



The Messenger

Spring 2019

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

www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

This year as the notices remind us it is 30 years since the URC and Methodist churches in Longridge came together. If it were a wedding anniversary celebration, according to tradition it would be a Pearl anniversary. The passage in the scriptures that springs to mind is the Pearl of greatest price.

Matthew 13:45-46

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The church community at that time saw the opportunity for the kingdom of God in Longridge to be served by working together. The Church and the world have moved on since then. In 1989 computers still occupied large boxes if not rooms; many people now carry around in their mobile phone computers that far outdo anything available then. The Berlin Wall came down in 1989, this year Pope Francis arrives in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, becoming the first pope to visit the Arabian Peninsula. Then there were Pro-democracy rallies in Tiananmen Square; today President Trump confirms that the U.S. will leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1987.

We are still called to find the Pearl which is the kingdom of heaven and give our everything to find it. How that is worked out is still as costly. We are moving towards Easter when we focus on the price that Jesus paid in dying that we might live.

Perhaps the thing that has changed is the field. In the Bible the possession was a field. In 1989 for this church it was adherence to a particular denomination. As we walk forward in our lent devotions

and prayers contemplating the Gospel perhaps the question we could look at is what is the field for us.

How do we seek after and grow in the kingdom of God?

God Bless

Jane

Socks for Refugees

This is a project linked to the 60 Million Trebles blanket project, to which several members of Christ Church and our craft group contributed in 2017.

Trench foot is reported to be on the rise in refugee camps, where conditions are often wet and muddy, and people have not got facilities for washing and drying clothes.

The admin team from the 60 Million Trebles group has set up this latest project to collect 10,000 pairs of socks or slippers by September 2019 ready for dispatching before next winter hits. Over Christmas 2018 we at Christ Church already collected 61 pairs of socks and several more pairs have subsequently been added to the box which will remain at church throughout the year.

All sizes are welcome: babies', children's, men's and women's. They can be bought or handmade but should be new as Turkish regulations are very strict and the containers for Syria, travel through Turkey.

Please speak to Claire Tuffin if you would like more information.

Thank you

Round the Table

This has been an eventful few months in the life of 'Round the Table' as we approach the end of our second year. Families now feel very much 'at home' with our Thursday sessions and we have a good cooperative regime in place where everyone lends a hand to set up and to clear away at the end of the session. Now the hall kitchen has been refurbished we are being a bit more adventurous with the meals we prepare together. God is adding new families to our number, and a striking example of this occurred at our Christmas meal/party in December. Several of our 'regular' families had to cancel at the last minute. We were wondering what to do with all the food when another 15 or so new faces turned up. We ended up with about 40 for the meal – no problems with any surplus food!

Our fellowship meeting on Friday mornings is now becoming an established feature and provides opportunities for sharing, prayer and mutual support while the older children are at school.

We recently had the opportunity to meet the leaders of our supporting churches to review progress and to identify future opportunities and needs. We had been challenged by a series of family crises in the weeks leading up to Christmas and were feeling the pressure. Among the things we discussed were communication (we are now using Messenger as well as WhatsApp and sometimes struggle to make sure the message reaches everyone) and the risk of leader burn out due to health, work and old age! With our ministers we are exploring options for the introduction of some informal worship sessions into the Round the Table programme and are seeking to ensure we strike the right balance of activities for both children and adults.

In all of this we are learning to follow Jesus in what we do and we continue to need your prayers and support.

On Sunday May 12th at 2.30pm our 16th Edition of Music in the Afternoon for Christian Aid welcomes the Rossendale Ladies Choir.



Formed in 1977 the choir has won outstanding acclaim both at home and abroad. Their Musical Director is the very talented Matthew Thomas and the choir is accompanied by their pianist David Carlston Williams.

During the life of this successful choir there have been some remarkable choral achievements including successes at the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, festival winning choirs in the "Festival of Festivals" in Warwick, fundraising concerts in the Albert Hall London, Christmas Concerts in Manchester Cathedral and many local and national churches. With the Rossendale Male Voice Choir and Black Dyke Band they performed at The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester raising over £30,000 for The Christie Hospital.

The choir give concerts on a fee basis and to raise funds for a variety of charities. On occasions the choir joins with the Rossendale Male Voice choir and a variety of brass bands, musicians and solo artists to give unique concerts that audiences really enjoy.

The repertoire is varied and ranges from music by classical composers to spirituals, folksongs, modern songs, songs from the shows and songs specially arranged for the choir by eminent contemporary musicians such as Michael Neum and Alan Simmons.

The choir rehearse every Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm at St Peter's Church, Haslingden and Membership is made up of ladies of all ages and all walks of life.

Walk for December - Cockersands Abbey

This pleasant walk started at Conder Green, the starting point for a number of coastal walks in the area. Unfortunately, some members of the group got delayed in a traffic hold up on the M6, so the rest of us camped out at the Café de' Lune until their arrival.

From the car park, we crossed the old railway bridge over the Conder to Glasson Dock. This well-known and interesting port was completed in 1787 and served the local coastal trade for many years. The canal link was later added in 1825, and a dry dock operated for shipbuilding and repairs until 1968.

Leaving the dock, we climbed the steep Tithebarn Hill, up to the coastal road at the top. From here, we enjoyed the best part of the walk, with splendid, clear views across Morecambe Bay. After a mile, or so, we descended to a quiet lane and passed the Twin Towers, two massive silos that dominate the landscape, and back to the coast through fields and across stiles until we reached the last crossing. Here, the stile was broken and quite dangerous, but we always carry a hammer and nails. No, we don't, I was told. They were in the small rucksack back at the car!

Now, it was back to the coastal path and the Plover Scar Lighthouse came into view. Like all lighthouses, this one is now redundant, thanks to modern technology. Soon we arrived at the Abbey and our lunch stop, surrounded by a herd of cows getting closer and closer.

Because we were running late, a decision was made to shorten the walk, so a route was plotted across fields, helped by the Twin Towers acting as a beacon. The bird life on this section was quite interesting. Firstly, we were followed by a lone Curlew and later we passed a large field containing around a hundred Whooper Swans, recently arrived from the north. And finally, it was back to Glasson,

followed by a short stretch of canal and across to the bridge and another welcome brew at the Café de' Lune.

The most notable feature of this walk was how flat the terrain was, but the conditions overall were quite good, the fields being well drained. Interestingly, the abbey was originally situated on one of a number of islands before the reclamation of the land.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Friday Coffee Rota - Spring 2019

March 1	Liz Marven	April 19	<i>No Coffee</i>
March 8	Margery Cook	April 26	Sandra Ashcroft
March 15	Sandra Ashcroft	May 3	Sue Lawson
March 22	Sue Lawson	May 10	Linda Grange
March 29	Linda Grange	May 17	Margery Cook
April 5	Margery Cook	May 24	Liz Marven
April 12	Liz Marven	May 31	Sue Lawson

Walk for January - Around Adlington

Normally, our monthly walks are quite well planned and 'recced', sometimes these days, using the splendid walks featured in the

Lancashire Evening Post. However, this month there was no planning, the walk just evolved. Due to the legacy of winter illnesses, we found ourselves at Fredrick's, south of Chorley having a coffee, followed by a little stroll along the canal. However, the day was beautiful with clear blue skies and a strong sun, so we just went a little further....

We were now heading south on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, in the direction of Wigan with the West Pennine Moors dominating the background to the east. Soon we passed a number of keen fishermen and one of them spent a little time explaining how the equipment worked. Certainly, fishing rods (or poles), have changed over the years and one of his was capable of reaching the opposite bank.

This canal opened about 1816 and was originally intended to head from Liverpool in the direction of Blackburn and on to Yorkshire, but, due to the growth of the Wigan coalfields, it was decided to add a big loop to feed the growing industries of Liverpool and Lancashire. When walking without a map, walkers have to be careful when joining a canal, because, as they meander so much, you could end up walking in the wrong direction!

Having walked for about an hour, we needed to change course, so we left the canal at a bridge, headed east across a field to what appeared to be the remains of an old railway line, probably one associated with the local mines and this pleasant wooded track took us north towards Adlington and the canal basin with café for another brew!

From now on, the navigation was easy, just follow the A6. back to Fredrick's. As this was not a planned walking day and the walk just evolved, we managed a total of eight miles and certainly felt fitter. The next walk will be a little better planned.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Church Flowers - Winter 2018-2019

Mar 3rd	Anne Norcross	May 5th	Sandra Ashcroft
Mar 10th	Carol Rose	May 12th	Hazel Scott
Mar 17th	Linda Grange	May 19th	Sue Lawson
Mar 24th	<i>Church flowers</i>	May 26th	TBC
Mar 31st	Sue Lawson	Jun 2nd	TBC
Apr 7th	Mel Watson	Jun 9th	Claire Tuffin
Apr 14th	Claire Tuffin	Jun 16th	<i>Church flowers</i>
Apr 21st	Val Fletcher	Jun 23rd	Mel Watson
Apr 28th	Margaret Mohyla	Jun 30th	Val Fletcher

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

All Welcome to

'Monday Menu'

*3 Courses of
Coffee, Company &
Conversation*



Plus

*Specials Board
Food for Thought*



March 4th ~ April 1st ~ May 6th

7.00pm - 8.30pm

*Transport Available,
Please see John or Henry*

Review of LEP

The life of Christ Church continues on busily and it is easy to forget that we are an unusual animal called an LEP or Local Ecumenical Partnership. Being part of two denominations gives us a richness of resources and personnel to support our work, but also can add to the administrative burdens that we have to bear. It is part of the conditions of setting up an LEP that we have to review our arrangements every few years and we have reached another of those times. Both our denominations have been undergoing major reviews in the last twelve months and it is now our turn to look at the various decisions that have been made and see how they affect us and, more importantly, how we want to go forward in the fast changing organisations that we are a part of.

Our coming together thirty years ago was undergirded by much prayer. We want to seek God's will for our future here in Longridge. We will be giving over our Annual Church Meeting to discussing future developments and so we want to surround our discussions with prayer. There is a long tradition in the Christian church of having vigils on Maundy Thursday as we think back to those hours of prayer and watching that Jesus underwent before His crucifixion, so we thought we would hold a prayer vigil this Maundy Thursday to remember what our Saviour suffered for us and to pray that we might know His will for us as we seek to follow Him in Longridge.

After the 7.30 pm Communion Service, we will be dividing the time into 15 minute slots from approx.. 8.30 pm until 12.30 am (half past midnight). There will be a rota in the foyer for a few weeks before, and we would ask you to undertake to pray for guidance about the future of God's work in Longridge and throughout the world. The church will remain open and staffed. You can promise to pray in

church or at home during one or more of the time slots. They can be consecutive or spread out through the evening but please commit yourself by putting your name on the rota. We hope that we will have at least one person committed for each 15 minute slot but it would be great if there were even more. A sheet of notes and prayers will be made available during the week before if you prefer to have ideas to prompt your prayers.

Jesus taught us to pray: 'Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done' This is still our prayer as we seek to know how God wants us to do His will.

The Market Café

We have been helping to keep the Market Café running for a number of years by taking turns on the rota with the other Longridge churches and Charities. Much gratitude goes to Pam Cliff who organised this and shouldered much of the work. Thank you Pam. We miss you now that you have decided to have a well-earned retirement. We are grateful for all those who help to keep the café running but we could always do with more help.

There has always been a raffle at the café but this is becoming more difficult. Our gratitude goes to Beryl Murrant who has helped with this for many years but is not always able to be there now. Mel Watson has stepped into the breach but has experienced some difficulties lately because of the shortage of helpers and prizes.. At the last Council Meeting a vote was taken as to whether we should continue the raffle and this was won with a small majority. However if the raffle is to continue, we need someone to help run it and we will need prizes so if you can support by donating suitable items or can help on the day, we would love to hear from you.

Christ Church Worship and Events

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

Friday March 1st

11.00am World Day of Prayer at St Wilfrid's prepared by the women of Slovenia and led by the Rev Jane Wild and members of Churches Together in Longridge and District.

Saturday March 2nd at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church 'Grave Talk' an opportunity to chat informally about serious issues especially around life, death and dying.

Sunday March 3rd

AM Mr Andrew Bennett

PM Rev Jane Wild

Monday March 4th

7-8.30pm Monday Menu

Wednesday March 6th

7.00pm Circuit Service for Ash Wednesday at Penwortham Methodist Church

Friday March 8th

12-1pm Lenten Lunch at Christ Church run by St Lawrence with St Paul's

Sunday March 10th

AM Rev Dr Kevin Savage

4.00pm Circuit SPACE at Ashton

Friday March 15th

12-1pm Lenten Lunch at St Wilfrid's

CHURCH 'SPRING CLEAN AND TIDY'

Friday 15th / Saturday 16th March from 9.00am - Come for an hour or two or all day. Jobs for all abilities.

Sunday March 17th

AM Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion

3pm John & Carol Spencer Plessington Court

Tuesday March 19th

7.30pm Preston Ribble Circuit Meeting at Central Methodist Church

Thursday March 21st

6.30pm Churches Together (CTLD) planning meeting at Christ Church

Friday March 22nd

12-1pm Lenten Lunch at Christ Church run by Christ Church and St Michael's, Grimsargh

Sunday March 24th

AM Mr Jason McMahon

PM Rev Andrew Webb

Friday March 29th

12-1pm Lenten Lunch at Christ Church run by St Lawrence with St Pauls'

Sunday March 31st

AM Rev Nigel Lemon

4pm Circuit Service for Healing and Wholeness at Trinity Gregson Lane

Monday April 1st

7-8.30pm Monday Menu

Wednesday April 3rd

10.00am Connexion Zone in church (helpers from 9.30am please) Carers with preschool children also welcome

Friday April 5th

12-1pm Lenten Lunch at St Wilfrid's run by Alston Lane

Sunday April 7th

AM Rev Ron Lewis

PM Rev Jane Wild

Tuesday April 9th

7-9pm Dementia Friends' Workshop for anyone who wants to know more about dementia, at Leyland UR Church

Friday April 12th

12-1pm Lenten Lunch at Christ Church run by Christ Church and St Michael's, Grimsargh

HOLY WEEK

Sunday April 14th

AM Rev Jane Wild

4-6pm Circuit SPACE at Kingsfold

Thursday April 18th

7.30pm Rev John Maiden Holy Communion

Followed by prayer vigil (see article elsewhere in the Messenger)

Friday April 19th

10.45am Good Friday Service Rev Ron Lewis

12.00pm CTLD prayers at the cross.

EASTER DAY

Sunday April 21st

6.00am Easter Sonrise on Beacon Fell

8.45am Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion

Followed by Easter Breakfast

10.45am Dr Carol Spencer

3.00pm Rev Jane Wild Plessington Court

Sunday April 28th

AM Rev Andrew Webb

Followed by Annual Church Meeting

PM Mr Steven Gregory

Sunday May 5th

AM Rev Daleen TenCate

URC Mission & Discipleship Mentor

PM Circuit Easter Offering Service at Ashton Methodist Church

Monday May 6th

10.00am Craft Club as usual

7-8.30pm Bank Holiday Monday Menu

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Thursday May 9th

9am – 1pm Longridge Market Cafe

Sunday May 12th

AM Dr Carol Spencer

2.30pm Music in the Afternoon

Rossendale Women's Choir (see notice elsewhere in magazine)

Monday May 13th

Contributions for next Messenger by now please.

Thursday May 14th

6.30pm CTLD planning meeting at Christ Church

Friday May 17th

7.00pm Quiz Night (watch notices for details)

Sunday May 19th

AM Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion

3pm Rev Jane Wild Plessington Court

Sunday May 26th

AM Miss Ruth Dowson

PM Mr John North

Monday May 27th

NO CRAFT CLUB

Thursday May 30th

'Thy Kingdom Come' Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

7.30pm Circuit Service for Ascension Day venue TBC

Advance Notices

Thursday June 6th Market Café - TEA TIME - 'Thy Kingdom Come' A chance to explore prayer in a relaxed atmosphere – all welcome.

Saturday June 8th Longridge Field Day please see Carol or John Spencer if you can help with tent and/or refreshments.

Sunday June 9th 4pm 'Thy Kingdom Come' - CTLD Pentecost Service at Christ Church

More 30th Anniversary celebrations to come – watch the notices; notice boards and the next Messenger.



CHRIST CHURCH LONGRIDGE

'MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON'

(Edition 16)

With guests:

Rossendale Ladies Choir

Musical Director: Matthew Thomas

Accompanist: David Carlston Williams

Sunday May 12th 2.30pm

Entry by donation at the door

Followed by refreshments

All Proceeds supporting Christian Aid

More Information: Carol Rose 01772 783680

CHRIST CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT

Friday May 17th

7.00pm

Teams of 4

Spectators welcome!

To book your team: please contact

John Spencer 01772 782829

All proceeds to Christian Aid



LONGRIDGE MARKET COFFEE DAY



Thursday May 9th

9.00am – 1.00pm

Lunches ~ Various Stalls

Hosted by Christ Church
in support of Christian Aid

If you are able to help,
please see John Spencer.

Activities

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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