

The Messenger

Summer 2017



**Christ Church, Longridge “Living for Christ
at the heart of the community”**

www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

Music in the Afternoon for Christian Aid

The 13th edition of the 'Music in the Afternoon' series held at Christ Church on May 14th saw the first visit to Longridge of Preston Flute Group. They are an enthusiastic ensemble of around 20 members, who meet fortnightly on Fridays in Woodplumpton and whose aim, inspired by the late local music teacher Mike Walder, is to promote all aspects of flute playing. Their repertoire demonstrated the wide range of the instruments in the flute family, from the highest, the

piccolo, to that of the lowest, the giant contrabass flute.



Skilful ensemble playing was evident from the start with the opening three movements of 'Animal Crackers'. Musical Director, Rob Rainford then

conducted the group in

an engaging arrangement of 'Eleanor Rigby'. Rob went on to demonstrate his expertise at arranging by introducing all the sounds of the various flutes in an amusing performance of 'When the Saints meet the Flutes'.

The second half opened with Liz Sharma's 'Water Birds' in three movements, which provided some exquisite sounds, as did the popular Mascagni Interlude which followed.

A very special moment was shared when Hilary Ashton played solo flute in a smaller ensemble performing a beautiful rendition of her late father, Ernest Tomlinson's piece, Chadkirk Idyll.

The enjoyable afternoon concluded with 'Appalachian Suite' with four arrangements of American traditional melodies by Kelly Via.

During their well-earned break, Henry Rose and Jason McMahon led a reflection on the work of Christian Aid on the 60th Anniversary of Christian Aid Week. Also, Claire Tuffin highlighted her involvement with '60 Million Trebles', an international blanket making project for refugees.

The concert raised £430 along with an awareness of the ongoing and much needed work amongst people in need both here and overseas.

Carol Rose

Ministry of Flowers - Summer 2017

June 4	Claire Tuffin	July 23	Susan Lawson
June 11	Church flowers	July 30	Val Fletcher
June 18	Val Fletcher	Aug 6	Beryl Murrant
June 25	Mel Watson	Aug 13	<i>Church Flowers</i>
July 2	Margaret Mohyla	Aug 20	Margaret Mohyla
July 9	Sandra Ashcroft	Aug 27	<i>Church Flowers</i>
July 16	Margery Cook	Sep 3	<i>Church Flowers</i>

'Thank you' to all who kindly provide and distribute flowers.

Donations towards the cost on '*Church Flowers*' weeks are most welcome. Please use the flower fund tin on the table.

If you would like to be part of this ministry, either providing or distributing flowers, please see Claire Tuffin.

Thank You

Norman Watson

On behalf of all my family, I would like to thank the Church Family, for all the help and support which was given to us when Norman died.

The many cards, visits, flowers, phone calls and donations, helped us to physically cope at such a devastating time.

Nothing can really ease the terrible feeling of loss, and I know that will never go away, but to be aware that others are thinking and praying for you, does bring a great deal of comfort, and for that I am more than grateful.

I would like to say a special thank you to Rev Ray Borg and Carol Rose, who helped the family to organise the funeral which Norman so deserved, to Henry Rose who with practical jobs made life a lot easier for Norman, and to Margaret Mohyla, who I knew was always available if I needed her.

I am also grateful for the support that was given to me whilst I cared for Norman during the final months of his life, and do believe that the power, of not only my own prayers, but those of friends and neighbours, gave me the strength to persevere in some very difficult situations.

We all live in God's time, and however hard it is in our earthly lives, to accept the death of a loved one, this is when our Faith is our Refuge.

One of my sustaining passages in the Bible is in Paul's letter to the Hebrews - "to have Faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see".

Thank you once again for everything.

Mel

Walk for February - The Ribble Estuary

During the winter, we usually undertake a promenade walk and this month's option was a varied and interesting ramble along the bank of the River Ribble, which combined a bit of transport history with modern, cutting edge technology.

Starting from the boating lake at Fairhaven, we headed south along a path that led to Lytham Green and enjoyed a pleasant stroll in the winter sun, passing the sailing club and the famous windmill. Looking out to sea, we noticed that the tide was well out with the Ribble channel shimmering in the distance and beyond, the prominent water tower at Southport.

At the end of the green, we stopped for an early, leisurely lunch at a shelter with a good sea view before starting on the next leg of the walk.

We now left the green and walked along the road for a short distance, passing what some will remember in the past as Cookson's bakery and down to Dock Road and the start of the Ribble embankment. This elevated loop gave excellent views over the marshes and ended up at Lytham Creek with many sea-going yachts laid up for the winter. Around the end of the 19th century, this was the site of a firm of boat builders, who specialized in river craft. Many of the boats sailing the rivers of central Africa and the Amazon were built here and transported in sections to their destination. Perhaps their most famous product was the legendary, "African Queen" still alive and well in Florida.

At this point, we arrived back at the road and immediately turned in to the opposite bank and continued along the next section of the banking. The twitchers amongst us got quite excited at the number of species of birds on view that included, I believe, Moorhen,

Oystercatcher and Wigeon. This second loop again ended at the road and re-entered for a third loop, also providing great landscapes, (or seascapes!) until we arrived at BAe's Warton airfield. A decision was made not to continue the walk around the perimeter of the site to Freckleton because of the awful muddy conditions, but to end the walk at Warton. But would we get a flying display? Yes! Just as we were about to leave the coastal path, we heard the engines starting, followed by an impressive short take-off and vertical climb by two Eurofighter Typhoon fighters.

For the final part of the walk, we followed a quiet lane back to the main road and a convenient 'bus stop from where the reliable 68 took us back to Lytham.

This fairly simple but pleasant walk provided lots of interest and although it was shortened towards the end, we covered a surprising seven miles in total. Linda & Eddie Grange

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Linda Grange, who has broken her ankle. This will have an impact on the Rambling Group for a month or two.

Friday Coffee Rota June - September 2017

June 2	Sue Lawson	July 21	Sandra Ashcroft
June 9	Claire Tuffin	July 28	Claire Tuffin
June 16	Sandra Ashcroft	Aug 4	Liz Marven
June 23	Liz Marven	Aug 11	Linda Grange
June 30	Claire Tuffin	Aug 18	Margery Cook
July 7	Margery Cook	Aug 25	Sue Lawson
July 14	Sue Lawson	Sept 1	Sandra Ashcroft

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, in 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.

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 3 dates planned for the next quarter are:

July 16th at 5pm, which will be a Farewell Service for Malcolm and Christine Hickox at Fulwood Methodist Church.

July 30th at 6.30pm, which will be a service of Healing and Wholeness at Bamber Bridge.

Friday September 1st, which will be a Welcome Service for Rev Jane Wild at Fulwood Methodist Church.

Carol Rose



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

(Please check weekly notices for any changes)

60 Million Trebles... update

Following the article in the Spring edition of the Messenger regarding the 60 Million Trebles project to crochet/knit blankets for refugees, there has been a slight change of direction for the project. The original plan was to make a huge blanket by joining together 8000+ blankets to create a public display to represent the number of refugees worldwide, and if possible to make the blanket large enough to achieve a world record. However, the scale of the project is such that the hoped-for deadline of August 2017 for the 'yarn-bomb' is looking increasingly unlikely to be achieved. It therefore seemed wrong to the administrators of the group and to many of the contributing members, that we should be keeping blankets in storage until the 60 million trebles had been achieved (likely to be December at current rates of progress) and to be aiming for a world record, when the primary aim of the project is to provide much needed warmth and comfort to refugees and displaced people.

The organisers have therefore decided that they will no longer be arranging to join all the blankets, and instead will begin to dispatch them in the summer so that they are where they are needed in time for the winter. We are still working towards completing the 60 million trebles and one of the group members is compiling pictures of all the blankets, which will hopefully be used for some sort of public awareness raising event when the goal is achieved.

An added bonus of the change to plans is that the restrictions on size (36" x36") have been lifted and any size or shape of blanket is now welcome, from tiny blankets for premature babies (apparently, there is a 46% rate of premature births in refugee camps) to large adult sized blankets.

I would like to thank those members of our Christ Church community who have made blankets, knitted squares or donated yarn for the project. I am currently storing blankets containing almost half a million trebles, ready for dispatch, with many more in the pipeline.

Claire Tuffin

Walk for March - Hest Bank to Carnforth

As we are still struggling with our current waterlogged landscape, this walk was chosen as a possible dry alternative. Unfortunately, due to a receding tide, things didn't quite work out as planned!

Starting from the level crossing at Hest Bank, we headed north in surprisingly bright conditions. We were following the Lancashire Coastal Way on good, easy paths with splendid views to the North and the Bay to our left. The route entered farmland and climbed steeply then descended to the farm itself and a tricky exit back on the pathway. Eventually, the path came to an abrupt end and then it was a case of picking our way around endless narrow channels for about a mile or so, which seemed to take forever.

At the end of this ordeal, things quickly improved and the River Keer channel came into view which led us back to dry land and our lunch stop at the old metal seat which had just about rusted away. During our rest, a young couple passed us. They were doing the same walk in the opposite direction and had just extended their walk to include Warton Cragg. Pretty fit!

The next part of our walk took us through Carnforth, with the obligatory brief encounter at the station and on through the town to the Lancaster Canal. This is a particularly pleasant section of the waterway, as it is elevated and open to the west, giving excellent views across Morecambe Bay. At one of the bridges, a man was coming the other way on horseback. Surely, he must dismount, but no, he somehow managed to stay on without falling into the canal. However, at the next bridge, a young man was climbing out of the water, watched by his wife and young daughter. He informed us that he had been describing the dangers of canal walking to his little girl and fell in! Eventually, we arrived at bridge 118, where we left the

canal and finished the walk down to the level crossing and the car park.

This turned out to be quite a long walk, although with little climbing, but very scenic and with a good contrast between coastal and inland canal aspects. And the weather couldn't have been bettered.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Christian Aid Week

As has become our practice over recent years, we celebrated Christian Aid week with several special events instead of doing door-to-door collections. Henry and Jason began the week for us, by leading our morning service on May 14th with a special focus on the history and work of Christian Aid. In the afternoon, we had the Music in the Afternoon concert which Carol has written about elsewhere in the magazine. On Thursday the 18th, we organised the Café at the market with support from some of the other churches, which raised a further £370; on Friday evening, Jane and Clive Turner led a light-hearted but occasionally quite challenging quiz which raised a further £170 and other donations and the proceeds of Friday Coffee added a further £50 which meant that we were able to send £1020 to Christian Aid. As well as raising money, we hope our window display and activities have helped to raise awareness of the plight of so many people in the world today. Christian Aid was born out of the Refugee Crisis at the end of World War Two. The work to help the 65 million or more refugees in our world today continues in many different ways, some of which are highlighted in Claire Tuffin's article.

Our thanks go to everyone who helped in any way to run our events and to everyone who contributed.

Rev Peter Clark

Our preacher for Anniversary Sunday is the Rev Peter Clark who will be accompanied by his wife Janet. Until a few years ago Peter and Janet were working as Mission Partners of the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone. Since their return to Great Britain they have been living near York and Peter has found a new mission as Chaplain to the racing community connected with York Race Course and the numerous trainers in the North Yorkshire area. We are hoping he will talk about this unusual aspect of God's work during or after our lunch together --- so please put June 11th in your diaries and join us for what promises to be an interesting and enjoyable meal.

What happened next?

What's your memory like? Can you remember what we've been doing during the three months since the last Messenger came out? When I tried, I found I couldn't so I checked back in my diary and here's what I found. On March 1st about ten of us went to Bamber Bridge to join in the Circuit Service for Ash Wednesday, an opportunity to focus our minds on the coming season of Lent. Just two days later we held the Women's World Day of Prayer Service focussing on the Philippines at Christ Church with a very good turn out from all our partner churches in Churches Together in Longridge and District (CTLD) and a contribution from students at St. Cecilia's School. This was followed immediately by the first of this year's Lent lunches in our church hall. On March 5th, quite a number of us went to Ashton to follow up on 'Faithful and Fruitful' where we spent time in groups considering topics such as Discipleship; Exploring Worship; and Ministry among older people. We continued to study some of these topics at two evening studies in our own church. Lent lunches, Connexion Zone and all our other regular activities continued and we celebrated Easter. On May 7th, we held our Annual Church Meeting. The reports from all the organisations were produced in a booklet to save time on the day. If you haven't had a copy and would like one, please contact Carol or John Spencer or look on the church website.

Two things from the meeting which might be of interest are that we would return to having evening meetings for Church Council instead of after morning services except in February when dark nights and bad weather might inhibit attendance. We also decided to try to make Monday evenings 'Christ Church evenings'. We already have the Guild on Monday evenings so we would look to have other Christ Church activities on other Mondays -- as they say, 'watch this space'.

Thanks go to all those whose efforts keep our church living and working here in Longridge.

Norman Watson

Our hearts go out to Mel Watson on the sad loss of Norman on April 3rd after a long period of illness. Norman was a long-standing member of the Methodist Church and therefore a member of Christ Church from its inception. He was a much-loved and respected father and grandfather and a strong and loyal support to Mel in all her work at Christ Church. We continue to support Mel, David and Linda and all the family as they adjust to life without him. He was a gentle, quiet man who will be greatly missed, by family, friends and neighbours.

Harry Hobbs

We are also sad to report the death of Harry Hobbs, a Methodist Local Preacher, who in younger days often preached in Longridge. He lived in Walton-le-Dale until he became too frail when he came to live in Alston View for the last few months of his life. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

Christ Church Worship and Events

(Sundays 10.45am & 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)

Sunday June 4th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion and Membership)
PM Mrs Carol Rose (Pentecost Praise 'n' Prayer)

Monday June 5th

7.30pm CTLD Pentecost Service at Alston Lane

Thursday June 8th

General Election – don't forget to vote

Saturday June 10th Longridge Field Day

If you can help with the CTLD Tent on the field, please see John Spencer

Sunday June 11th Christ Church 28th Anniversary Celebrations

AM Guest Preacher: Rev Peter Clark

Followed by Church Family Lunch and closing devotions led by Rev Peter Clark

Sunday June 18th

AM Dr Carol Spencer

3pm Rev Ray Borg (Plessington Court)

Tuesday June 20th

Circuit Meeting, Lea

Wednesday June 21st

7.30pm Meeting to discuss pastoral care open to all members

Sunday June 25th

AM Mr Henry Rose

PM Please see notices

Sunday July 2nd

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion & Baptism)

PM Mrs C Rose (Praise 'n' Prayer)

Wednesday July 5th

Connexion Zone with Barnacre Road in church (helpers from 9.30am please)

Saturday July 8th

Longridge show (again help with tent would be appreciated)

Sunday July 9th

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

PM Dr Carol Spencer

Monday July 10th

Craft Club Trip on the Lancaster Canal

Sunday July 16th

AM Mr Henry Rose

3pm Rev Ray Borg (at Plessington Court)

5pm Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Malcom and Mrs Christine Hickox at Fulwood Methodist Church

Thursday July 20th

CTLD will be running the Market Café

(please let Carol Spencer know if you can help)

Sunday July 23rd

AM Mrs Carol Poole

PM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss (Holy Communion)

Sunday July 30th

AM Mr Ernest Wrennall

4pm Circuit Service for Healing and Wholeness at Bamber Bridge

Sunday August 6th

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Mr Mike Prendergast

Sunday August 13th

AM Rev Nigel Lemon

PM Mrs Carol Rose (Praise 'n' Prayer)

Sunday August 20th

AM Mrs Wendy Yates

3pm Rev Ray Borg (Plessington Court)

Sunday August 27th

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss

PM Mr Ernest Wrennall

Friday September 1st

7.30pm Circuit Service of Welcome for Rev Jane Wild
At Fulwood Methodist Church

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

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