



The Messenger

Summer 2019

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

www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

Round the Table

The past three months has seen a period of stability and consolidation in the life of Round the Table. Both parents and children now feel quite at home and the children settle to play and to the craft activities quite quickly and with little prompting. The big Biblical text posters that Jane found for us have proved particularly popular. In response to some of the parents' comments we have now introduced a slightly more controlled environment that sets standards for some of the livelier children, particularly necessary now some of our babies are now toddlers. We have been greatly heartened by Dennis and Linda Bond from Inglewhite who have joined us on Thursdays and who are gifted children's activity leaders. Their contribution does a lot to keep the children entertained and educated in fun ways. A bit of time and space to themselves is much appreciated by both the parents and by the rest of the team.

We continue to enjoy fellowship together over a meal and are now more familiar with the new kitchen layout and with the workings of the new dishwasher! Although there are a few 'finishing touches' required, we have been able to extend our range of culinary delights and are now getting quite slick when it comes to clearing up.

Our short 'Table Talk' sessions during the Thursday afternoon sessions have sparked some lively discussions and also some deeper insights as we thought about the events leading up to Good Friday and the good news of Easter itself. Our 'chat, listen and pray' meeting over a cup of coffee on Friday mornings continues to be greatly appreciated, particularly since there is no let-up in the difficult circumstances that are facing several of 'our' families at the moment.

We continue to seek God's guidance and power for the growth of this venture, both in numbers and equally in the depth of insight and understanding of the group and in our corporate response to the challenge of the Gospel in today's world. In this we need your continuing prayers and support.

Walk for February – The Ribble Link

The walk this month coincided with the beautiful warm weather that we all agreed was perfect, whatever the time of year. The walk started and finished at Haslam Park, Preston, where we parked on the site of the old open-air swimming baths.

We started the walk by heading towards the duck pond and on to the canal towpath, walking in a northerly direction, with many people out on bikes or walking. Soon, the canal changed colour to a brown froth and had the appearance of being filled in. Apparently, the cause is the mild winter and also part of the canal's natural life cycle and quite harmless.

We now arrived at the Ribble Link, which connects the canal to the River Ribble. During its working life, the waterway wasn't connected, (other than Glasson Dock), but in recent times, this link was made for the benefit of pleasure boats and the bonus to us walkers is a splendid footpath that is now part of the Guild Wheel. After a while, we stopped for lunch, on a seat provided before crossing a footbridge and entering the greens of the golf club, risking life and limb dodging flying golf balls. (Golf is a walk spoilt!).

Leaving the pleasant golfing landscape behind, we entered a quiet lane and passed over the railway bridge, the line newly electrified and sporting shiny silver gantries and on to the next bridge and the canal, the start of our return to the park.

The last part of our walk took us south, back to the Ribble Link. We had heard that a number of bikes have been fished out of the water and left on the bank, so, as the Grange fleet is in need of a pair of straight handlebars, we brought with us a kit of tools. Alas, all the

relics were gone, but as we left the canal to join the park from the north, a rusty pair were found hidden in the bushes! Job done.

We finished the walk by walking through almost the full length of the park and back to the car park. This was quite an enjoyable outing with splendid weather, good paths and very flat, with only one hill at the golf club.

Linda & Eddie Grange

What next for Christ Church?

If you've had even a brief glimpse through the reports presented at the Annual Church Meeting, you can see that there is a lot going on and the future looks exciting. One of the most exciting happenings will be the arrival of our new minister, Karen. Many of us have enjoyed working with the Rev. Jane Wild and are looking forward to still being part of the same team when she becomes the Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit Superintendent in September. We are also excited at the prospect of welcoming our new Minister, Rev. Karen Le Mouton and her husband Steve. Karen will move from her quiet home on the Island of Sark in early August and become our minister officially on the 1st of September so please pray for Karen and Steve as, for them, it may seem like moving to a foreign country!!

The changes that have been taking place this year have made it clear that there are fewer and fewer ordained clergy in all denominations and so we have had to start thinking about how we want things to be in the future. It is far better to start making plans while we are still well provided for than to wait and find ourselves faced with real difficulties. As a joint church, we have decisions to make that are different from those of a single denomination. In about three years'

time, if we leave things as they are, it would become the responsibility of the United Reformed Church to provide ministerial oversight. However, they are suffering particularly badly from the lack of presbyters and vacancies (or 'pastoral opportunities') tend to remain for a very long time.

Jane Wild and the Standing Committee have put together the possible options for what could happen to Christ Church which are:-

- 1) We remain exactly as we are with the probable situation being as outlined above.
- 2) We become an entirely United Reformed Church
- 3) We become a church under permanent Methodist pastoral oversight but keep some links with the United Reformed Church
- 4) We become an entirely Methodist Church
- 5) We become a church independent of all denominational ties

A paper outlining the positives and negatives of each option was tabled and discussed at the Annual Meeting and a purely indicative vote was taken. Option 5 was seen as being totally unfeasible. There were 5 votes for Option 4 and 8 votes for Option 3. It was therefore decided that the Council should explore the implications of these two options in the immediate future. Please pass any comments or opinions to any member of the Council and they will keep the church informed when there is something to report. No binding decisions can be made without all church members having the right to vote and nothing will happen quickly.

The Council believes that Christ Church has an exciting future as long as we recognise that changes will have to be made.

Carol Spencer for the Standing Committee

Friday Coffee Rota - Summer 2019

June 7	Sandra Ashcroft	July 26	Sue Lawson
June 14	Linda Grange	Aug 2	Liz Moran
June 21	Margery Cook	Aug 9	Margery Cook
June 28	Sue Lawson	Aug 16	Sandra Ashcroft
July 5	Liz Moran	Aug 23	Sue Lawson
July 12	Sandra Ashcroft	Aug 30	Liz Moran
July 19	Linda Grange	Sept 6	Linda Grange

Walk for March – High Force

This month, we stretched the boundaries a little and had a walk in the Durham Dales, based at Middleton in Teesdale.

Our starting point was the Bowlees Visitors Centre, from where we headed to the old miners Wynch Bridge to cross the Tees and join the Pennine Way National Trail. Soon, we were at Low Force, with a good flow after the recent heavy rains and through the Moor House-Upper Teesdale Nature Reserve.

During the walk, we noticed a lot of activity in the area and a chap explained to us that they were preparing the outside shots for a film that was due to be started in June and concerning WWI. The title of the film is 1917. Look out for it.

We were now steadily climbing up to High Force, England's biggest waterfall. Soon, we arrived at a splendid vantage point and we weren't disappointed. The falls were quite spectacular, plunging 70 feet. Having taken numerous photographs, we returned down the track to the Holwick Head footbridge, which we crossed and walked for a while on the opposite side of the river, followed by a climb up a steep flight of steps to the High Force Hotel.

We now started the second part of the walk in the Durham Dales. From the hotel, we walked through fields, heading North East until we met a farm road that took us high up to a quaint little hamlet and

afforded fabulous views in all directions. From here, we joined a farm track that slowly descended to the visitors' centre.

We, in our part of the world have some lovely countryside, but so do others! This was a fairly easy walk on good paths with spectacular scenery and quite accessible. We followed this walking trip with a day in York, a section of the Yorkshire coast, between Scarborough and Filey and a lap of Fountains Abbey on the way home. A very enjoyable week.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Church Flowers - Winter 2018-2019

Jun 2nd	<i>Church flowers</i>	Aug 4th	Val Fletcher
Jun 9th	Claire Tuffin	Aug 11th	Beryl Murrant
Jun 16th	<i>Church flowers</i>	Aug 18th	Margaret Mohyla
Jun 23rd	Mel Watson	Aug 25th	Anne Norcross
Jun 30th	Val Fletcher	Sep 1st	Margery Cook
Jul 7th	Margaret Mohyla	Sep 8th	Linda Grange
Jul 14th	Margery Cook	Sep 15th	Hazel Scott
Jul 21st	Sue Lawson	Sep 22nd	Claire Tuffin
Jul 28th	Carol Rose	Sep 29th	Sue Lawson

Thank you to everyone who donates or arranges flowers.

Donations towards the cost on 'Church flowers' weeks are always welcome and can be placed in the flower fund tin. If anyone is able to help with distributing flowers to our church family, this would be greatly appreciated. Also please let me know if there is someone who would appreciate a gift of flowers e.g. due to illness, bereavement or a special anniversary or birthday.

There are currently quite a few spaces on the rota for October to December, if anyone would like to contribute. The list is on the notice board in the church foyer.

Thank you.

Claire Tuffin

Music in the Afternoon for Christian Aid Rossendale Ladies Choir - 'A Great Sister Act!'

Christ Church welcomed over 30 members of the Rossendale Ladies Choir for their 16th edition of Music in the Afternoon on Sunday May 12th. Having delighted audiences for over 40 years in Concerts, Festivals and various fund-raising events both at home and abroad, they did not disappoint those who gathered to hear their singing and help support Christian Aid Week.

Under the enthusiastic leadership and training of Matthew Thomas and stylish accompaniments of David Carlston Williams, the ladies demonstrated not only their excellent choral skills, but also their passion for, and their enjoyment of choral singing.



What a musical feast they presented. All impressively sung from memory, their preparation and disciplined training was evident from the start as they put on their summer hats and swayed

'Under the Boardwalk'. They continued with strong unison, well blended rich harmonies and good clear diction in songs such as 'Hushabye Mountain' and 'Mister Sandman'. The dynamic range was used to great effect and well controlled with all eyes fixed on Matthew. Labi Siffre's poignant song 'Something inside So Strong' was a highlight and very moving.

During a well-earned vocal break, John and Carol Spencer led a reflection on the work of Christian Aid, with its focus this year, on Mothers and Babies in Sierra Leone. This connected well with the Methodist Lancashire District Partnership which has a team of which

John Spencer is one. Over the last 10 years, they have visited and worked alongside the Church in Sierra Leone.

The concert then continued with more confident performances ranging from the gentle 'Fields of Gold' to Carole King's timeless 'You've Got a Friend'. Spanning the centuries, the audience was treated to a beautiful and moving polyphonic composition 'Domine Non Sum Dignus' (Lord, I am not worthy, but only say the word and I shall be healed') It was a delight to hear good unaccompanied singing. The programme presented a variety of choral items, which could only perhaps have been enhanced by perhaps a piano solo from their talented accompanist, or maybe a vocal solo or two. Following Rutter's 'Clare Benediction', the concert ended with a 2nd rendition from 'Sister Act'. Following 'My Guy' from the first half; Lisa's delightful opening solo, grew into a truly 'Joyful Joyful' finale to an uplifting and enlightening afternoon.

Carol Rose

**A true friend is a blessing,
So treasure them with care,
When you are ill or worried,
Remember they are there,
A problem can be daunting,
When we don't know what to do,
Turn to that special confidant,
They will see you through.**

Francis Gay, Sunday Post

CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING took place on **April 28th, 2019**

The attendance at the meeting was rather disappointing so we are including most of the reports in the magazine so more of the church family can be aware of what has gone on this last year and be aware of the direction the church is looking at for the future. We begin with our minister's introduction.

CHAIR: Revd. Jane Wild

As we approach the AGM it is a good time to evaluate the life of the Church and its mission. We have had a changeable time and some of this I am sure has been as unsettling for you as it has for me. I came as your Minister in September 2018 and will cease to be your Minister on 31st August 2019. However, because of the unusual circumstances I will still be in the circuit and look forward to continued contact with you in a different role.

Things I have noticed this year.

Christ Church is a welcoming Church. It includes those who visit and are exploring faith in coffee mornings and services and groups. There is always more we can do here.

It is unique in its way of working and engaging with both the URC and Methodist Churches and this has delights and trials. Part of our Discussion at the AGM will touch on these things.

Outside the church, in the community, there are active mission opportunities that are continuing and developing.

Christ Church is made up of prayerful creative people of vision. I am concerned that the practicalities of the roles that need to be filled mean that the calling of God here is constrained by the need to keep the show on the road. As part of the Following Jesus Loving Communities review in the circuit the question was asked "what do you need to put down", to stop doing to allow the Spirit of God to flourish in this place? This is a hard question, but I have noticed that often when we stop and pause in our church life God affirms mission in a place.

Thus we make time at our AGM to review and seek God's guidance in a formal context

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. FINANCE & MISSIONS | 2. PROPERTY & LETTINGS |
| 3. CTLD | 4. URC SYNOD |
| 5. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE | 6. ROUND THE TABLE |
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| 15. WORSHIP/ STEWARDS | 16. PULPIT SUPPLY SECRETARY |
| 17. MUSIC COORDINATOR | 18. SHOEBOXES |
| 19. SOCKS FOR REFUGEES | 20. RAMBLERS |
| 21. FLOWER COORDINATOR | 22. ACTION FOR CHILDREN |

1. FINANCE REPORT – Ian Lawson

Christ Church manages its finances using a Church Finance Group comprising: Henry Rose, Mel Watson, Margaret Mohyla and Ian Lawson. Each member of the group has specific responsibilities that they undertake.

The Church has 2 bank accounts; a current account with Lloyds Bank and a savings account with the Central Finance Board (CFB) of the Methodist Church. The financial year runs from 1 September to 31 August each year. At the end of the last financial year (31 August 2018) the balance of the accounts was:

Lloyds Bank	£24,775.33
CFB	£45,773.73

At the end of February 2019 (midpoint of the financial year) the balance of the accounts was

Lloyds Bank	£22,839.55
CFB	£35,404.46

The balance held in the current account is much larger than we would normally want, but reflects the significant number of transactions that have taken place in relation to the maintenance of the building and the need to pay invoices promptly. The biggest project was the kitchen refurbishment, which is now complete.

The Church has continued its generous support through donations made to a number of organisations, including:

Shoebox appeal:	£297
Unicef Mites scheme:	£175.27
Action for Children:	£643.44
Fox Street:	£208 (Christmas collection which is in addition to the gifts of food collected weekly)
Methodist World Mission:	<i>No total as yet for this year. Please see Mission Report</i>
Salvation Army	<i>£720 raised at Christmas and sent direct to the Christmas Appeal</i>

Any questions about the Church Finances should be directed to a member of the Church Finance Group.

Methodist/URC Mission & Gift Aid – Sue Lawson

As there is now an imbalance in the monies collected for Methodist/URC missions it is felt that there should be a rethink as to how home/overseas missions are supported at Christ Church. If anyone has any views on this matter please make them known to Sue Lawson.

Gift Aid received:

June 2018 - £4043.58

January 2019 - £1485.44

2. PROPERTY & LETTINGS – John Spencer & Judith Dixon

Property

The suite of premises that we use for the work of God in this place is, by and large, in good order. However, we must not rest on our laurels. Over the past 12 months a number of challenges have arisen. Firstly, the kitchen has been upgraded to keep in line with modern practices and to 'future proof' us if we intend to use the facility on a more regular basis.

Secondly, the property schedule review as well as the spring clean earlier on this year has shown up a number of items that still need attention. The repair of the windows in the hall is a major item along with the toilet and connecting passage. The windows are becoming a bit of a saga, as we have experienced difficulties in finding someone to undertake this work. Of more urgent need are the coping stones above the vestry, which have slipped and need removing.

As ever, the property group, along with others, keep a check on the day to day running of the premises and I am grateful for their support.

John Spencer

Lettings

There have been a couple of changes with groups that have been hiring the Church hall this year.

Homestart, due to a lack in numbers in attendance at their Tuesday group, had unfortunately to cease hiring the hall at the beginning of the year. They had praise for the facilities' that we provided, but financial constraints had forced their hand. I am sorry to see them go, and I took the opportunity in wishing them the very best from us all, and that they would be welcome back, should their fortunes change.

Hayley Roberts (Vibes) has also ceased hiring the hall from the end of March this year. She informed us that she has gone to a more suitable venue for her business. I also took the opportunity in wishing her the best from us all. I am unclear if she has paid her rental monies for this Jan-March 2019, but I am sure that the forthcoming bank statements will provide us with the necessary information. It is unfortunate that she has left the hall floor in a worse condition than that in which she found it. She has allowed tap-dancing on the floor, despite our provision of boards, and our request to use these boards that were provided by Henry. However, Cheryl our present cleaner, has a friend who had a floor cleaning business, and she is going to ask him, if he would help for nothing.

A.T.C. – our longest standing hall user group, are still hiring it on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Their H.Q in Liverpool, now pay their hiring fees 3 monthly in advance, via BACS, this system is working well.

The 'Painting Policeman' hires the hall periodically, I have no concerns with regard to him hiring the hall. He only requests to hire the hall on a Saturday, and he always gives us plenty of notice.

The new Round the Table group uses the hall on a Thursdays. This is a joint initiative with Inglewhite Congregational Church and is therefore an in-house user of the hall.

Although we have suffered a considerable loss of revenue, with the reduction in Hall hire, I am optimistic, that we will get groups wishing to hire our hall. We have a lovely new kitchen, our hiring fees are one of the lowest in Longridge, and the population of Longridge is expanding at a very quick rate.

Warm regards, Judith. (Lettings Secretary).

3. CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LONGRIDGE & DISTRICT – John Spencer

As part of CTLD Christ Church plays a significant role. Alongside other members we seek to present a united message to our community (not always easy). Our major work throughout the year is the running of the Foodbank and Friday Morning Prayers. During the year we have occasional united services and have a presence at both the Field Day and the Agricultural Show. Over the last 12 months we have been involved in delivering an information sheet 'Welcome to Longridge', to all the new housing we see springing up around us.

We feel that the role of CTLD is a vital part of our witness to the community and if you would like to become more involved please see 'your local church representative.'

4. URC NORTH WEST SYNOD – Sue Lawson

There was a meeting of the NW Synod of the URC on Saturday 16 March 2019 at the URC church of St Andrew and St George in Bolton. This was chaired by Revd John Piper in the absence of a Moderator. Revd Andrew Mills has now left post and it is hoped that a new Synod Moderator will be taking up post between September 2019 and January 2020. Christ Church comes under the Lancashire Area within Synod but there were no area meetings planned within the programme of this meeting.

The URC continues along the path of Missional Partnerships/Missional Discipleship and Revd Daleen TenCate, the Mission and Discipleship Mentor for Lancashire, will lead our worship at Christ Church on 5 May 2019.

The next meeting of the NW Synod is scheduled for Saturday 12 October 2019 at a venue yet to be decided.

5. WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Although we are often saddened by the lack of children at our Sunday morning services; it is delightful to see that our church is often a place where children can be found. There are the children at 'Round the Table' twice a month; 'Connexion Zone' continues twice per term with 46 children and 9 adults at the last meeting and one baby now regularly attends the craft club with his mum on a Monday morning! (from Pastoral Report)

Links with Barnacre Road School – Howard Roscoe

We continue to build links with Barnacre Road School through our twice termly 'Connexion Zone' sessions for Reception and Year 5 children. We support Barnacre Road through our two members of the governing body, Jane Turner and Howard Roscoe. The school continues to thrive. The staff and pupils are working extremely hard, and successfully to meet the higher demands of the SATS attainment tests whilst maintaining the school ethos of giving every child a wide and balanced education. Changes in the OFSTED regime to be introduced in the next school year may lead to some relaxation in the prescriptive curriculum requirements that have been imposed on us. In response to strong local demand the school is currently looking to provide a pre-nursery facility for 2 and 3 year olds.

6. ROUND THE TABLE – Howard Roscoe, Claire Tuffin, & Anne Norcross

It is hard to realise that our joint initiative with Inglewhite Church has now been running for almost 2 years. Our once a fortnight format, where we meet after school on Thursday afternoons to share a simple meal and to play and socialise is now becoming well established and our Friday morning chat and pray sessions that spin off from 'Round The Table' now attract a regular group of adults and pre-school children.

We continue to explore ways of introducing some informal worship sessions into the Round the Table programme that will strike the right balance for both children and adults.

We had been challenged from time to time by a series of family crises. At the end of 2018 we were all feeling the pressure but following a meeting with the leaders of our supporting churches we have been joined by Dennis and Linda Bond from Inglewhite who have a particular call to children's ministry. Their support in this area is greatly appreciated and the (brief) opportunity that this provides for a few moments quiet reflection for the adults is greatly appreciated. Whilst we still run the risk of leader burn out due to health, work and old age we are building a stronger community through prayer, fellowship and mutual support.

7. CRAFT CLUB – Carol Spencer

Craft club has continued to meet every Monday morning in term time. The numbers attending have varied from 8 to over 20 but are usually around 15. It is great to note that, as most of us grow older, we have been joined by some younger women and one who regularly brings her baby. In general, you will find us in the foyer for extra warmth in winter and in church for extra light in summer!! Sorry to say, we are still not attracting any men -- do men not do crafts?

Last year, our summer trip was to Skipton, where we looked around the shops; had fish, chips and all the trimmings at Busy Lizzie's and had a trip on a canal boat. The weather was good and we really had a most enjoyable day. Our Autumn Craft Sale went well as usual and money was raised for Sierra Leone and a number of other charities. At Christmas, Craft Club members contributed considerable numbers of hand made decorations for our window displays and some really beautiful flower arrangements. We also had a Christmas lunch at the Corporation Arms.

We all bring our own projects to work on during our Monday meetings but last year saw a growth in the number of charity projects to which members contributed. We continued making blankets for refugees; knitted and crocheted hundreds of poppies for the Remembrance ceremonies and made small jumpers for children in several parts of the world. The items we made for the Christmas decorations are being passed on to Royal Preston Hospital for a special memorial round a pond in the grounds which will help to remember a member of staff and provide a place for peaceful reflection.

Although we no longer make blankets for refugees, we are now collecting socks for those who suffer because of being constantly wet in the refugee camps. Any new socks will do but I expect our knitters will be contributing some neatly turned heels!!

If you enjoy doing crafts from quilting to doll's house building; knitting to card-making or are just at a loose end, feel free to join us on Monday's from 10.00 and share in a brew and biscuits (and even cake sometimes); cheerful chatter or serious conversation and lots of great ideas.

8. MONDAY MENU – Henry & Carol Rose

Building on the legacy of Christ Church Guild and Tuesday at Two, our new 'Monday Menu' began in September 2018. Meeting from 7pm – 8.30pm (with transport provided) on the first Monday of the month, it provides 'Coffee, Company & Conversation' along with an opportunity to meet together over light refreshments and join in various activities, quizzes and share in some 'Food for Thought' to encourage us in our Christian Faith. Each evening has a theme and topics have included Saints, Advent, Community issues, Lent, April Fools and a New Year Party. Special thanks to those who offer their help on the night and also share in the leading.

9. FRIDAY COFFEE– Margery Cook

This is well attended by a regular core of people both from our church & others. We have 5 servers who we would like to thank for their cheerful service over the year. We could always do with more servers to relieve the workload.

10. NOTICES & PRAYER FROM THE CONGREGATION- Margery Cook

Between us Carol Rose, Howard & I manage to produce a not always error free copy every week. This also includes the Prayer from the Congregation for which we have a good list of people willing to write a prayer. We get sets of 40 Sunday Link blanks from Redemptorist every 3 months but don't really require so many these days. They have also started sending us 5 Large print copies of the Readings & Collect for each Sunday from a charity. We thank everyone for their efforts.

11. CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – Carol Rose

Another range of activities and opportunities for involvement are planned for this year. Publicity for all events is available from Carol Rose.

Thursday May 9th: Market Café lunches & stalls (Please see John Spencer)

Sunday May 12th: 10.45am Worship led by Carol Spencer

2.30pm Music in the Afternoon: Rossendale Ladies Choir

Friday May 17th: 7pm Quiz Night (Please see John Spencer)

Sunday May 19th: 10.45am & 3pm worship led by Rev Jane Wild

12. MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON (MIA) - Carol Rose

Sunday May 12th at 2.30pm MiA for Christian Aid with guests 'The Rossendale Ladies Choir.' (A payment of Choir fees of £180 was agreed at Council last year)

Help with distributing publicity posters and flyers around Longridge would be very much appreciated. Following the success of the Christmas Concert led by the Valley Singers, I am not producing and selling tickets for this concert.

I am in discussion with Matthew Balson and it is hoped that the Longridge Junior Band will make a return visit in 2020, probably in the form of a Summer Concert. I still hope to secure a concert for Christian Aid next May.

(The Valley Singers, who like using our premises, are looking to book another 'Come and Sing' Day later in the year.)

13. PASTORAL – Carol Spencer

First to report on the statistics:-

At the end of March 2019:-

Membership stands at 48 (25 joint members; 14 Methodist and 9 URC)

Changes: Jason McMahon and Karen Yates have transferred their membership to other churches. Sadly our oldest URC member and our oldest Methodist member died in 2018.

We were also saddened by the death of Joyce Lawson recently. We will continue to remember all our bereaved members in our prayers.

We have not made any new members this year and Leanne, Mungo and Brook Gilchrist and Michael and Susan Prendergast no longer worship with us although they are still officially on the membership list.

As most churches at this time, the ageing nature of our congregation has challenged us with increasing numbers of people with serious health issues including difficulties with hearing and sight; mobility and, of course, dementia. We have tried to support people but are always willing to listen if anybody has any suggestions as to how we could accommodate particular needs. I have been specially concerned about our sound system this year. I hope we will soon be able to address some of the difficulties which are not just about microphones but also the placement of speakers.

Our community roll stands at 72 households, all of whom receive the magazine and 35 receive regular visits. Once again I would like to thank the pastoral visitors for their work and also those who assist with the distribution of magazines. We welcomed Sandra Ashcroft to the list of Visitors and she is currently visiting our friends who live in Plessington Court.

We have an increasing number of people living in sheltered accommodation and care homes. We have been asked to visit three people who have moved into Longridge care homes from elsewhere – Norma Johnson and Jean Daniels in Longridge Hall and Theo (Theadora) Skeat in Alston View. At the time of writing Elizabeth Hodgkiss and Henry's mother, Joyce Rose, are also in Alston View. Although we are often saddened by the lack of children at our Sunday morning services. It is delightful to see that our church is often a place where children can be found. There are the children at Round the Table twice a month; Connexion Zone continues twice per term with 46 children and 9 adults at the last meeting and one baby now regularly attends the craft club with his mum on a Monday morning!

Early in the year, the pastoral visitors revisited the Encircled with Care course and worked through the three basic sessions. The next session was to be on Issues relating to Older People and to those living with dementia. However this has been postponed partly because of developments in the Circuit. In September, Denise Johnson was appointed as a full-time lay worker for Pastoral Work right across the Circuit. She is busy arranging training sessions for Pastoral Visitors across the Circuit and one of the sessions she is hoping to arrange quite soon is on Dementia Awareness so we hope to be able to join in with that and any others which might be of help to us. I don't think they will be limited to Pastoral Visitors. John and I recently attended a Dementia Awareness Workshop run by an organisation called Dementia Friends at Leyland URC. I trust that our church will remain a place of welcome for all people, however difficult that may sometimes be.

14. SAFEGUARDING– Jane Turner

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to prevent abuse from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.

I have been safeguarding monitoring officer since September 2016

I completed a foundation module refresher course in January 2017

I appreciate that all those working with children and adults are required to attend foundation safeguarding and then refresher training which is now every 4 years to reflect the pace of change to safeguarding understanding and legislation

Model Job description for me

Here is now a model job description:

I am to assist the minister and Church Council in ensuring that the church has an appropriate safeguarding policy, which is implemented and reviewed annually; and also, to act as a point of reference for advice on safeguarding issues. To help the minister to draw up a local church policy and keep it under review.

- To offer support and guidance to the minister and Church Council about safeguarding matters, offering advice or making referrals.
- With the lettings officer ensure that all hirers are aware of and comply with the local church safeguarding policy –or if groups have their own policies, that this is noted on the agreement.
- To make sure that safeguarding is an item on all Church Council agendas.
- To advise church groups on safe recruitment practice and with the minister keep records of application forms, DBS checks and references.
- With the minister identify who needs to complete Foundation Module and Refresher training and let the circuit safeguarding officer know for planning purposes.
- To keep a local church attendance record of those who have completed the training.
- To make sure that a copy of the church safeguarding policy is prominently displayed around the church and that there is a good supply of other publicity material about safeguarding available for church noticeboards and other suitable locations.
- To act as a link between the local church, the circuit safeguarding officer and the DSO.
- The church safeguarding officer will be responsible to the Church Council, through the minister.

Records

I understand there is one person to attend a course this year and I hope to join her although it may be that I attend the Advanced Safeguarding Module.

Circuit Safeguarding's list of our church record of course attendees is expected shortly

I assure the Council that all incidents or concerns if indeed there were any- have been properly recorded and referred to appropriate persons.

I am not aware that the safe for safeguarding papers has been put in and have been unable to update keyholder information

There is a new Policy at the Methodist Church re conducting safeguarding risk assessments

The new data protection regulations have come into force. GDPR requires that new privacy notices are supplied to those about whom information is received by the Church. Old privacy notices should be updated. We need to be careful that we hold data under the regulations and not keep it longer than necessary and parties likely to process data within a safeguarding context must be familiar with the key concepts.

I would like to inform Council that I am familiar and happy to pass information to others.

Our Church Safeguarding Policy: Our policy remains the same.

Record-keeping

Verifier has a page with the basic information re all DBS checks and should be asked to forward to Church Safeguarding Officer.

Ideally records should be kept in a locked, fireproof cabinet at church. It should be accessible only to the minister and safeguarding officer. These records can be kept on computer.

a template on which to keep records has been made.
Safeguarding should be on the agenda at every Church Council.

Requests to Council from the Church safeguarding officer

Could I ask that the church completes their yearly audit/monitoring on safeguarding confirming that policies are in place for the church and all groups and lettings in the church and that these have been annually reviewed and that the keeping of data is done according to the new Regulations.

Could I ask the church completes a risk assessment on each area of activity in the church; that this is stored and reviewed at least annually, and that it is readily available on request

Could I ask to be informed if there are any recruitments to posts as there are the safe recruitment policies to have in mind

Please could I ask the church to check that it has a safeguarding noticeboard with a copy of the current, signed safeguarding policy, contact numbers for local and national helplines and other suitable information including my contact details.

Could Council inform me who will be appropriate keyholders to make the declarations.

Thankyou, Jane Turner

15. WORSHIP & STEWARDS – Carol Rose

STANDING COMMITTEE: Named Stewards holding the 5 main responsibilities make up our Standing Committee for matters arising between council meetings. It consists of Methodist (Senior) Steward, URC Secretary, Chair of Finance, Chair of Property and Pastoral Secretary.

At Christ Church, all council members/ elders serve as Vestry Stewards.

Welcome/Door Stewards include other members of Christ Church as well.

STEWARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Each quarter, council members, door stewards and Sunday Coffee teams are asked to fill in a chart to indicate availability in order for a duty rota to be produced. Thanks are expressed for everyone's cooperation with what is becoming a more difficult task.

Allowing for more frequent Circuit Services and the monthly SPACE event, the Rota covers 13 morning, 3 afternoon and an average of 6 evening services per quarter.

A summary of all duties is given out and on the notice board. The planned discussions and review of our work and witness here at Christ Church will help to clarify what procedures we might need to change or put in place regarding the role and responsibilities of stewards in order for the facilitating our worship services and other events.

WORSHIP LEADING

The list of volunteer readers was extended last year to include offering 4 ways of opportunities to be involved in worship. Thanks are expressed to all who have expressed an interest in assisting in the leading of worship in this way.

The success of congregational involvement relies heavily on good early communication by the appointed steward with the preacher. This list is updated regularly.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS Churches are sometimes asked by the Circuit to make 'Local Arrangements'(LA) and the URC expect Churches to look into forming and hopefully training small groups who could take on these responsibilities and lessen the pressure to extend invitations.

'Worship Planning Opportunities' may need to be in place as it is not only Methodist practice for stewards and others to take responsibility for any 'LA' services appearing on the plan but also that

the need may arise to develop this URC strategy as we look at how our future of ministry and mission with regard to worship services will unfold.

16. PULPIT SUPPLY SECRETARY – Carol Rose

Whilst under Methodist Pastoral oversight, the services, other than the minister's appointments, are shared between the Preston Ribble Circuit and the URC preachers/ministers. At present, we seek to invite at least 6 visiting preachers drawn from URC and other denominations and have the rest appointed by the Circuit Superintendent.

The Christ Church quarterly plan is prepared in consultation with the Minister and Superintendent and brought to each council meeting. Due to various difficulties and uncertainties of the proposed Missional Partnership structure, URC invitations have been and will continue to be carried out several quarters ahead and this sometimes causes difficulties with short notice for Circuit Services. Also, the list of recognized preachers covers a very wide area and has implications for travel and availability due to heavy demand.

A worship information sheet is regularly updated and produced for stewards to send when making contact with the appointed preachers. This procedure needs reviewing so as to have a consistent approach to welcoming and for the passing on the required information in good time to all those involved. It is important to bear in mind that the process of being invited/appointed differs between our denominations.

17. MUSIC COORDINATOR – Carol Rose

Over the years we have enjoyed a variety of worship accompaniment and music initiatives in worship.

At present, the accompaniments are provided by Geoff Balson, John Dixon or Carol Rose; but mainly by Geoff on the piano.

We ask stewards to obtain full orders of service and we prepare the music on a Friday.

Thanks to Claire and John Spencer who also act as a support in the service.

I play when Geoff is unavailable and also cover the evening services.

Grateful thanks are expressed to Geoff, who also accompanies for most of our monthly services at Plessington Court.

A music rota is on the notice board for stewards to see who is playing for each service, but please pass all the information to me for preparation and also importantly to obtain any CCL copyright permission which might be required.

18. SHOEBOXES – John & Carol Spencer

After a great deal of discussion, the Council decided that there were a number of aspects of the Samaritan's Purse shoebox scheme which we had supported for a number of years were of concern, not least their request for ever-increasing amounts of cash not all of which was used for transporting the boxes to the children who needed them.

We found that there were a number of other organisations which distributed Shoeboxes and we decided to support a Scottish-based organisation called Blytheswood Care. The type of contents they wanted for children's boxes were similar to the Samaritan's Purse ones so none of the items which had been accumulating during the year would be wasted. Additionally Blytheswood were willing to take boxes for babies and for adults – particularly elderly people – which suited some of our donors. They asked for a smaller amount of cash for transport and made it clear that this was optional so no one was excluded from contributing.

The main drawback to this arrangement was that we had a shorter time in which to prepare the boxes as Blytheswood's policy was to make sure the boxes reached their destinations before Christmas, which had not always been the case with Samaritan's Purse. So we set aside a Friday in late October and, working as a team, we filled 56 shoeboxes. This was rather fewer than in previous years but we felt happier about how they were being dealt with. A volunteer driver collected the boxes from Longridge and took them to Liverpool for sending to Ukraine. We received a message to say that they had safely arrived well before Christmas with a photo of the lorry which transported them onwards. Finally we received a formal 'thank you' letter with confirmation that our boxes and the money we had sent for transport costs had been received and the boxes delivered.

This year we hope to do something very similar again although we haven't decided on whether to send our gifts with Blytheswood or an organisation that would take them to Sierra Leone. Please watch out for more information soon.

19. SOCKS FOR REFUGEES – Claire Tuffin

Since December we have been collecting socks as part of a project 'Operation Warm Feet' linked to the 60 Million Trebles blanket project which we participated in previously. The aim of this project is to collect 10,000 pairs of socks by September 2019 which will then be distributed to refugee camps. As an indicator of need, a member of the project is also involved in sending aid to the Hope Project in Lesvos and recently reported that when her latest pallet of aid arrived they had had no blankets, underwear or socks left in their supplies.

Between the beginning of December and the end of March we at Christ Church have already collected 155 pairs of socks. I have updated the group intermittently regarding the progress of our collection and they have asked me to pass on their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their generosity. As of March 29th the overall group total was reported to be 5,708 pairs of socks. We will continue to collect socks until the end of August.

20. RAMBLERS – Linda & Eddie Grange

The walking group have completed another successful year, with a variety of local walks, together with a few further afield.

For some years now, we have joined up with St Georges and St Andrews church in Bolton, which has allowed both Bolton and Longridge to benefit from the local knowledge of each group.

Sadly, the number of walkers have fallen off significantly over recent years and the few that remain are encountering increasing mobility issues that have limited the sort of walks that we plan to do.

Canals are a regular feature and the traditional seven miles is now down to four or five.

However, we will continue to make the most of our monthly outings and look forward to another interesting year. We walk one Wednesday each month. Please contact us for details.

21. FLOWER COORDINATOR – Claire Tuffin

The church flower rota is working well. Most Sundays are allocated to individuals and the remaining Sundays are generally covered by donations in the Flower Fund collection tin. As of March 2019 the balance in the fund stands at £15.60. Financial donations have also enabled us to provide floral decoration for the church over the Christmas period.

Thank you to everyone who donates flowers or funds and also to everyone who arranges flowers. Your contributions are gratefully received. There are still a few gaps on the rota for the remainder of 2019 if anyone would like to become involved. Please sign up in the foyer or speak to me. Thank you. As always, if anyone knows of a pastoral need where flowers could be given, please let me know.

22. ACTION FOR CHILDREN – Mel Watson

In July 2018, I sent a cheque for £643.44 to Action for Children. I would like to thank all those who during the year have contributed to this worthwhile charity, by either giving or serving refreshments or by buying them at coffee mornings.

Having supported this charity all my life, when it was known as the National Children's Home, I am very grateful for the way in which people help, through the church, to continue and further the work of Action for Children.

I am always conscious that God came into the world as a child, and think it is our responsibility to help vulnerable children develop in a stable, caring and loving environment. Even in this affluent country, there are still many children who do not enjoy such homes, and by supporting this charity you are giving under-privileged children and young people a better chance in life.

Christ Church Worship and Events

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

Sunday June 2nd

AM Mr Henry Rose (Bible Month 1)

PM Rev Jane Wild

Wednesday June 5th

URC Preachers' Meeting

Thursday June 6th

9am–1pm Longridge Market Café at the Civic Hall hosted by Christ Church. If you are able to help, please see John Spencer.

4pm 'Thy Kingdom Come' a relaxed exploration of prayer with the Rev. Jane Wild at Christ Church.

7.30pm (probably) a one-hour introduction to Dementia Awareness for Pastoral Visitors and others who are interested. For details please see Carol Spencer as soon as possible.

Saturday June 8th

Longridge Field Day – if you are able to help please see John or Carol Spencer.

CELEBRATING '30 YEARS TOGETHER'

Sunday June 9th

AM Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion (Bible Month 2)

Also welcoming the Mayoral Party

4pm CTLD Pentecost Service at Christ Church

also

4-6pm SPACE at Bamber Bridge

Tuesday June 11th

Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting

Wednesday June 12th

9.30am Connexion Zone

Sunday June 16th

AM Miss Rachel Atkinson On Trial (Bible Month 3)
3pm John & Carol Spencer Plessington Court

Wednesday June 19th

Circuit Meeting

Thursday June 20th

Christ Church Council

Sunday June 23rd

AM Mr Harry Duckett (Bible Month 4)
PM Rev Andrew Webb

Thursday June 27th – Thursday July 4th

Methodist Conference

Saturday June 29th

10am-4pm Worship Basics at Fulwood URC (see notice in foyer)

Sunday June 30th

AM Mrs Catherine Kampta On Trial
4pm Circuit Service for Healing & Wholeness at Kingsfold

Saturday July 6th

Longridge Show if you can help with the CTLD stand
please see John or Carol Spencer

Sunday July 7th

AM Mr Jason McMahon On Trial
PM Rev Jane Wild

Thursday July 11th

6.30pm CTLD Business Meeting at Christ Church

Sunday July 14th

AM Mrs Zoe Ainsworth

4 – 6pm Circuit SPACE at Christ Church

If you are able to help with refreshments and stewarding,
Please see Carol Rose

Monday July 15th

Craft Club Trip

Sunday July 21st

AM Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion

3pm Rev Jane Wild Plessington Court

6.30pm Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Mark Slaney & Rev
Andrew Webb at Bamber Bridge

Sunday July 28th

AM Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher (URC Preacher)

PM Mr Frank Bamber (Circuit Preacher)

Sunday August 4th

AM Mr Ernest Wrennall (URC Preacher from Leyland)

PM Mrs Carol Rose

Sunday August 11th

AM Mrs Carol Rose

PM Rev Jane Wild

Sunday August 18th

AM Rev Jane Wild Holy Communion

3pm Rev Jane Wild Plessington Court

Sunday August 25th

AM Mrs Jennifer Berrill (Circuit Preacher from Longton)

PM Henry & Carol Rose 'Praise 'n' Prayer'

Sunday September 1st

6.30pm Service of Welcome for Rev Janet Titterton and Rev Karen Le Mouton as they begin their ministry in the Preston Ribble Circuit. (Venue to be announced)

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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