

The Messenger



Winter 2019

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

www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

Christmas Message 2019

We have an extraordinary message to share of ordinary things made extraordinary through God's transformational power. The nativity story is full of ordinary things: a couple making a journey required by law, people (and animals!) going about their ordinary lives. Yet into all these ordinary situations and things, something extraordinary happens. An inn keeper has no rooms left but offers his stable where an extraordinary birth takes place, witnessed by animals, a donkey and a cow for sure. A simple cow's feeding trough, the manger, becomes a cradle for the Son of God. Stories have been written about ordinary animals who played an extraordinary part in this Christmas mystery. Shepherds minding their sheep as usual become the first to hear the angels' extraordinary news in an extraordinary way which transforms their evening, and I am sure their lives. Men who studied the stars found something extraordinary which made them travel across continents to find this extraordinary King.

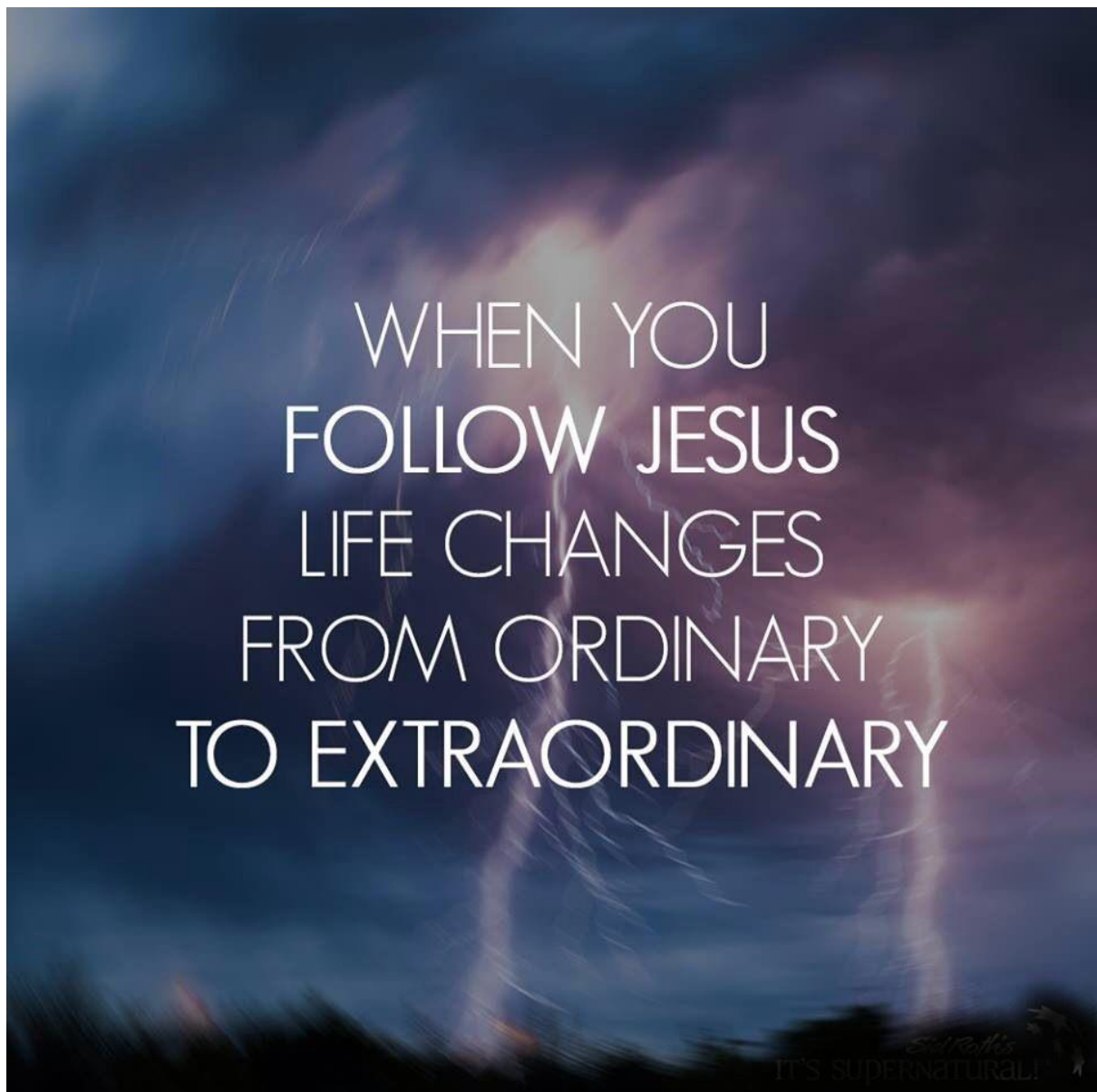
Jesus, as a man ministered to the people using ordinary everyday situations, objects and people to demonstrate his extraordinary message of love, grace and forgiveness. The ordinary took on extraordinary meaning when lives were touched by Jesus. Bread and wine, are ordinary items, yet have extraordinary significance in the life of a Christian.

As we go about the 'ordinary' preparations for Christmas, the tinsel, decorations, presents, food, nativities, worship and festivities, may we all encounter the risen Christ in an extraordinary way this Christmas. May we remember that significant, extraordinary birth, and worship our extraordinary God who will transform our ordinary lives if we offer Christ room in our hearts.

May you have a truly extraordinary Christmas and a transformational 2020.

God bless, Karen

PS “Each of us is an inn keeper who decides if there is room for Jesus” (Neal A. Maxwell)



September to November

The Church seems to go mad in September – everything that had had a summer break or just a bit of a slowdown suddenly springs to life. However, most of the activity is ‘beneath the surface’ as every possible committee starts organising again. Nevertheless, we had a really important start to the ‘year’. We welcomed our new minister the Reverend Karen Le Mouton and her husband Steve. Karen has already made herself well known in the church and churches together community and her smiling face pops up all over the place. We have loved beginning to get to know her and are looking forward to her time here with us.

After the early excitement, things settled down to the usual pattern – Craft Club; Monday Menu; Round the Table; Friday Prayers; Friday Coffee and regular services were obvious but there were also CLTD general planning and Refugee planning meetings; World Day of Prayer planning; Circuit meeting; stewards meetings; Church Council meeting; URC Partnership Steering Group meetings; Remembrance Sunday planning meetings; church and Circuit Pastoral meetings and probably some I’ve forgotten about. In amongst there were some highlights such as the Harvest Supper; the Circuit One Mission event at Leyland with the all-singing, all-dancing Zimbabwean Choir; the visit of the Valley Singers for Music in the Afternoon; Connexion Zone with more than 48 children; two Market Café days and of course, the annual Shoebox Collection. Like last year, we partnered with Blytheswood, a Scottish-based, Christian charity. We were able to pass on to them 98 boxes and £250 towards transportation. The boxes are going to Romania in time for Christmas.

As you can see, we are a busy little church. Thank you to everyone who has contributed with money and material gifts; time, talent and energy and prayer. A special thank you to those who do the ‘quiet’

jobs – brewing up, making cakes, arranging and taking out flowers, cleaning, moving furniture, doing ‘odd jobs’ and so much more. Thank you too, to those who combine their church work with volunteering in hospitals and charity shops and other community projects and those who contribute to the wider church. Though much of what you do may not be appreciated by those around, God knows us all and will bless all that we do for the sake of his kingdom.

Obituaries

LES MATES

We were sad to hear of the death of Les Mates in November. Les was a faithful member of Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Church until it closed. As he got older and he had mobility problems, his daughter Gillian Walker started to collect him from Preston and bring him to worship with us at Christ Church. It has been a real pleasure to have them as part of our congregation for the last few years. Our heartfelt condolences go to Gillian and the rest of the family and we would assure Gillian of our prayers and support in the difficult times ahead.

REV ELIZABETH HODGKISS

Elizabeth died on the 24th of October aged 83. She lived a long, and in many ways eventful, life. She trained and worked as a teacher before joining what was then known as the Deaconess order of the Methodist Church. Here she met her life-long friend Janet Edwards. When the presbyteral ministry was opened to women in 1973, Elizabeth was ordained with the first cohort while Janet continued on

as a Deacon. (This was the new name for the order as it was opened to men as well as women, but Janet always preferred to be called a Deaconess). Though a city girl, Elizabeth came to have a heart for rural ministry while on Caravan Mission as a Deaconess and spent most of her presbyteral ministry in rural areas from Shetland to Devon. After she 'sat down' in Methodist terms or 'retired' as many would have put it, she and Janet moved to Longridge and continued their preaching ministry mainly in the Preston Ribble Circuit but also further afield. They lived what seemed to be a full and happy life and particularly enjoyed eating out. Elizabeth began to find life more difficult after Janet died and her health began to deteriorate. About 12 months ago she had a couple of falls at home and one on holiday, which necessitated stays in hospital and rehab. Eventually she settled in Alston View Nursing Home earlier this year. She longed to go home to the house on Chaigley Road but this proved impossible and she remained in Alston View until the day before she died.

It was lovely to welcome people from a number of places where Elizabeth had ministered, to her funeral, especially James Law who has visited her from his home in Penrith on many occasions and helped with many of the practical jobs she was unable to manage herself. The church wants to thank everyone who helped and supported Elizabeth in these last months including Sue and Ian who were with her in hospital on that last night and Becca Ainsworth, a Local Preacher in training, who was on duty on the ward where she died.

Our prayers and condolences go to Elizabeth's brother Derek and her nephews; James Law and his family and all of her many friends.

Hand Knitted Bible

Earlier this year some of us went up to Knowle Green Church to see an exhibition of scenes from the Bible which had been handknitted by the members of one church over a number of years. They started by knitting a scene to illustrate a Bible story for Junior Church and enjoyed it so much that they did more and more and are continuing to add more scenes all the time. The church at Knowle Green put boards across all their pews and also used some tables at the front of the worship area and every inch was covered with scenes starting with the Garden of Eden right through to Revelation – although there are clearly yet more possible scenes if they had room. For crafters, in particular, it was a really inspiring exhibition. It has become very popular and has been touring churches throughout the country and in March 2020 it is coming to the Preston Ribble Circuit. Exact details are not yet available but please look out for the information which we will put in the notices and on the foyer noticeboards when it is available. As you can tell, I really enjoyed my visit and am looking forward to seeing it all again and finding out if there have been more additions so I hope you too will enjoy it and, if you are a knitter, perhaps be inspired to have a go at knitting something different.

Carol Spencer

Our prayers and best wishes go to Linda as she recovers from surgery. The Messenger isn't the same without rambling reports. Thank you, Linda and Eddie, for organising so many walks and writing so many reports. Hope you will be rambling again soon.

*All welcome
to our...
Monday
Menu*



'EPIPHANY PARTY!'

Monday January 6th

7.00pm

Please sign up by Dec 29th

Transport Available

Christ Church Worship and Events

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

Sunday December 1st

ADVENT 1

AM Rev Karen Le Mouton Holy Communion
PM Advent Carol Service

Monday December 2nd

7pm Christmas Meal at the Alston Arms

Wednesday December 4th

7.30pm Circuit Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at Christ Church

Saturday December 7th

11am Blessing of the Crib at Towneley Gardens

Sunday December 8th

ADVENT 2

AM Mrs Carol Rose
4-6pm Circuit SPACE at Fulwood Methodist

Monday December 9th

7.30pm Circuit Meeting at Penwortham

Sunday December 15th

ADVENT 3

AM Dr Carol Spencer
3pm Rev Karen Le Mouton Plessington Court Carol Service

Monday December 16th

Craft Club Christmas Lunch at White Bull, Ribchester
Craft Club Closes until Jan 6th

Thursday December 19th

7pm Lancashire Sings Christmas provisional venue - Towneley Arms

Friday December 20th

12.15-12.45pm Christmas Shoppers' Service

Sunday December 22nd

ADVENT 4

AM Mr Henry Rose

4pm Carol Service

Wednesday December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

11am Rev Karen Le Mouton

Friday December 27th

NO Friday Prayers

Sunday December 29th

1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.45am Rev Karen Le Mouton

5pm Circuit Carol Service at Kingsfold

Friday January 3rd

7.45am Friday Prayers resume

For 2020 they will be held at St Wilfrid's

Sunday January 5th

EPIPHANY

AM Rev Karen Le Mouton Covenant/Holy Communion

6.30pm CTLD Epiphany Carol Service at St Wilfrid's

Monday January 6th

7pm Monday Menu Epiphany Party

(Please sign up by Dec 29th – Transport available)

Wednesday January 8th

10am URC Partnership Steering Group at Fulwood URC

Sunday January 12th

AM Rev Ray Borg

4-6pm Circuit SPACE – at Ashton

A Celebration of Preaching Guest: Rev David Wood

Accreditation of new Local Preachers and presentation of certificates

Saturday January 18th

10.30am URC South Partnership Meet Up at Penwortham URC

(Please see notice board for more details)

Sunday January 19th

AM Rev Paul Davis - Chair of the Lancashire District
3pm Henry & Carol Rose Plessington Court

Tuesday January 21st

7pm Lancashire District Consultation

Sunday January 26th

AM Rev Daleen TenCate - URC Missional Discipleship Mentor
PM Rev Karen Le Mouton

It is planned that the Sierra Leone partnership team will go to Sierra Leone in February — more details nearer the time.

Sunday February 2nd

AM Rev Karen Le Mouton Holy Communion
followed at 12.30am by Christ Church Council Meeting

Monday February 3rd

7-8.30pm Monday Menu

Sunday February 9th

AM Rev John Maiden
4-6pm Circuit SPACE at Bamber Bridge

Sunday February 16th

AM Dr Carol Spencer
3pm Rev Karen Le Mouton Plessington Court

Sunday February 23rd

AM Mrs Judith Laycock
PM Rev Karen Le Mouton Holy Communion

Wednesday February 26th

Circuit Service for Ash Wednesday (TBA)

Friday February 28th

First Lent Lunch provisionally at St Wilfrid's

ADVANCE NOTICES

Friday March 6th 11.00am World Day of Prayer CTLD Service at Christ Church followed by second Lent Lunch in the Hall.

(Please see notices nearer the time for details or see Carol Spencer if you can help with readings or catering)

Friday Coffee Rota - Winter 2019/2020

| | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Dec 6 | John Spencer | Jan 16 | Sandra Ashcroft |
| Dec 13 | Liz Marven | Jan 23 | Liz Marven |
| Dec 20 | Sandra Ashcroft | Jan 30 | Margery Cook |
| Dec 26 | <i>No Coffee</i> | Feb 6 | Sue Lawson |
| | | Feb 13 | Sandra Ashcroft |
| Jan 2 | Margery Cook | Feb 20 | Liz Marven |
| Jan 9 | Sue Lawson | Feb 27 | Margery Cook |

Church Flowers - Winter 2019/2020

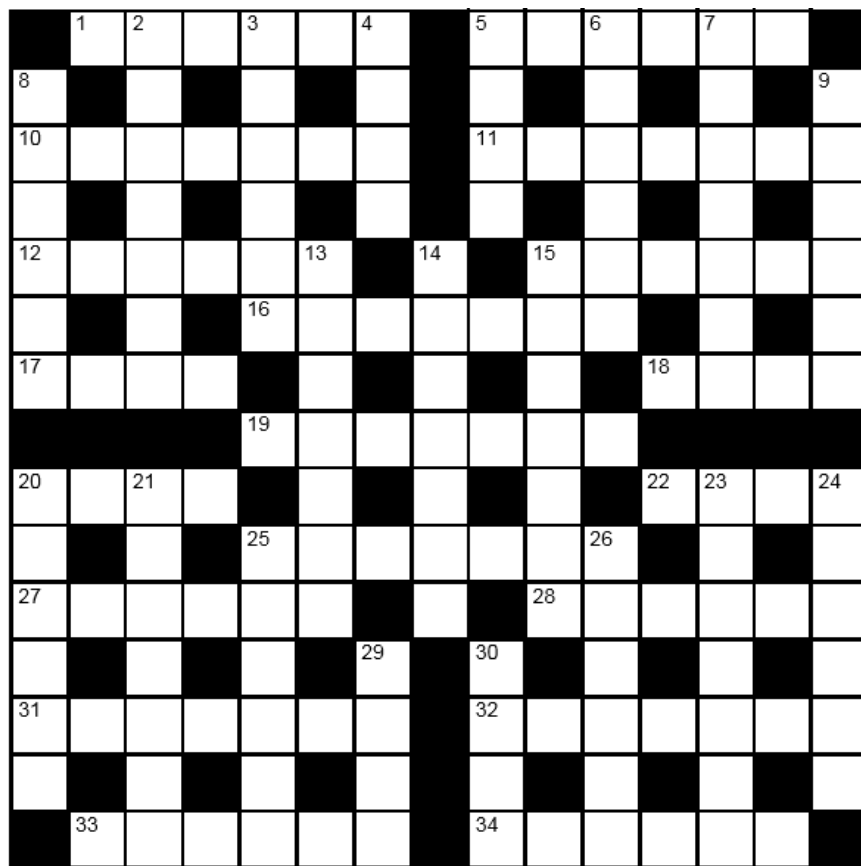
The flower rota for 2020 is now on the notice board in the foyer. Please add your name on the date/s you want or let Claire Tuffin know your preferred dates as soon as possible.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Dec 1 st | Hazel Scott | Jan 26 th | **Vacant** |
| Dec 8 th | Margery Cook | Feb 2 nd | June Roebuck |
| Dec 15 th | **Vacant** | Feb 9 th | Sandra Ashcroft |
| Dec 22 nd | <i>Church Flowers</i> | Feb 16 th | Sue Lawson |
| Dec 29 th | <i>Church Flowers</i> | Feb 23 rd | **Vacant** |
| | | Mar 1 st | **Vacant** |
| Jan 5 th | Judith Dixon | Mar 8 th | **Vacant** |
| Jan 12 th | **Vacant** | Mar 15 th | **Vacant** |
| Jan 19 th | **Vacant** | Mar 22 nd | **Vacant** |

Quick Crossword

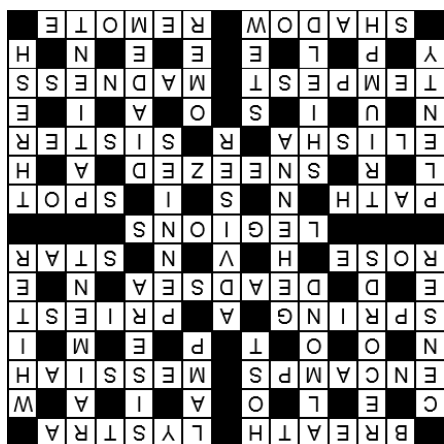
Down

- 2 Writes down (7)
- 3 Nut (6)
- 4 Multitude (4)
- 5 Light (4)
- 6 Jabin's army captain (6)
- 7 Clothing (7)
- 8 Thurible (6)
- 9 More towards spotless (6)
- 13 Place of torment (7)
- 14 Counsellor (7)
- 15 Coins (7)
- 20 Enough (6)
- 21 Victory (7)
- 23 Long-suffering (7)
- 24 Remove the chaff (6)
- 25 Soldier's guard (6)
- 26 Crown (6)
- 29 One-pot meal (4)
- 30 One-tenth of an ephah (4)



Across

- 1 Air (6)
- 5 Town where Timothy lived (6)
- 10 Sets up shelter (7)
- 11 Promised one (7)
- 12 Welcome season (6)
- 15 Aaron, for example (6)
- 16 Site of scrolls (4,3)
- 17 Flower (4)
- 18 Magi guide (4)
- 19 Roman army divisions (7)
- 20 Way (4)
- 22 Blemish (4)
- 25 The resurrected boy did this seven times (7)
- 27 Old Testament prophet (6)
- 28 Female relative (6)
- 31 Storm (7)
- 32 Insanity (7)
- 33 Follow closely (6)
- 34 Distant (6)



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 and St Wilfrid's in 2020

10.00am Coffee Morning

MINISTER: Rev Karen Le Mouton 01772 323818

(Church Secretary) Mrs Mel Watson 01772 783581 or

(Senior Steward) Mrs Carol Rose 01772 783680 or

(Pastoral Secretary) Dr Carol Spencer 01772 782829

EDITOR: Robin Spencer
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