

# The Messenger



**Summer 2018**

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

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

# Rev Ray Writes

Those of you who were regular users of public transport, when the bus and rail network were much bigger, may remember that clarion call from conductors and drivers “All change!” Back in 2017 the Circuit Meeting collectively shouted that same clarion call to the whole of the circuit as we started to grapple with the issue of making ends meet with presbyterial coverage of the Methodist Churches and Ecumenical Partnerships in the circuit.

Although Christ Church is away from Preston City, it is not being left untouched by the changes that are coming down the track. There have already been changes to our worship patterns and we have seen a shift in the way we are church. It seems to be dawning on people that the “build it and they will come” idea has not borne fruit in a number of places in the circuit where there has been investment. The idea that “they” will come to “us” doesn’t have much currency.

And yet, we see the green shoots of mission in Christ Church with the introduction of Round the Table, where young mothers and their children are finding a place of refuge, companionship and spiritual development. It’s in its infancy but it is very very exciting. Like a spilled liquid seeping across a surface, the Kingdom of God is working its way through parts of Longridge.

This is also a time of personal change for me. As most of you know, we are having a cabinet reshuffle in the Preston Ribble Circuit and I shall be moving out of ministry at Christ Church on the 31st August. In fact this is the last article I shall be writing for the Messenger. The last missive was also the last article I wrote for the Longridge News’ Voice of the Church. Here it is in case you didn’t see it;

Change is something that has been happening since the time God’s Spirit “brooded” over the “waters” and brought creation into being. That

creation has been evolving over time and change is no stranger to the universe. The question is, what to make of change. The Book of Ecclesiastes contains a poem which articulates a sense of timeliness for everything; laughing and crying, birthing and dying, tearing and mending, uprooting and planting. The book chronicles an attempt to discover whether everything is fated or we can effect change. The author gives three pieces of advice for successful living which I would like to offer as a parting gift;

Firstly, accept what God has provided and make the most of it. It is no coincidence that people who successfully manage change, even change for the worse, are those who can make the most of their current circumstances. Admittedly this is easier for them for whom the glass is always half full and less so for them for whom it is always half empty!

Secondly, by all means be curious about life and its mysteries, but don't use up your life in the pursuit of unravelling those mysteries unless that is a life-giving activity for you. Those of us who are content with sitting with a question without necessarily needing an answer may well prove to be the more successful managers of change.

Thirdly, make wise decisions. Well that's easier said than done! Wisdom doesn't exactly come pre-loaded into our human brains does it! No it doesn't, but you don't have to possess it. You can borrow it from others - if you have the humility to admit you need help!

I have enjoyed ministering in Longridge and I wish I had had fewer churches so I could have spent more time locally. The Christ Church Annual Church Meeting takes place after morning service on Sunday 3rd June about 12.30pm when the members will have an opportunity to give feedback on my ministry over the last few years in the hope that we can learn lessons for the future. I hope you will come and join in.

Finally, I pray that the Holy Spirit of Jesus, of God, will light your path as you continue to make a difference in the burgeoning town of Longridge.

Reverend Ray Borg

# More from 'Round the Table'

Our joint initiative with Inglewhite Church continues to grow and flourish. Since the beginning of this year we have been meeting once a fortnight. The format of sessions, where we meet on Thursday afternoons to share a simple meal and to play and socialise is now becoming well established, as the families who join us feel increasingly 'at home' with our buildings and feel comfortable to meet with one another in this way. We are continuing to welcome new families (and 2 new babies!) as news of Round the Table spreads by word of mouth.

The group is growing spiritually as well. In our ten minute 'Table Talk' sessions we have been exploring the difficulties and the benefits of finding time for God during what is, for many, a busy and pressurised daily life. The families we work with have expressed a clear need and a desire to spend some time together in informal worship. Our minister, Ray has led one calm and reflective Sunday evening service with music provided by Lucy and Andy Foot from Inglewhite. We continue to explore different timings to try and find a format that will best accommodate the demands and time pressures of running a young family.

Our support group meets on Wednesday evenings at Claire Tuffin's house for fellowship, bible study, prayer - and sometimes a bit of last minute planning! It is our earnest hope that other members of 'Round the Table' will be able to join us then, but so far that has not been realised. We have recently completed foundation training in safeguarding for children young people and vulnerable adults.

We continue to be challenged and stretched by the demands of this venture and the needs within our community. We are reaching out to the other churches in Longridge to see whether we can put 'Round the Table' on a truly ecumenical footing. However this works out we continue to struggle ourselves with day to day pressures and the growing demands of this project. But it's worth it. If you feel you could support us in prayer and in practice, please talk to one of us.

Anne Norcross, Claire Tuffin, Howard Roscoe, Mungo and Leanne  
Gilchrist

# Music in The Afternoon

As part of Christian Aid Week, we held our 15<sup>th</sup> edition of our Music Concert Series on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

On this occasion, the afternoon featured the 'Longridge Junior Band' and 'Continental Brass' – both ensembles directed by Matt Balson.

Those who have followed the Junior Band since its inception 3 years ago, must have been very impressed with the standard of music now being performed and the progress they have made.

Items performed by the Junior Band ranged from the popular march 'Colonel Bogey' by JK Alford to the challenging 'Mars' movement from 'The Planet Suite' by Holst. For their finale, they showed their contemporary flair with 'Rolling in the Deep' by 'Adele' (Adkins and Paul Epworth).

'Continental Brass' made a welcome return to 'Music in the Afternoon'. They are a well-established brass quartet – with Matt Balson (trumpet), Alison Balson (trumpet and flugal horn), Rachel Shore (horn) and Tim Bateman (trombone).

The players are all friends who met through many years playing together in various ensembles. On this occasion, their repertoire included a War Songs Medley (arr Balson), Amazing Grace (arr Fernie) and an entertaining presentation with narration of items from 'Les Miserables' (Boubil and Schonberg).

In a well-earned break for the players, there was a presentation to help us all focus and reflect on the importance of the ongoing work undertaken by Christian Aid in reaching out to the needs of others.

It was a wonderful concert and community occasion, witnessed by a large and appreciative audience, whose generous donations raised £431 on the day.

Geoff Balson

We would like to send our very best wishes and prayers to our oldest member – Mary Hughes – who will be 100 on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mary lives in Alston View and though her memory is now very poor, I'm sure she would appreciate it if we could send her individual cards as well as the greetings from the church.

Carol S

## **Christian Aid Week 2018**

John & Carol Spencer launched our week of awareness and outreach by leading our morning worship on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We were given insight into this year's theme 'Stronger than Storms' with a focus on help given to Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake which had been followed by Hurricane Matthew. Sunday afternoon saw the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Music in the Afternoon' with guests Longridge Junior Band and Continental Brass. On Thursday, we hosted the Market café with stalls at the Civic hall. Our busy week rounded off with our Friday coffee morning followed by our annual Quiz Night.

Grateful thanks are expressed to all who worked so hard to organise, help and support our Christian Aid activities. The total raised for this vital ongoing work, (at time of going to press) was over £800.

Carol Rose

# Walk for February - Around Wheelton

The February walk very nearly didn't happen as, "The Beast from The East" was teaming up with "Emma" and was set to attack on the day of the walk. However, despite leaving Longridge in a blizzard, the evil duo decided to leave west Lancashire out of their fun and we had a perfect walking day.

Our meeting point was Dark Lane, just North of Chorley and we were quickly up onto the canal and walking in snow with the canal frozen, but I wouldn't want to skate on it! Winters aren't what they were. The writer recalled riding our bikes on the ice from Preston, along the Lancaster canal to Catforth and back, with our front tyres removed for extra control.

We were walking along the Walton Summit Link, which connects the Leeds and Liverpool Canal to the Lancaster Canal. The original plan was to incorporate a vast viaduct over the Ribble valley, and what an impressive feature that would have been, but it wasn't to be, and a tramway was used instead.

Having left the link, we were now on the Leeds and Liverpool canal and walking NE towards Higher Wheelton in a beautiful snowy landscape, passing a number of moored canal boats, one or two being very "High end", and on to the village, where we left the canal and entered the village and our lunch stop in the memorial garden.

Lunch over, we had to decide on the next part of the walk. The route took us across fields, but the ground conditions were still terrible, so we opted to follow the main road, which was fairly quiet, down to the next village of Wheelton, and as we are now an aging

walking group, we had to stop at a local café for refreshments and a warm up.

From Wheelton, we started the last leg of the walk back to the canal via the “Top Lock”, and Dark Lane.

This walk proved yet again that you can't just wait for the weather, just go! Many thanks to Bill and our Bolton Division for organizing this pleasant outing for us.

Linda & Eddie Grange

## **Walk for March - Garstang And Churchtown**

For the March walk, we decided on a circuit to the south of Garstang that could be described as another, “Three Waters”, as, at various times, we followed the Lancaster Canal and the rivers Calder and Wyre.

Our meeting point was the main car park by the River Wyre, from where we set off through Garstang to join the canal and head in a southerly direction on a good path, soon passing the large basin that is now noted for its pubs and restaurants and also having a good look at the various types of canal craft as we passed. Having crossed over another of John Rennie's splendid aqueducts, the remains of Greenhalgh Castle came into view, built by the Earl of Derby in 1490 and destroyed by the Roundheads during the Civil War.

Eventually, we arrived at bridge 53 and our exit point, where we entered a quiet lane for a while before joining a field on a path that, after a couple of fields joined the River Calder and took us to our lunch stop at the Catteral sports centre and village hall and a convenient shelter. After our, “Butty stop”, we followed the Calder



for a while until it joined the Wyre and took us to the A6. What a busy road this now is. It took us quite a while to safely cross to a small collection of old houses and a street that at one time was the old main road.

We were now following the Wyre to the south and ended up at a suspension bridge that took us into the pretty little village of Churchtown and the attractive St. Helens Church. Having crossed another busy main road we followed a number of good farm tracks, passing the enormous wind generator, re-crossed the A6 and entered the path back to the canal. From here, we re-traced our steps to the car park, but not before stopping at Booths for coffee and scones, as we do these days!

Altogether this proved to be a varied and interesting seven-mile walk. The weather was kind to us, (Apart from the biting north wind), and, surprisingly, the numerous fields that we traversed were reasonably dry. Let us hope for a long dry summer!

Linda & Eddie Grange

Jean and Family would like to thank Rev Ray Borg for his kind ministrations and Carol for her help and assistance. Many thanks for kind words; prayers and flowers from Christ Church at this time of losing my brother Alan.

Jean and Family

As we approach the Annual Church Meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>, it seems a suitable time to express our thanks again to all those who contribute to keeping our church running. As well as regular and special services, we have a Craft Club; Guild; Connexion Zone; Lent lunches and other Churches Together activities; Musicmakers and Music in the Afternoon Concerts; Spring cleaning; our share in the new Round the Table initiative; finance and administrative tasks and no doubt many more that I've forgotten. So from Registrar and Safeguarding Officer to stewards and members of catering rotas, we thank you all. You are all important to the ongoing work of Christ Church in our community. Thank you.

## **Guild**

The Guild season closed with an excellent performance by Grace Notes from St Paul's. Sadly, this may be the end of the Guild as we need someone to become programme secretary.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Jack Smith, widower of Kath Smith who was a Junior Church leader for a number of years at Longridge Methodists. We send our sincere condolences and prayers to his daughter Carolyn, her husband Chris and their children – Laura, Katie and Matthew.

# Walk for April - The Tolkien Trail

As the countryside is now drying out, we decided to try our luck with this local and very popular walk that gave us many options thanks to the considerable number of decent paths in the area.

When we arrived at the car park at Hurst Green, we were surprised at the number of cars parked there. It appeared that two other walking groups were also starting at the same time, one of them tackling our walk in the opposite direction.

From the village, we headed across fields towards Stonyhurst College, the domed turrets quickly appearing in the distance and we soon arrived at the playing fields, followed by the observatories and a good track out of the grounds and across into fields. Later, we crossed a stile and entered Over Hacking Wood and a long, very steep flight of steps. Why would you do this walk the other way round? We were now at the River Hodder and the next challenge was a climb up to the very imposing Hodder Place, built in 1780 for a mill owner. Interestingly, there is no trace of the mill, on the Hodder that created the wealth.

After a pleasant riverside walk, we arrived at the main road and stopped for the usual photos of Cromwell's Bridge and on, up the road and across fields towards Winckley Hall Farm. We noticed that there had been a good crop of lambs this spring and they seemed to be everywhere. By now we were back at the river again and approaching our beautiful lunch stop. However, the other walking group were approaching from the opposite direction with the same idea, so the race was on. We won! The leadership were assigned the fisherman's hut, with its folding table and the other ranks took possession of the seat. The Blackburn group placed themselves on

the steps. However, we all had a pleasant break, watching the wildlife and a lone fisherman in the middle of the river.

The other group informed us that the river route back was in good shape, but the field at the very end, behind the Shireburn Arms Hotel was awful, with unavoidable deep mud, so a decision was made to return via a different route, taking the lane up to the main road, resting at the scenic 'bus shelter with its excellent vista of Pendle and onwards up the quiet lane and back to Stonyhurst. We completed the walk along the impressive and very long driveway and back to Hurst green.

This was one of our, "Bread and Butter", walks and always pleasant. The weather was superb with clear views in all directions. And the Blackburn group? They didn't appear before we left. Perhaps they were still struggling up the steps!

Linda & Eddie Grange

The much-depleted walking group continues with monthly walks of about five to seven miles in the local countryside. We are now combined with a Bolton group and usually have about nine regular walkers.

It appears that Wednesday is the most popular day for most of the participants, so we would like to officially change the walking day from Saturday to Wednesday.

## **Friday Coffee Rota June - August 2018**

<b>Jun 1</b>	Sandra Ashcroft	<b>Jul 20</b>	Sandra Ashcroft
<b>Jun 8</b>	Margery Cook	<b>Jul 27</b>	Liz Marven
<b>Jun 15</b>	Sue Lawson	<b>Aug 3</b>	Linda Grange
<b>Jun 22</b>	Liz Marven	<b>Aug 10</b>	Sue Lawson
<b>Jun 29</b>	Linda Grange	<b>Aug 17</b>	Margery Cook
<b>Jul 6</b>	Margery Cook	<b>Aug 24</b>	Sandra Ashcroft
<b>Jul 13</b>	Sue Lawson	<b>Aug 31</b>	Liz Marven

# Christ Church Worship and Events

(Sundays 10.45am & 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)

JUNE is designated BIBLE MONTH. This year many churches will be focusing on the book of Jonah.

## Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)  
12.30pm Annual General Meeting

## Monday June 4<sup>th</sup>

7.00pm Pastoral Visitors and helpers meeting

**Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>** Longridge Field Day (if you are able to help with the CTLD Tent on the field, please see John Spencer)

## Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>

AM Miss Ruth Dowson  
4pm – 6pm Circuit Space at Fulwood Methodist

## Tuesday June 12<sup>th</sup>

6.45pm WLP training sub group  
7.30pm Circuit WLP meeting at Christ Church (anyone willing to help serve tea/coffee and biscuits, please see Carol Spencer)

## Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>

AM Mrs Christine Barnes with Mrs Judith Laycock (On Note)  
3pm John & Carol Spencer (Plessington Court)

**\*\*\* June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup> REFUGEE WEEK \*\*\***

## Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>

7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Christ Church

## Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>

AM Mrs Sue Davies  
PM Rev Andrew Webb

## Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion & Baptism)  
PM Praise 'n' Prayer (Please see notices)

**Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Sue Davies

4pm – 6pm Circuit Space at Fulwood Methodist

**Wednesday July 11<sup>th</sup>**

Connexion Zone (9.00am for helpers please)

**Sunday July 15<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mr Ernest Wrennall

3pm Henry & Carol Rose (Plessington Court)

**Monday July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Craft Club Trip and last club until September

**Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

AM Mr Andrew Bennet with Miss Rachel Atkinson (On Note)

5pm Circuit Farewell Service at Longton  
for Rev Sue Creighton & Rev John Fisher

**Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Brian Drury

PM Rev Ray Borg

**Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Ray Borg (Holy Communion)

PM Praise 'n' Prayer (please see notices)

**Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Dr Kevin Savage

PM Miss Rebecca Ainsworth (On Trial)

**Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Kate Bosman

3pm Rev Ray Borg (Plessington Court)

**Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mr Harry Duckett

PM Mrs Carol Rose

ADVANCE NOTICE

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September** Craft Club recommences

# 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\*

\*Term Time

**7.45pm** The Guild\*

\*1st Monday of month

## WEDNESDAY

**9.30am** Christ Church Ramblers\*

\*As announced – please see notices

## 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

**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  
robspencer@gmx.co.uk