If you are a knitter, 3 knitting stitches will count as one treble.)

I have been following the progress of the group, and since early January when I became involved, I have seen the tally of trebles rise from 15 million to over 18½ million (Feb 10th). There are new members joining the group online all the time, with other groups like our craft group clearly getting involved.

It has been wonderful to watch the group's Facebook page and see the amazing variety of blankets that are being created – by members from as far afield as Australia, Brunei, USA and



Iraq as well as all over the UK. A recent online discussion has focussed on the fact that there is no such thing as an 'ugly' blanket (some of the group are novice crocheters and still perfecting the art) as each one is made with love and is intended to bring a little hope into the lives of people who have lost so much.



There are various ways you could get involved in this project – knitting or crocheting squares that can be joined together to create 36-inch square blankets, knitting or crocheting complete blankets or donating yarn for others to use. Some of the most beautiful blankets are the ones that have been made with oddments of yarn.

For me, being a part of this project is a way I can try to make a little difference in an issue that can sometimes seem very remote from our daily lives , by helping to raise awareness of the size of the problem and by making items to share with those less fortunate than me.

If you would like to know more, please speak to me or take a look at the group's website: sixtymilliontrebles.weebly.com or Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/sixtymilliontrebles

Claire Tuffin

Shoebox News

We have had an email from the Samaritan's Purse organisation to say that our Shoeboxes this year went to Latvia. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. We had a few soft toys which we were unable to use in the boxes. Some of the hand-made ones were sold at the Craft Fair and the proceeds were contributed to the cost of sending the shoe boxes. The others were taken to Sierra Leone and are much appreciated by the children who received them although one little girl tried to 'bath' hers and her mother had to do an emergency rescue!!

Lent

LENT begins this year on March 1st. There will be a Circuit Ash Wednesday Service at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church. The Womens' World Day of Prayer service will be at 11.00am on Friday March 3rd followed by the first Lent lunch in our church hall. We will also be responsible for the lunch on March 24th. We will need help on these dates so please watch the notices for further information.

As usual we hope to have some midweek meetings during Lent. Churches Together have arranged a series of 3 sessions at the Tabor Retreat Centre. (See page opposite for details and make your own booking if you wish to go). We do not wish to overload the time so we are arranging studies during the other weeks in Lent. These will be based on the follow-up material to Faithful and Fruitful and will take place in the weeks beginning March 8th; March 13th and April 10th probably on Wednesday or Thursday. Again, please watch notices for final details.

There will also be a follow-up to Faithful and Fruitful at a Circuit Event on the afternoon of Sunday March 5th. Full details are on the noticeboard in the foyer and transport can be arranged.

Journey into Lent 2017

Churches Together in Longridge & District have organised a short Lenten series to be held at the Tabor Carmelite Retreat Centre in Fulwood on Tuesdays 21st and 28th March and 4th April. 7.00pm - 9.00pm entitled Into the Wilderness, The Farewell Discourses and Journey to Gethsemane. There are 20 places available at each session and the cost is £7 per session. To book contact Bernard Seed on 01772 785500.

Use of Hall

Since 2toSchool and the dance school moved out of the church hall, we have been looking for new tenants, so we were delighted to hear from our Lettings Secretary, Judith Dixon, that we are beginning to get several bookings for the hall. Judith has put a calendar of regular bookings on the noticeboard in the foyer. As well as these, we are having a steady stream of 'one-off' bookings such as the recent painting class and children's parties. Please try to make sure that people who are using the hall are not disturbed. If it is essential to go into the hall when a group is using it, please approach from the church side; knock and wait to be invited in. Once again, please avoid going into the hall or kitchen when it is in use if possible.

Walk for January - Rivington

For the first walk of the year, we decided to return to the popular region of Rivington, an area very accessible thanks to a comprehensive network of good, all weather paths and many viewpoints.

We met at the Rivington Barn car park and worked our way up the pike on good, solid pathways until we met the main track that climbs up from Horwich. Our route now took us north, below the summit of the pike and the tower, with the mighty Winter Hill TV mast in the background, until we arrived at the remains of the Rivington Bungalow, one of the homes of Lord Leverhulme. We spent a little time here, exploring the extensive gardens, undergoing steady restoration. William Lever was Bolton born and is probably best known for creating Port Sunlight, his famous soap factory and industrial village and as a popular benefactor in the Bolton area. His company, Lever Brothers has grown into one of the largest industrial groups in the world, Unilever.

Now, it was time to move on, past the Pigeon Tower, with splendid views to the north and west and descend to the car park at the bottom and on to the second part of this varied walk, towards and around Yarrow Reservoir and across the dam that divides Anglezarke and Upper Rivington Reservoirs followed by a long, pleasant stroll down the west side of the latter, an area very popular with dog walkers as there appeared to be more dogs than owners! Now it was time to leave the path and follow the road over the dam to a little cafe for a well-earned “Tiffin”. The last part of the walk was through woodland and back to the hall.

We were very grateful to have the availability of the “Lancashire Lake District” at this time of year as our Ribble Valley is knee deep in mud. It was good to see a number of restoration projects in progress, financed by the cash-strapped local authorities. Such community assets need to be protected. Again, many thanks to our old pal Bill of St Andrew & St George URC Church, Bolton, for planning and leading this successful and enjoyable walk.

Linda & Eddie Grange

The Return of The ‘Pumwees’

On Sunday 29th January I attended Hastings Methodist Church for their Fiftieth Anniversary Synod Service, in the company of two thousand plus worshippers, including a joint choir of some 60 or 70 singers – all fully robed, a music group of 12 musicians on keyboard, drums, trumpet, tubas, saxophones and other percussion instruments. We sang and praised God, prayed, listened to sermons and speeches in a great celebration lasting four and a half hours. It was a privilege to be part of this occasion to mark the 50 years of the Western Synod even though the temperature was in the mid 30 degrees. Oh, by the way Hastings is a suburb of Freetown, Sierra Leone and I was there leading a Mission Team of nine people from the Lancashire District of the Methodist Church. Having just returned, there are many more stories I could relate and over the next few weeks and months there will be opportunities to hear more. For now, as I catch up on some sleep, all I can do is thank you for your support both in prayer and financially. God bless.

John Spencer



***Creative
Worship
Preparation
Fridays at 7pm***

(Please check weekly notices for any changes)

Circuit Strategy and Resources Consultation

In the light of the fact that we are facing an ever-decreasing number of ordained ministers to serve the churches in the next few years, the Preston Ribble Circuit set up the above consultation last Autumn to look at our local situation and see if we could discern the way that God is leading us. A group of stewards met with two members of the Consultation team so they could find out more about our church, its activities and priorities. On January 11th there was an open meeting when the team reported back on where they had got to and group discussions took place on the following aspects of church life:-

Pastoral Care; Leadership; Mission; Worshipping Communities and Spirituality/ Discipleship.

Our church was represented by seven people – Carol and Henry Rose; Carol and John Spencer; Jason McMahon; Howard Roscoe and Claire Tuffin - which was a good proportion compared with other churches in the Circuit. Brief notes are now available from each of the discussion groups and copies can be made available by asking one of the people who attended. The emphasis is still on discussion and no decisions have been made. The United Reformed Church are facing even more severe difficulties with regard to numbers of ministers and we will have to accommodate to both denominations so please pray about the discussions and the future of our church and the denominations we belong to.

Christ Church Worship and Events

(Sundays 10.45am & 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)

Wednesday March 1st

ASH WEDNESDAY

7.30pm Service at Bamber Bridge

Friday March 3rd

11.00am Women's World Day of Prayer focus on the Philippines

12noon 1st Lenten Lunch at Christ Church

Sunday March 5th

LENT 1

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

2.30pm – 6.15pm Faithful and Fruitful event at Ashton

Friday March 10th

12noon 2nd Lenten Lunch at St Wilfrid's

Sunday March 12th

LENT 2

AM Mr Martin Beck

PM Mr Les Kelsall

Tuesday March 14th

Circuit Meeting

Friday March 17th

12noon 3rd Lenten Lunch at Christ Church (provided by C of E)

Sunday March 19th

LENT 3

AM Mr Harry Duckett

3pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

Friday March 24th

12noon 4th Lenten Lunch at Christ Church

Sunday March 26th

MOTHERING SUNDAY

AM Rev Ray Borg

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

Friday March 31st

12noon 5th Lenten Lunch at Christ Church (provided by C of E)

Sunday April 2nd

PASSION SUNDAY

AM Rev Mark Slaney
PM Mr Steven Gregory

Friday April 7th

12noon 6th Lenten Lunch at St Wilfrid's

Sunday April 9th

PALM SUNDAY

AM Mrs Kate Bosman
PM Rev John Fisher

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday April 13th

7.30pm Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Good Friday April 14th

10.45am Worship at the Cross Rev Nigel Lemon
Followed by CTLD Prayers at Towneley Gardens

Sunday April 16th

EASTER SUNDAY

6.00am Circuit Easter Sunrise Service on Beacon Fell
AM Rev Ron Lewis (Holy Communion)
3pm Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion at Plessington Court)

Sunday April 23rd

AM Mr John North
PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

Sunday April 30th

AM Rev Andrew Webb
2.30pm Concert by Longridge Junior Band
PM Circuit Service for Easter Offering at Penwortham

Sunday May 7th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)
PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Sunday May 14th

AM Mr Henry Rose

2.30pm 'Music in the Afternoon' with Preston Flute Group

Thursday May 18th

9am–1pm Longridge Market Coffee Day

Friday May 19th

7pm Quiz Night at Christ Church

Sunday May 21st

AM Dr Carol Spencer

3pm Mrs Carol Rose with MusicMakers (at Plessington Court)

Thursday May 25th

ASCENSION DAY

7.30pm Circuit Service at Ashton Methodist

Sunday May 28th

AM Mr David Evans

PM Circuit Service for Healing and Wholeness at Ashton

CTLD WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Monday May 29th – Friday June 2nd

Please see notices for details

Sunday June 4th

PENTECOST

AM Preacher TBC

PM Pentecost Praise 'n' Prayer

CHRIST CHURCH 28th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday June 11th

AM Rev Peter Clark

PM Anniversary Praise 'n' Prayer

Sunday June 18th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

3pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

June has been designated 'Bible Month' by all the main British churches and there will be a special focus on the Letter of James during the month.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING will take place on either May 7th or June 18th after the morning service. Please could Mel have written reports from ALL areas of church life and organisations at least two weeks before so that they can be distributed and read before the meeting to save time for discussion. Please watch notices for final date. If May 7th then reports in by April 23rd or for June 18th by June 4th. Thank you.

Ministry of Flowers 2017

March 5	Linda Grange	April 23	Margaret Mohyla
March 12	Hazel Scott	April 30	Church Flowers
March 19	<i>Church Flowers</i>	May 7	Claire Tuffin
March 26	<i>Church Flowers</i>	May 14	Carol Rose
April 2	Susan Lawson	May 21	Susan Lawson
April 9	Jason McMahon	May 28	<i>Church Flowers</i>
April 16	Val Fletcher		

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

Thank You

CHRIST CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT

Friday May 19th

7.30pm

Teams of 4

Spectators
welcome!

To book your team: please contact
John Spencer 01772 782829

All proceeds to Christian Aid



Friday Coffee Rota March – June 2017

March 3	Linda Grange
March 10	Claire Tuffin
March 17	Liz Marven
March 24	Sandra Ashcroft
March 31	Margery Cook
April 7	Linda Grange
April 14	<i>No Coffee</i>
April 21	Claire Tuffin
April 28	Margery Cook
May 5	Liz Marven
May 12	Sandra Ashcroft
May 19	Sue Lawson
May 26	Linda Grange
June 2	Sue Lawson
June 9	Claire Tuffin
June 16	Sandra Ashcroft
June 23	Liz Marven
June 30	Linda Grange

LONGRIDGE MARKET



'COFFEE DAY'

Thursday May 18th

9.00am – 1.00pm

Lunches ~ Various Stalls

Hosted by Christ Church
in support of Christian Aid Week.
If you are able to help, please see
John or Carol Spencer.

Services at St Wilfrid's Church A

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 2017

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

EDITOR: Robin Spencer
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