

# The Messenger



Winter 2018

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

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



# From the Manse

Dear Friends,

I have just made a visit to Iceland. The shop, not the country. There I had a conversation with a member of staff wearing a t-shirt that said their advert had been banned.

Iceland and Greenpeace teamed up for this year's advert, declaring palm oil demand threatens the habitat of orang-utans. This is touching on the supermarket's decision to no longer sell products with the controversial fruit by-product in hopes of reducing the demand.

However, the advert has been barred from countrywide television broadcast due to its potentially politicised message. Clearcast, the body which approves or rejects adverts for broadcast on television and video on demand, said the advert doesn't comply with rules due to Greenpeace's involvement.

We live in a pluralistic Society where we are given lots of options about how to use our time and resources; what to believe; who to follow and how to live. We are offered options on so many things that choice has become an everyday part of life, we expect it and even demand it. There are some times when society draws the line and says that something is not right and there are good reasons why political bodies should not be involved in advertising for Supermarkets.

On the other hand, during Advent we sing about Truth coming down at Christmas

Yet in his time Jesus was reacted against, those in authority questioned and condemned the truth that showed to us the nature of God and how we should live.

Who would have imagined that a transcendent creator of the universe would have personally visited our planet even in splendour and majesty? The Gospels go far beyond this: they reveal God in the weakness, vulnerability and ignorance of a Child. A child who would grow up in circumstances which are far from glamorous and would be rejected by his own people. A man who, when faced with persecution and suffering, would stand true to the gift of divine forgiveness and eternal life and offer it to humanity.

These truths have and do challenge our world today. If we were to make an advert for Christmas would it be banned? Maybe some of the words of the New Testament could be our slogans.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35)

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven (Luke 6:37)

Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. (1 Peter 3:11)

In a way, I hope any such attempt would be banned but only for the reason that this would be some indication that the message of Advent and Christmas was being taken seriously.

I wish you and your loved ones all the grace and truth of God this Christmas and peace in the next year

Revd Jane Wild

October 2018 has been a sad month at Christ Church as we have lost our oldest Methodist member and our oldest URC member, both of whom came with us 30 years ago when our two denominations joined together.

## **Megan Crew**

Megan died in her flat in Plessington Court on October 21st aged 96, with members of her family round her and members of the church family gathering in the Lounge downstairs where we have a regular monthly service. Megan attended these services right up to September and had been in the Sunday Morning service at Christ Church only a few weeks before she died. When the two churches came together 30 years ago, Megan was the URC Treasurer and looked after Hall Bookings. However, she was perhaps not a stereotypical treasurer – stern and slightly forbidding. Rather she was known for her cheerfulness and especially her smile. She was always interested in everything that was going on and in everyone around her. For many years she played a leading role in the Ladies' Guild – making everyone welcome and enjoying all the speakers.

She really enjoyed life and wanted others to enjoy their lives too. Before she came to Longridge, she lived for a while in Grimsargh where she was active in fund raising for the new Village Hall. I remember her telling me once that she had been part of a club with some other Grimsargh ladies called something like the 'red hat club'. They regularly went out to lunch together wearing red hats – quite a sight I should think.

When her dear husband Bob had a stroke, she could be seen wheeling him around the village in a large wheel chair -- Bob was a big man and this was no mean feat. She got involved with a support group for stroke survivors and their families and eventually organised a social programme for them at Barton Village Hall. She continued

with this work for some time after Bob died. She used her experience of bereavement to support others in the congregation in similar circumstances. I know Geoff Balson was grateful for the way that Megan and the late Audrey Barnes 'looked after' him after Enid died, even taking him on a holiday cruise together.

Megan loved church and particularly enjoyed the music. Her smiling face will be very much missed. Our love and prayers go out to all her family and friends.

## **Mary Hughes**

On Friday October 26th Mary Hughes died at Alston View Nursing Home. Mary was a life-long Methodist and Mary's life was a long one, having made up 100 last July. Mary was another person who lit up everything she joined in with. She was on the Church Council for many years; attended church every week and pretty well every organisation (except those for children – although she would be at those too, if help was needed with catering or cleaning up). She enjoyed everything from Bible Studies to Lent lunches. She was always on the front of the queue if there was any job to be done and was found cleaning out the guttering in her eighties. Ladders held no fear for Mary. Perhaps her favourite job both at home and around church was gardening. Together with Michael and Rosemary Barker, she turned the area at the side of the church into a garden full of pot plants with a bench for people to have a rest when struggling up Berry Lane.

It isn't possible to mention everything that Mary did, as she never stopped. It is not surprising that she never put any weight on.

It was rather poignant that Mary's funeral took place the day after Remembrance Sunday. Mary was very proud of her war service and

the fact that she was in one of the few units where women were allowed to be directly involved with using weapons – the Ack-Ack guns that helped to defend the South of England from German air attacks. She was fiercely patriotic and always carried the poppy wreath at our Remembrance Day services. Mary lived a full life up to about two years ago when she began to fail. She moved first into Longridge Hall and then, when she needed more nursing care, into Alston View where recently she slept a great deal and eventually died. Mary outlived most of her family, but our condolences and prayers go to her niece Margaret and her remaining nephews and their families.

## **Walk for September - Leagram**

This month, we returned to an old friend, a popular local walk that we hadn't visited for some time.

Starting from Chipping during the very hot weather, we headed south along Windy Street and on leaving the village, we entered the first of a series of fields via a footbridge. After crossing the first of the big pastures, we encountered a stile. However, we again had Milo the dog with us and I was informed that he hadn't yet encountered a stile. So we now started a steep learning curve. He is a big dog and it took some time to get him over. Very soon we came to a second stile, with a little more success and by the third, he was quite confident. However, during our crossing of the next field, we noticed a large herd of cows on the other side and starting to head our way. We let Milo off the lead and headed for Pale Farm, where we all came together at the stile!

After the adventure, it was a steady walk to the Gibbon Bridge, where we had a look for the vintage Lagonda car that lives here, without success and on to Greenlands Farm and its two excited guard dogs, followed by a little road walking and then back on the

trail, heading for Knot Hill. This high point was our designated lunch stop, but due to the heat, we took advantage of the shade provided by trees a little earlier. When we arrived at Knot Hill, we noticed that one of the peaks, actually an old lime kiln had been fitted with a new seat facing south. We had a short rest here, admiring the view of Longridge Fell around to Pendle.

From Knot Hill, our route now took us west along a trail, through a pretty series of meadows, plantations and parkland, eventually meeting up with the driveway to Leagram Hall. From here, it was a short walk back to Chipping. Having arrived back at the village, very hot and exhausted, we simply had to have a relaxing ice cream, sitting outside the post office.

This proved, yet again, to be a lovely walk, helped by the splendid summer weather and exceptionally clear conditions. We really do have some beautiful countryside right on our doorstep.

Linda & Eddie Grange

## **Walk for October - Cuddy Hill**

Having undertaken a series of hilly walks in recent months, this one, on the Fylde Plane is perfectly flat. We couldn't find a hill at Cuddy?

We started the walk from Woodplumpton, entering the grounds of the interesting old church of St Annes and stopping to visit the grave of Meg Shelton, a local witch. Apparently, the poor girl was buried twice and managed to claw her way out. After the third burial, a heavy stone was placed on top of the grave and remains there to this day. Leaving the churchyard, we entered a series of fields, followed by a pleasant, quiet lane to Whinnyfield Farm, which seems to be a centre for shooting activities. From the farm, it was a short distance to the Lancaster Canal along a muddy track.

We followed the canal for a mile, or so, leaving at the canal bridge and entering a lane by the old feed mill, which is long gone and



replaced with houses and continuing to our next farm, Bell Fold, which is well known by walkers for its tidiness. From the farm, our trek took us cross country, field after field, arriving at a lane, which we followed to the Plough At Eaves, a country pub steeped in history. The pub stands on the site of the battle of Cuddy Hill in 1546 and entered the history books again at the Battle of Preston, serving Royalists or Parliamentarians at various times. The Landlord probably wasn't too bothered if the trade was good!

From the pub, we again ventured cross country and arrived at another lane, but not before crossing a beautiful private garden, always a little embarrassing, but we did manage to congratulate the owner of the house. From here, we followed the lane for a mile or so before turning across a field and back to the canal.

Now, we were heading south. The weather was excellent and we enjoyed views across to the fells before arriving at a very large marina, full of many types of craft. Today, the towpath is lined with trees or tall rushbeds, with a narrow pathway, but the dear leader has fond youthful memories of riding our bikes from Ashton to the Jolly Roger at Catforth, back in the fifties, riding two abreast with no obstacles and the bank was kept clear of undergrowth.

Our lunch stop arrived a little late as there was an ideal spot, a pile of planks stretched across a frame, which we all mounted and started to eat our lunch; and then it all collapsed, depositing us across the bank in a heap! However, there were no injuries, but two ducks had a right old laugh!

For the last part of the walk, we re-traced our steps back down the canal and across to Woodplumpton, finishing up at the Wheatsheaf for "Tiffin"

Today's walk was fairly gentle, although we covered a surprising eight miles, about half on the canal with history all the way. It's surprising how many of our walks involve some canal walking at some point.

Linda & Eddie Grange

*All are invited to our.....*

*New Year's Eve*

*'Monday Menu'*



*Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 7.00pm*

*3 Courses of Coffee,  
Company &*

*Conversation*

*Plus*

*\* Seasonal Specials!*

*\* Fun & Games!*



*To book your place - please sign the list.  
For transport - please ring 07745806186*

## **Christmas Decorations**

Our Christmas decorations in church this year are based round the main liturgical colours: gold, silver, white, red, green, blue and purple. We have plenty of decorations in gold, silver and white but if you have any spare baubles, stars, bells or similar tree decorations in red, green, blue or purple that you could lend us, we would be very grateful. Please could we have them by December 11<sup>th</sup> -Carol Spencer

**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**BERRY LANE, LONGRIDGE**

***A Festive Menu of  
Christmas Songs & Carols***

*With  
'The Valley  
Singers'*



*Musical Director: Chris Beardsley  
Accompanist: James Hawks*

***Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December***

***7.00pm*** *Entry by Donation/Refreshments*

***All donations will support the  
'Salvation Army Christmas Appeal'***

*Contacts: Carol Rose 01772 783680 / James Hawks 01772 785080*

# Rev Jane Wild

I know many of us have been enjoying having Jane as 'our' minister over the last few months. She came to the Preston Ribble Circuit in September 2017 while we were in the process of rethinking the Circuit Strategy. For the next 12 months, she was minister to Fulwood Church. However, the Circuit Strategy committed the Circuit to having fewer ministers and to some of the tasks being given to Lay Workers. As a result, the responsibilities of the clergy were reviewed. As we know Ray was given a group of churches which were more closely grouped, and Jane took on Christ Church along with her responsibilities at Fulwood.

The Circuit was then faced with an unexpected challenge, when our Superintendent minister, the Rev Mark Slaney was 'promoted' to be the Chair of the Scotland and Shetland Districts, as from September 2019. This was quite a challenge given the shortage of ministers and our Circuit Stewards felt that we already had someone on staff who was particularly suited to the post – Jane. After much prayer, Jane agreed to take up this challenge but she could not look after Fulwood and Longridge as well, so Longridge was put on the list of those needing a new minister in 2019. Those of us who had the opportunity to meet Karen Le Mouton and her husband Steven, were impressed with their commitment and were delighted that she has accepted the invitation to join us next year (see Stationing over the page).

Please pray for Penwortham, Kingsfold and Trinity, Gregson Lane as they wait for the next round of stationing to see who their minister will be.

# Stationing

Following Stationing Matching visits, I am pleased to make two announcements.

First, Rev Karen Le Mouton has agreed to a match with the Preston Ribble Circuit with a pastoral charge including Bamber Bridge, Cuerden Church School and Christ Church Longridge. Karen and her husband Steven will be moving from the Channel Island of Sark to join us in Lancashire.

Second, it was also good news to hear that Rev Andrew Webb has agreed to a match in the Yorkshire West District with an appointment as Superintendent Minister in the Skipton and Grassington Circuit. This appointment also includes the post of Rural Lead Officer for the District.

We offer our congratulations to and prayers for Karen and Andrew as they complete their final 8 months in current appointments and prepare to move to new places and posts in continued response to God's call on their lives.

All matched appointments are subject to approval by the Methodist Conference when it meets in the summer. Ministers leave existing appointments in August 2019 for a September start.

From September 2019, Rev Jane Wild will take up the responsibilities as Circuit Superintendent Minister with pastoral oversight of Fulwood.

We continue to pray for all Ministers and Circuits who wait further rounds of Stationing Matching in December and the New Year, including a second appointment in the Preston Ribble Circuit (Kingsfold, Penwortham, Trinity Gregson Lane).

Yours in Christ,

Mark Slaney (Superintendent Minister)

# Friday Coffee Rota - Winter 2018-19

<b>Dec 7</b>	Sandra Ashcroft	<b>Jan 18</b>	Linda Grange
<b>Dec 14</b>	Liz Marven	<b>Jan 25</b>	Liz Marven
<b>Dec 21</b>	Margery Cook	<b>Feb 1</b>	Margery Cook
<b>Dec 28</b>	Sue Lawson	<b>Feb 8</b>	Sandra Ashcroft
<b>Jan 4</b>	Sandra Ashcroft	<b>Feb 15</b>	Linda Grange
<b>Jan 11</b>	Sue Lawson	<b>Feb 22</b>	Sue Lawson
		<b>Mar 1</b>	Margery Cook

## World Day of Prayer

What was formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer has now returned to its official title of 'World Day of Prayer'. It has been difficult to persuade people that the services are for everybody – men and women. The only difference being that the liturgies for the services have been prepared by women. To us this may not seem unusual, as women prepare and lead worship on a regular basis in Britain, but in some parts of the world, the contribution of women is very much undervalued and this is the one opportunity in the year which is undisputedly, led by women.

In 2019, the service has been prepared by a group of women in Slovenia to highlight those areas of their country's life that they want the rest of the world to pray for. The service on March 1<sup>st</sup> will be like those of previous years except that Lent starts a little later next year and so there will not be a Lent lunch straight afterwards. There will however be light refreshments. Once we have got confirmation from our friends at St Wilfrid's, a notice will be placed in the foyer.

# Church Flowers - Winter 2018-2019

<b>Dec 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Hazel Scott	<b>Feb 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	June Roebuck
<b>Dec 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Margery Cook	<b>Feb 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Sandra Ashcroft
<b>Dec 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Beryl Murrant	<b>Feb 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Sue Lawson
<b>Dec 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<i>Church flowers</i>	<b>Feb 24<sup>th</sup></b>	Elizabeth Hodgkiss
<b>Dec 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church flowers</i>	<b>Mar 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Anne Norcross
<b>Jan 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Judith Dixon	<b>Mar 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Carol Rose
<b>Jan 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Hazel Scott	<b>Mar 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Linda Grange
<b>Jan 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church flowers</i>	<b>Mar 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Church flowers</i>
<b>Jan 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Judith Dixon	<b>Mar 31<sup>st</sup></b>	Sue Lawson

Thank you to everyone who donates, arranges or distributes flowers. If anyone would like to be involved in assisting in any way, please see Claire Tuffin or fill in 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. Thank you.



# Christ Church Worship and Events

(Worship times 10.45am & 6.30pm unless otherwise stated)

## ADVENT 1

### Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>

AM Dr Carol Spencer

PM Rev Jane Wild Advent Carol Service

### Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Church Meal at Corporation Arms (see list in foyer)

### Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>

GRAVE TALK -- a day to talk about death, dying and bereavement especially helpful for carers. At Fulwood Methodist Church – see notice for times and detail

## ADVENT 2

### Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>

AM Mr Henry Rose

4 – 6pm Circuit SPACE event at Kingsfold Methodist

### Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>

10am Connexion Zone Christingle Service

All preschool children and carers welcome.

Helpers from 9.30 please.

## ADVENT 3

### Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>

AM Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion

3pm Rev Jane Wild Carol Service at Plessington Court

### Monday December 17<sup>th</sup>

7pm A Festive Menu of Christmas Carols and Songs with the Valley Singers. Donations to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

### Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup>

7pm 'Lancashire Sings Christmas'

### Friday December 21<sup>st</sup>



12.15pm Christmas Shoppers' Carol Service

#### **ADVENT 4**

#### **Sunday December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

AM Dr Carol Spencer

4pm Mr John Spencer Carol Service

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

11.15am Rev Jane Wild

#### **Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mr Henry Rose

4pm Circuit Service for Healing and Wholeness at Fulwood

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

7pm Monday Menu (see notice elsewhere)

#### **EPIPHANY**

#### **Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Carol Rose

PM CTLD Epiphany Carol Service at Christ Church

#### **Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup>**

AM Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher

4 – 6pm Circuit SPACE event at Fulwood Methodist Church

#### **Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Jane Wild Covenant Service

3pm Rev Jane Wild Plessington Court

#### **Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup>**

AM Rev Ron Lewis

3pm Circuit Service for Homeless Sunday at Central

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

AM Mrs Catherine Kampta

PM Rev Jane Wild

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

AM Mrs Kate Bosman

3 – 5pm Circuit SPACE event at Bamber Bridge Methodist

**Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>**

AM            Rev Jane Wild            Holy Communion  
3pm          Rev Jane Wild            Plessington Court

**Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>**

AM            Mr Steven Gregory  
PM            Rev Andrew Webb

**Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>**

11am        World Day of Prayer - Provisionally at St Wilfrid's

**Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Circuit Service for Ash Wednesday venue & time TBA

**Fridays March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> 12.00 – 1.00pm**

Churches Together Lenten Lunches venues TBA

With our prayers and best wishes for a joyful Christmas  
and a happy New Year from all at Christ Church



# S E P T E M B E R

## SUNDAY

**10.45am** Morning Worship &  
Junior Church

**3.00pm** Afternoon Worship\*

\*Normally 3rd Sunday at Plessington Court

**6.30pm** Evening Worship\*

\*As announced – please see notices

## MONDAY

**10.00am** Craft Club\*

\*Term Time

**7.00pm** Monday Menu\*

\*1st Monday of month

## WEDNESDAY

**9.30am** Christ Church Ramblers\*

\*As announced – please see notices

## FRIDAY

**7.45am** CTL Morning Prayers\*

\*At Christ Church in 2019

**10.00am** Coffee Morning

**MINISTER:** Rev Jane Wild 01772 715134

(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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