

# The Messenger

Winter 2017



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

[www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk](http://www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk)

# Rev Ray Writes

In August I wrote a challenging piece in the Longridge News about Jesus' command for us to love one another as Jesus loved his disciples and the world. Today I wrote a follow-on article in which I gave a practical example of how we can show that love to others. This is an expanded version for those who receive our quarterly magazine.

For months I have been part of a group planning an annual radio programme called "Lancashire Sings Christmas" which goes on air on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm for an hour on BBC Radio Lancashire. During that programme tens of thousands of people in Lancashire will gather round their radios in various venues around the county to sing Christmas carols together. Members of Churches Together in Longridge & District will be meeting once again at the Towneley Arms to sing the chosen carols.

Last year we asked the people of Lancashire to consider stretching out hands of neighbourliness to those who are on their own, those who are isolated for whatever reason. This year we are asking the people of Lancashire to do it again, but with more intent and more effort - a lot more!

It is our concern that social isolation is steadily increasing with people in our cities, towns and villages not seeing anyone from one day to the next. The reasons are varied and complex, but the bottom line is the same - people are cut off from others, are losing their confidence and self-worth because they feel unloved and unwanted.

In days gone by, our church had a lot more members, with more capability and a younger average age. Today we are a much smaller congregation with an average age towards the more senior end of the spectrum. Through our Pastoral Team we do our level best to

keep in touch with people and keep an eye out for those who are isolated, but the need is much bigger than our current resources.

So, I'm making a personal appeal and challenging you to show your neighbourly love. I am challenging you to have a word with your immediate family, friends and neighbours to identify someone living near you who is isolated. I am challenging you to go and ask them if they would like to be brought to your home on the 14<sup>th</sup> December to sit for an hour and sing Christmas carols round the radio with you and your family. If they're not mobile, you could offer to take a couple of people round to theirs and do the same thing. It's not big and it's not complicated. All it needs is a bit of detective work and a sensible approach.

In your zeal to show love to your neighbours please remember to give them the choice to accept or reject the offer (and don't take it personally if they say, 'no thank you' - just go and find someone else who is isolated). Please safeguard everyone by not doing this on your own. Have at least one other person with you at all times. You don't need to do a lot of baking or spend money on refreshments. Most people would be grateful for a cuppa, your attention and conversation.

It's all do-able and it's personal. God shows his love primarily through people like you. The question is, do you have enough love for your neighbour to be bothered? I'm praying that God will galvanise YOU into action this Christmas. Amen.

Ray

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

# 60 Million Trebles and More!!!

At the beginning of November, Christ Church was privileged to play host to this beautiful blanket made by members of the 60 Million Trebles project, for which some of the Christ Church craft group ladies have been making blankets over the past few months.

For those who may not know, this is a basic overview of the 60 Million Trebles project: In 2015 the UN estimated that there were 60 million (now 65 million) homeless or displaced people and refugees in the world. A lady from Cumbria called Ellen couldn't imagine in her head all those numbers so as a crafter, she came up with the idea of 60 Million Trebles, as in a crochet stitch, with each stitch representing one life. The project, between July 2016 and September 2017, amassed blankets containing **67,707,740** trebles! The blankets came from all over the world – from as far afield as Iraq and the USA as well as across the UK and over 8,000 blankets have been distributed both throughout the UK to national and local homeless groups and Help for Heroes and further afield with Hand in Hand for Syria.

The flags blanket, which was originally planned as a centrepiece for a world record breaking blanket represents just 250,000 refugees and displaced people. Although the world record attempt was abandoned in order that the



individual blankets could be keeping people warm this winter, the group is using this blanket, which contains the flags of every country all in crochet stitches, to highlight the ongoing worldwide problem and also to celebrate the work that has been done, by displaying it in local communities. It has already been on display in Portsmouth and

the Isle of Wight and after its sojourn in Lancashire is going on to Newport in Wales. 60 Million Trebles was a great project to be part of, using a hobby to make a difference to others.

Following the 60-Million Trebles project two further spin-off groups have formed – one of which is collecting items to make boxes for children in Syria (Boxes of Love) and another which has decided to focus on different charities for shorter amounts of time (Hookers and Clickers); from September to January the focus for this second group has been making items for Leeds Baby Bank. If anyone would like more information about either of these projects I would be glad to share them with you.

Claire Tuffin

## **Guild Meetings**

The guild has had 3 successful meetings this autumn.

The first on September 4<sup>th</sup> was a coffee evening and bring & buy stall with a treasure hunt and a nursery rhyme quiz.

The second on October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a very interesting talk by Jacqui Hulse entitled 'My work as a Probation Officer' where she outlined what her work involved at Kirkham Open prison.

The third on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Carol Rose 'Sing a New Song' where Carol sang her own versions of psalms & hymns, telling us a bit about her journey of faith along the way.

The next event will be the Christmas Meal on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Corporation Arms.

We resume again on February 5<sup>th</sup> when Jim Atkinson will tell us about 'The Coast to Coast walk' (St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay).

# What's happening 'Round the Table'?

This is to tell you a bit about 'Round the Table', our joint venture with Inglewhite Church. This new ministry springs from initial contacts between our minister Ray and pastor John at Inglewhite. The scheme is inspired by the vision of Wendy Foot and others to meet the continuing needs of young families in Longridge. It builds on contacts arising from the Sure Start family action programme that the government has now discontinued and on outreach in Longridge by members of Inglewhite Church.

At its core the scheme aims to provide young families the chance to meet together after school to cook and to share a simple meal together. Around this we are running games and craft activities for the children and providing a short message for the teenagers and parents. In this way the scheme acts as a contact point and is providing opportunities for deeper fellowship, informal guidance and support.

We meet on Thursday afternoons and have run five sessions so far, starting last July and continuing through the summer and into autumn. From an initial start with 3 families numbers have increased to about 40. This without any advertising or publicity apart from the enthusiastic support and word of mouth invitations from those who come along.

You may have noticed an upsurge in numbers at our Friday coffee mornings when we meet with our friends from Inglewhite to pray together and to plan for the scheme. Up until now the 'Round the Table' sessions have been meeting once a month, but from January 2018 we plan to meet every two weeks. As a spinoff from 'Round the Table' friends from Inglewhite are starting a 'One Life' course to explore our faith in Jesus, to which we are all invited. The course will run in Longridge on Friday mornings and starting on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Whilst we can't be sure exactly where this is all leading I hope you will agree that all this amounts to a significant and dynamic way in

which we can fulfil our mission statement ‘to live for Christ at the heart of the community’.

Of course, this is not without some pressures and concerns. One of these is the need for us to learn how to work in God’s way, and to leave room for the Spirit to lead us without our being too controlling or prescriptive. On the other hand, as numbers grow we can see the need to provide a degree of format and structure so that the sessions continue to be constructive and enjoyable. Never have those passages in Acts about the emergence of the early Church seemed so relevant!

There are some practical issues to address as well, the most pressing of which is the need to substantially upgrade the kitchen in the hall so that we can cater for larger numbers than is presently possible.

We would all like to give the ‘Round the Table’ initiative more input, but wear and tear on our (ageing) group of workers is also a concern.

We want to share with you all the joy and optimism that this scheme is bringing into our Church and we welcome your support in prayer and in meeting the practical needs we face. If you would like to learn more about ‘Round the Table’ please talk to Claire Tuffin, Anne Norcross, Mungo and Leanne Gilchrist or me.

Howard Roscoe

### **When You Are Lonely**

WHEN YOU ARE LONELY, I WISH YOU LOVE,  
WHEN YOU ARE DOWN, I WISH YOU JOY,  
WHEN THINGS ARE COMPLICATED, I WISH YOU SIMPLE BEAUTY,  
WHEN THINGS LOOK EMPTY, I WISH YOU HOPE!

# Walk for October - The Knott End Circuit

After our six-month break, we decided to start with this easy, fairly flat walk that combines pleasant countryside and extensive sea views.

Our meeting point was the car park, but one of our party decided to navigate by means of modern technology, something called, "Sat-Nav". This device decided that the Knott End car park was in Fleetwood! Not far out, but for the inconvenience of the River Wyre.

The walk started by following the Wyre for a little while before turning inland and crossing the local golf club fairways, where we skilfully dodged the flying golf balls, until we picked up a good track, heading east, passing the imposing Hackensall Hall and on to a junction of paths, where we turned right and followed the old rail bed of the "Pilling Pig", which ran from Garstang to Knott End. After a mile, we climbed a steep flight of steps up to the road that took us through Preesall and out in a northerly direction before turning into a quiet lane. Here we saw a Wendy house in the form of a windmill that could be rotated into the wind, very up-market, followed by a small field that contained a pair of inquisitive Alpacas, sheep with the heads of bears and a goat that looked like a deer, very odd.

We now left the lane and crossed a couple of fields, linked by a footbridge and arrived at our lunch stop at one of a number of fishing ponds with a large flock of Pink Footed Geese circling above us. Afterwards, we continued on good, easy tracks with splendid views across to the hills to the east, at one point stopping to feed the horses with the apples that we had collected, with a number of Golden Finches perched on the fence.

The final part of the walk was along the sea wall for quite a distance, the elevated walkway giving us fabulous views in all directions, helped by the splendid weather that we enjoyed for the whole day. The sea



was very flat and virtually the whole of Morecambe Bay was in view. The twitchers had another moment here looking at a pair of Egrets having a paddle.

After such a long break, it was good to be out walking again and we were lucky to have such perfect weather, particularly considering how awful it was on the days before and after the walk day. We are now looking forward to a regular monthly adventure around our scenic county.

Linda & Eddie Grange.



## Games Afternoon – October 2017

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October a group of about 10 members of Christ Church met for a lively and enjoyable games afternoon. We met in church to play (and in some cases, learn to play) a wide range of games, including Dominoes, Snakes and Ladders, Cribbage, Scrabble and Draughts.

After an hour of playing games, we all sat down for a delicious afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones and cakes and conversation.

The fun and games then continued for another hour or so with a highly competitive session of Dominoes.

It was a wonderful social time, getting to know one another better and enjoying each other's company.

All involved are keen to have a repeat session in Spring 2018 and hope we will be joined by others who were unable to come in October. (There are many games we didn't get around to playing, including Lancashire Monopoly!)

News regarding future events will be shared in the church weekly noticesheet..

# Music and Mission in The Afternoon

When you see such names as Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Lerner and Lowe and Andrew Lloyd Webber in a concert programme, then you know that you are in for a treat. This was the situation on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September at Christ Church, Longridge.

A large audience gathered to hear music performed by a quartet of versatile singers and instrumentalists, combined with updates from Mission Partnerships in Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone which the church has strongly supported for many years

The opening number based on the theme from 'Phantom of the Opera' really raised the roof, as the quartet, featuring Ian Williams (piano) Jason McMahon (clarinet) David Rose (percussion) and Carol Rose at the organ launched the afternoon. (Actually, I was rather concerned as the roof may be needing repair.)

We stayed with Lloyd Webber for solo items from Carol and Jason. These were 'Tell me on a Sunday', a lesser-known song from this composer, and 'Gethsemane' from 'Jesus Christ Superstar'.



All proceeds from the concert, which totalled £504.50, supported the Mission Teams of the Lancashire District of the Methodist Church. During short breaks in the concert, we were privileged, on this occasion, to have our Chair of

District, Rev Paul Davis, who shared on the work in Papua New Guinea. Similarly, we welcomed Judith Laycock and Becca Ainsworth, who had been working in the Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone. The congregation here in Longridge, has established close links through the constant work of member John Spencer.

'Musical Moments' resumed with a rousing playing of the 'Wedding Processional' from 'The Sound of Music', followed by the lesser well known repertoire of Stephen Sondheim's 'Giants in the Sky' and 'Stay with Me' from 'Into the Woods'.

The ever popular 'Tonight' from West Side Story was well received, whilst the medley from 'My Fair Lady' had the audience singing along. As we approached the end of the concert, music from Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' was sensitively performed. Personally, I think 'Tell me it's not True' is one of the most beautiful show songs of all time.

A very successful concert and all participants, (who between them, sang, played piano, organ, cello and percussion) should be congratulated for a job well done.

Thanks to Carol Rose, who devised, directed, played and sang!

Geoff Balson

## Friday Coffee Rota December 2017 - February 2018

<b>Dec 1</b>	Sandra Ashcroft	<b>Jan 19</b>	Sandra Ashcroft
<b>Dec 8</b>	Claire Tuffin	<b>Jan 26</b>	Claire Tuffin
<b>Dec 15</b>	Sue Lawson	<b>Feb 2</b>	Margery Cook
<b>Dec 22</b>	Margery Cook	<b>Feb 9</b>	Sue Lawson
<b>Dec 29</b>	Carol & Mel	<b>Feb 16</b>	Liz Marven
<b>Jan 5</b>	Linda Grange	<b>Feb 23</b>	Linda Grange
<b>Jan 12</b>	Liz Marven	<b>Mar 1</b>	Sandra Ashcroft

# Church Flowers - Winter 2017/18

<b>Dec 3</b>		<b>Feb 4</b>	June Roebuck
<b>Dec 10</b>	Claire Tuffin	<b>Feb 11</b>	Sandra Ashcroft
<b>Dec 17</b>	Beryl Murrant	<b>Feb 18</b>	Sue Lawson
<b>Dec 24</b>	<i>Church Flowers</i>	<b>Feb 25</b>	Elizabeth Hodgkiss
<b>Dec 31</b>	<i>Church Flowers</i>	<b>Mar 4</b>	Carol Rose
<b>Jan 7</b>	Judith Dixon	<b>Mar 11</b>	Claire Tuffin
<b>Jan 14</b>	Hazel Scott	<b>Mar 18</b>	Linda Grange
<b>Jan 21</b>	Judith Dixon	<b>Mar 25</b>	Alison Bainbridge
<b>Jan 28</b>	John Dixon	<b>Apr 1</b>	Sue Lawson

Thank you to everyone who donates, arranges or distributes flowers. If you would be interested in being involved in this ministry in any way, please see Claire Tuffin or complete one of the forms at the back of church.

Alternatively, donations towards the cost on 'Church Flowers' weeks are always welcome and can be placed in the 'Flower Fund' tin in church

Thank you.



## Reporting Back

Here is a quick report on some of the things that happened in the last three months to go alongside the bigger reports elsewhere in the Messenger.

In September, preparation meetings began for the 2018 World Day of Prayer (see details in the list of events). This year the focus is Suriname and we are dropping the word 'Women's' from the title as the rest of the world have already done. We are also trying a new time and a different venue.

In October we enjoyed our Harvest Services and our annual Churches Together (CTLD) Harvest Supper when among the 'home

grown' entertainment we had a demonstration of Salsa dancing from the Rev Ray Borg and his dancing partner Karen Yates.

Throughout September and October we worked to prepare Shoeboxes as Christmas Gifts to children in needier parts of the world. Together with Fulwood URC we were able to send 92 completed boxes for distribution. The date for having them ready was earlier than in previous years, so perhaps next year, we may need to make an earlier start.

In November we joined with the rest of the Community in services at the War Memorial and St Paul's to remember the Armistice and to pray for peace.

We also had our usual Craft Fair with quite a range of stalls and plenty of visitors. About £370 was raised for the work in Sierra Leone as well as money from individual stalls going to a range of charities such as Cancer Research; Hand in Hand with Syrian Refugees; Leprosy Mission; Christian Aid and Methodist Missions.

Perhaps we should not forget that the routine work of running the church also continues. The cleaning and maintenance of the building and fabric; the keeping of accounts; the many occasions when brewing up and catering are required; attending Circuit, Area and CTLD meetings and Synods and above all the preparation and participation in worship which is at the centre of all we do. Our thanks go out to all who work in whatever way so that we may 'live for Christ at the heart of our community'.

Our best wishes go to John Dixon who celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 25<sup>th</sup> and to all who have had a 'significant' birthday in the last three months. Winter has now arrived so please pray for all who find this time of year particularly hard.

May we all enjoy a blessed and peaceful Christmas as we celebrate the wonder of Jesus Christ, God with us and place Him at the centre of all our festivities.

# Sierra Leone Update

As we look ahead to winter and the thermometer drops, it is difficult to believe that our friends in Sierra Leone are at the end of the rainy season and are experiencing temperatures of 30 degrees.

The skills centre and guest house, that we have supported for over ten years now, continues to provide training and employment. The student numbers are increasing, especially on the tailoring course but, as it seems the world over, young men are reluctant to come forward to enrol on the carpentry course.

I'm sure you will remember earlier in the year that the capital, Freetown, suffered a landslide after heavy rains. Many people lost their lives and the Methodist church, along with other agencies, were in the forefront of the aid effort.

Some other sad news I have to report is that Dr David Goodall, from Great Harwood, who accompanied us on some of our visits died in October aged 78. David was a hard-working member of our team and fun to be with. He will be missed both by his family and friends in this country, and his many friends in the Nixon Memorial Methodist Hospital in Segbwema.

The day after I informed the folk in Sierra Leone of David's death I received news from them that Bishop Albert Beah, the leader of the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, had also died. He had been suffering ill health as a result of a stroke two years earlier. His funeral took place – over four days – at the end of October. Please pray for the church as it seeks to appoint Albert's successor.

Through all this it never ceases to amaze me that the Christian people of Sierra Leone continue to thank God and praise Him for His goodness to them – when we are feeling down, perhaps we could learn a lesson from them.

- John

# Christ Church Worship and Events

(Sundays 10.45am & 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)

## ADVENT 1

### **Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>**

9.15am 'One Life' study course at 109 Mersey Street  
(see 'Round the Table' elsewhere in the magazine.)

### **Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)  
PM Rev Jane Wild

### **Monday December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Guild Christmas Meal

### **Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>**

11.00am Blessing of the Crib at Towneley Gardens

## ADVENT 2

### **Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss & Mr Jason McMahon  
PM Mrs Carol Rose

### **Thursday December 14<sup>th</sup>**

7.00pm 'Lancashire Sings Christmas' at The Towneley Arms

## ADVENT 3

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

AM Mr Andrew Bennett  
4.00pm Rev Ray Borg (Carol Service with Communion)

### **Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Craft Club Christmas Meal (no more Craft Club until Jan 8<sup>th</sup>)

Any contributions of craft items on the themes of Stars;  
Candles; Bells or Angels to church by today please.

### **Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

10.00am Coffee as usual followed by  
12.15pm Christmas Shoppers Carol Service

## ADVENT 4

### **Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>**

AM Dr Carol Spencer

3.00pm Carols at Plessington Court - Mr Henry Rose

## CHRISTMAS DAY

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

11.00am Rev Ray Borg

### **Friday December 29<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Coffee as usual

### **Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup>**

10.45am Mrs Sue Davies

## EPIPHANY

### **Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>**

AM Covenant Service Rev Ray Borg

PM CTLD Epiphany Carol Service at St Lawrence's

### **Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Zoe Ainsworth

PM FJLC Circuit Service at Fulwood Methodist

### **Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>**

AM Mrs Jenny Berrill

3.00pm Rev Ray Borg (Plessington Court)

### **Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mr Steven Gregory

4.00pm Circuit Service for Homelessness Sunday at Central

### **Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Followed by Church Council Meeting at 12.30pm

### **Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher

PM FJLC Circuit Service at Fulwood Methodist

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

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Circuit Service venue TBC



**Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>**

12-1pm 1<sup>st</sup> Lent Lunch at Christ Church

LENT 1

**Sunday February 18<sup>th</sup>**

AM Dr Carol Spencer

3.00pm Rev Ray Borg (Plessington Court)

**Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

12-1pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent Lunch at St Wilfrid's

LENT 2

**Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Elizabeth Hodgkiss & Mr John Spencer

PM Rev John Fisher (Holy Communion)

**Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

12-1pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Lent Lunch at Christ Church (for C of E)

2.15pm Service for Womens' World Day of Prayer at St Cecilia's  
RC School

LENT 3

**Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

Advance Notice

March 9<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Lent lunch at Christ Church

March 11<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday

March 16<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Lent lunch at St Wilfrid's (for Alston Lane)

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Lent lunch at Christ Church (for C of E)

Market Café dates have not yet been confirmed but the first possible one is on Thursday Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

# 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 Paul's in 2018

10.00am Coffee Morning

7.00pm Music Makers\*

\*As announced – please see notices

## 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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