

The Messenger



Autumn 2012

Christ Church, Longridge "Living for Christ
at the heart of the community"
www.christchurchlongridge.org.uk

Musings from the Manse

Dear Friends,

What is the wise way to spend your time?

This was a question that came up recently when I was looking at the lectionary readings for Sunday worship, and it made me realise that probably a good use of time is to acquire wisdom!

The apostle Paul advised the Ephesians, “Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time...”

Wisdom, though, isn't just about being clever or gaining knowledge, it's often about having a bit of common sense – for instance, we have the *knowledge* to understand that a tomato is a fruit and not a vegetable...but *common sense* tells us that it's better to serve them with a salad than to cover them in custard!

The antithesis of wisdom is foolishness, and Paul goes on to say, “So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is”....well, that would be great if God would only tell us clearly what that is!

I came across one of those 'round-robin' emails the other day, which might help. It is called 'A Memo from God'...and it says:

I am God.

Today I will be handling all your problems.

Please remember that I don't need your help.

If life brings you a situation that you can't handle, don't try to resolve it. Just put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. It will be

addressed in my time, not yours. Once the matter's placed in the box, don't hold onto it.

If you find yourself stuck in traffic, don't despair. There are people in this world for whom driving is an unheard of privilege.

If you have a bad day at work, think of the man who's been out of work for years.

If you despair over a relationship gone bad, think of the person who's never known what it's like to love and be loved in return.

If you grieve the passing of another weekend, think of the woman in dire straits, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to feed her children.

If your car breaks down, leaving you miles away from help, think of the paraplegic who'd love the opportunity to take that walk.

If you notice a new grey hair in the mirror, think of the cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy, who wishes she had any hair at all.

If you find yourself the victim of other people's bitterness, ignorance, smallness or insecurities, remember, things could be worse. You could be them!

It's a bit twee I'll grant you, but I think it's wise advice – and maybe it is what God would write if we asked to be taught wisdom.

Paul tells us to 'make the most of our time' by becoming wise, by understanding what God's will is for us.

God has given each one of us a span of time, so you could say that we're all living on borrowed time. Shouldn't we then be grateful for the time we have – however long or short that might be?

Yet, so easily we become slaves of time – we waste time, we kill time, we save time – but how often do we use our time thankfully to serve God, to listen to God, to understand his will for us?

We need to make the most of our time, to set free our days and hours from the busy demands we make of them, and enjoy the time that God gives us – maybe then we will be living wisely.

Yours in Christ,

Helen

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Craft Fair

We are planning to have a Craft Fair again this year on November 3rd. Members of the Craft Group will have stalls to sell a range of handcrafted goods from cards to calligraphy; baby clothes to jewellery for sale. This is the ideal opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. If you make items that you would like to sell, a stall can be rented for between £5 and £8. Please see Hazel Scott or John or Carol Spencer by October 19th to book a stall. This year we are also inviting local charities who would like to sell Christmas Cards or other items to raise money for their own charity. Again please contact us before October 19th if you are involved with a charity which would like to have a stall. The organisers reserve the right to refuse or to place conditions on charity stalls both because of the space available and church policies. No raffles or other forms of gambling and no alcohol will be acceptable on church premises.

Music in the Afternoon

Visitors from the East received a warm welcome at Christ Church on July 8th for the third edition of the 'Music in the Afternoon' series. The South Pennine Singers, a 24 strong chamber choir whose members, are mainly from Burnley, Rossendale and Pendle Districts of the County performed a wide ranging quality programme of both choral and solo items under the direction of Geoff Balson, their founder and musical director. Originally a group of music teachers who came together for the pleasure of singing in 1988, the choir membership has now widened and presents about twelve concerts a year.

The concert began with a spontaneous outburst of 'Canticorum Jubilo' from Handel's Oratorio Judas Maccabeus. This was then followed by two anthems by the popular choral composer John Rutter, in which they quickly demonstrated their fine choral strength and balanced sound. Co-conductor Sue Temperley, who shared the podium with Geoff, led the singers in contrasting arrangements from a Hebrew part song 'Simi Jadech' to two working songs from America's deep south, 'Pick a Bale of Cotton' and 'Shine on me' featuring a quartet. [pictures from the concert on the Christ Church website]

Not content with singing in a variety of languages including Latin, English, Hebrew and Italian, the choir then presented Geoff's vocalised arrangement called 'Eine Kleine Mozart', The audience was then transported across the Atlantic in the form of two American Folk Song arrangements by Aaron Copland, a further demonstration of their attention to dynamic detail and diction (not to mention their realistic animal sounds!)

The 'Ascot Gavotte' from 'My Fair Lady' gave an opportunity for the ladies, under Sue's direction once again, to put on their hats and take us to the races. Other arrangements included Bob Chilcot's 'Morning

has Broken', Mike Sammes' 'Soldier,Soldier,' and Benny Anderson's 'I know Him so Well' from Chess.

Solo performances offered contrasts between the choral items. Barbara Taylor gave a warm rendition of 'Nella Fantasia' (the well-loved melody 'Gabriel's Oboe from 'The Mission'), Andrea Goffee sang 'If I loved you' from Carousel, among other impressive solo lead moments. Heather Nicholas led the singing beautifully in the second of Geoff's arrangements, 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' which was a most distinctive highlight in the programme and captured a wonderful atmosphere. Solo performances by Ann and Robert also featured in 'I'll be there'. Throughout the afternoon, the choir's able accompanist Valerie Shoemith provided excellent support.

The varied programme had been very ably introduced throughout by Evelyn Fawcett, who entertained the audience with her heart-warming humour and went to complete her show of talent by singing the comic song 'Stately as a Galleon' with Geoff at the piano.

The final part of the programme included the third of Geoff's Arrangements 'Steal Away' which again demonstrated excellent control and balance between the parts. Howard Goodall's impressive arrangement 'Love Divine' was a fitting finale to the afternoon.

The audience responded to this entertaining concert with rapturous applause and ticket contributions amounted to £370 for the Lancashire District Sierra Leone Project.

More information about the Singers, who are always interested in new members and hearing of venues in which to perform, can be found at www.southpenninesingers.com

Carol Rose/Jason McMahan

Walk For May – Higher Walton

The walk this month was a seven mile circuit through farmland, centred on Higher Walton and incorporating a stretch of the River Douglas.

Starting from Kittlingbourne Brow, we soon left the road and started a steady climb through fields, heading for the first of many farms. After the recent heavy rains, I had some misgivings about the mud levels in this part of the walk and it didn't disappoint!

The route now took us through a pleasant series of pastures, footpaths, footbridges over little streams, eventually arriving at Bank Head Lane. Having crossed the road, we now continued through similar terrain until we arrived at the Preston to Blackburn railway line. Crossing carefully, we passed through a farm and then re-crossed the railway to join a footpath which took us to Gregson Lane and on to the beautiful parkland surrounding Brindle Lodge. Here we found a seat with views over the fells and our lunch stop.

Back on the trail, we descended the drive down to the Blackburn road and back into the familiar landscape of fields, observing that a local farmer had bought himself a small helicopter and was really enjoying himself flying it around.

During this part of the walk, we encountered very long grass, which made progress difficult, but eventually we entered a lane that took us to Roach Bridge. The old paper mill here is being converted into business units, powered by the weir that used to power the old paper mill.

The final leg of the walk was beside the River Darwen. Looking at the river today, being so clean and attractive, it is hard to believe that it used to be one of the most polluted rivers in the country, carrying the effluence from many paper mills along its length.

We now arrived back at Higher Walton and had a brief stop to have a look at the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Garden. The famous singer spent the first two years of her all too short life in Higher Walton. Incidentally, this year is the 100th anniversary of her birth.

This was a pleasant local walk, aided by good weather and for its duration, the wind was, appropriately, blowing Southerly.

Walk For June - Worthington Lakes

This month's walk was in the hands of Bill, from our Bolton group. The interesting route, roughly between Wigan and Adlington, involved walking along a dismantled railway, river bank and canal and therefore provided a good, solid surface for most of the distance, which considering the weather on the day, was most welcome.

We met up at the car park on Red Rock lane and immediately, the heavens opened. We stayed in our cars for about thirty minutes, until the rain eased off and we then started the walk.

Leaving the car park, we joined the dismantled railway, which, as usual, made a superb footpath. Soon we passed under the aqueduct that carries the canal over the railway and continued on towards Adlington, where we left the railway and joined the banks of the River Douglas. This section was cut short as the path would have been too muddy.

After some pleasant paths, we eventually arrived at the Leeds & Liverpool Canal and followed this and the river down to Worthington Lakes and our lunch stop, at the picnic tables provided. Thankfully, the rain had stopped by now and the fishermen had started to emerge from their tents to try a spot of fishing. What a lot of kit these fishermen carry around these days!

The remainder of the walk was a mixture of paths and canal which took us back to Red Rock Lane and the car park.

Many thanks to Bill for devising this walk for us. In view of the weather conditions, it turned out to be the perfect choice and another example of a walk where we benefit from the local knowledge of the leader.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Friday Coffee Rota

Sep 7 th Mrs E Marven 14 th Mrs A Barnes 21 st Miss O Hurlstone & Mrs B Warren 28 th Mrs L Grange	Nov 2 nd Mrs E Marven 9 th Mrs A Barnes 16 th Miss O Hurlstone & Mrs B Warren 23 rd Mrs L Grange 30 th Mrs B Murrant
Oct 5 th Mrs B Murrant 12 th Rev E Hodgkiss 19 th Mrs M Cook 26 th Mrs S Lawson	Dec 7 th Dr R Mazumder 14 th Rev E Hodgkiss 21 st Mrs S Lawson 28 th Mrs M Cook

Flower Rota

Sep 9 th Val Fletcher 16 th Vacant 23 rd Margaret Mohyla 30 th Sue Lawson	Nov 4 th Mary Hughes 11 th Ellen Carefoot 18 th Olive Hurlstone 25 th Beryl Murrant
Oct 7 th Megan Crew 14 th Jean McNeil 21 st Esther Wolstenholme 28 th Brenda	Dec 2 nd Kath Keighley 9 th Margaret Croasdale 16 th Pam Cliff 23 rd Esther Wolstenholme

Are You Housebound?

At the last Church Council, we discussed a number of ideas to help those of our readers who would dearly like to attend church services, but cannot manage to get here anymore. First of all, we would remind anyone who has a problem that there are people who are willing to provide lifts so don't be embarrassed ---- if you would like a lift to church, please speak to your pastoral visitor (who brings your magazine) or a member of the church council whose phone numbers are in the church directory. However, for those who really cannot get to church at all, we discussed the possibility of recording one service each Sunday. This would require a bit of organising and we would need to get the right equipment, so we really need to know if this is something which would be used. If you would appreciate receiving a recorded service on a regular basis, please ring Carol, John or Rob on 782829 so that we can estimate demand. It will take a little while to organise but hopefully we would be able to get something going in the New Year. When you ring up, please let us know what kind of equipment you have (cassette tape player or CD player).

The third idea which was discussed related to the 'Prayer from the Congregation' which appears on the notices each week. One of the things we can still do when we are no longer strong and mobile is to pray. Perhaps you would like to extend your prayers to contribute a written prayer from time to time, to be included in the notices. Again if you would like to share in the ministry of the church in this way, please contact Margery Cook on 786914 or a pastoral visitor or member of the church council.

Walk For July - Warton Crag

If you drive up the A6, past Carnforth, and look to the west you will see the rocky prominence of Warton Crag, with its sheer vertical face overlooking the town. This was the object of our walk today.

We met at the station car park, somewhat surprised by the reasonable parking charges, unlike the Lake District to the North. From the station, we started walking out of town and briefly joined the Lancashire Coastal Way, on a path between the River Keer and the railway, to Sands Lane, where we continued towards Warton. Before the village, we turned onto a path up a steep meadow, which was the start of the ascent of the crag. The conditions were hot and humid, but at least the sun was shining, which was an improvement on the monsoon conditions of the previous week.

We were now at the nature reserve, from where a pleasant path took us along the base of the hill, followed by the path up the side of the crag over limestone outcrops to the top of the cliff. A tricky, narrow path now took us to the summit, with its trig, point and beacon. This was our well-earned lunch stop and what a view! We were looking down on the whole of Morecambe Bay with the tide well out and Fleetwood visible to the South and the Grange-Over-Sands area and beyond to the North.

Now it was time for our descent, down a maze of easy paths, occasionally having to remove cattle out of our way and we encountering a Slow Worm, (looks like a snake, but is a lizard without legs) and eventually arrived at the road.

After a mile of road walking, we reached the old coach road, a long bridle path that took us to Warton. We walked through this charming old village, notable as the home of the parents of President George Washington and passed a pub with a notice advertising its features, including a roaring hot fire! Not today, thank you.

Our planned path across the fields back to Carnforth was waterlogged, so we had, unfortunately to return by road.

In total, this walk was about eight miles long, very hot and with some climbing, but we all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, particularly after the awful conditions of the previous weeks.

Walk For August - The Three Waters

The plan for this month's walk was another attempt at Parlick, but as the fields surrounding the fell would probably have been saturated from the endless rain, we decided on "Plan B", The Three Waters. The Three waters of the title are the rivers Brock and Calder and a stretch of the Lancaster Canal.

Starting at a lay-by close to a bridge where the Inglewhite - Garstang road crosses the Brock, we started walking along the riverside path, eastward. The owner of a large house here has landscaped the bank, making it very attractive. Eventually, we arrived at Walmsley Bridge and left the river. We next followed a pleasant narrow lane before entering fields, the long grass making walking hard work and exiting via a farm onto another stretch of road. The weather today was wonderful, warm, dry and sunny and as we continued along the lane, we passed Claughton School, little changed from its Victorian origins and a little further on we met what at first appeared to be a Canadian Black Bear on the loose, but turned out to be a Newfoundland Hound. The owner told us that he had two more in his van!

Our route now took us through more fields, following the River Calder, until we reached the railway, followed by a short bit of road to a canal bridge and then down to the canal towpath. Shortly, we arrived at a bridge with a seat and our lunch stop, soon to be joined by a family of ducks.

The next part of our walk consisted of a long, pleasant stretch of canal until it passed under the A6, where we climbed steps up to the road and started heading south. Across the road was the new Barton Grange Garden Centre. We resisted a tempting coffee stop here and walked down to the Land Rover dealership, spending a little time admiring the latest models and then starting along the path by the River Brock again. This path now has to cross the West Coast Main Line. The pedestrian crossing is now controlled by lights, but care is needed, as the Virgin trains travel at well over one hundred mph on this stretch.

The final part of the walk was along the Brock and back to the road. We stopped at the bridge and watched the fast flowing river, in full flood cascading over a weir and as this river drains the fells to the East, perhaps we made the right decision to change the walk.

This seven mile walk is an old favourite and is noted for good, easy paths and is an ideal one to fall back on when conditions are generally poor.

Linda & Eddie Grange

Dates for your Diary

Sunday September 2nd

There will be no Prayer Breakfast or services at Christ Church as we participate in the special activities for the Preston Guild. Everyone is invited to join our sister church at Fulwood URC for morning worship. If you are involved in the other activities, you will have made arrangements by now as tickets and transport have had to be arranged in advance.

Tuesday September 4th

7.30pm Church Meeting/Council - all welcome

Thursday September 6th Coffee Day at the Civic Hall

Please see Pam Cliff or sign the sheet in the foyer if you can help. If you are unfamiliar with the Coffee Days, we need help with serving food and washing up; gifts of desserts such as fruit pies and trifles; cakes to be sold on the cake stall and items for the bric-a-brac stall amongst other things. Pam will be delighted to give you more information.

Thursday September 11th

7.30pm Pastoral Committee

Please will all pastoral visitors try to attend? All those who help to deliver the Messenger would also be welcome.

Sunday September 16th

9.00am Prayer Breakfast for September (rearranged from September 2nd).

10.45am Morning service will include a celebration of Holy Communion as we will have missed Communion on September 2nd.

Sunday September 23rd

6.30pm There will be a celebration of Holy Communion

Tuesday September 25th

7.30pm CTL Meeting

Saturday September 29th

7.00pm Concert in aid of the Necrotising Fasciitis Society with a Welsh Male Voice Choir. The Choir will also be joining with us at our morning service.

Sunday September 30th

HARVEST FESTIVAL

10.45am Rev Ron Lewis and the Male Voice Choir

6.30pm Rev Mark Slaney

Friday October 5th

CTL Harvest Meal in the Civic Hall

Tickets priced £10 now available

Thursday October 11th

Coffee Day (details as above)

7.30pm Lancashire Theological Society at Ashton Methodist Church

Saturday October 27th

6.00pm Celebration for the completion of the Lancashire District Prayer Walk at Silverdale

Friday November 2nd

10.00am onwards Assemble Shoe Boxes

Saturday November 3rd

10.00am to 3.30pm Craft and Charity Fair

Sunday November 4th

10.45am Shoe Box Dedication service

Tuesday November 6th

7.30pm Church Meeting/Council - all welcome

Saturday November 10th Church Cleaning Day

Many hands make light work so they say so if you can spare any time throughout the day, please come and help spruce the church up before the Christmas season.

Sunday November 11th

In order to allow those who wish, to take part in the British Legion Remembrance Service at St. Paul's, our service will take place at 10.15am.

Tuesday November 27th CTL Meeting

Thursday November 29th Coffee Day (as above)

As normal December will be taken up with Advent and Christmas. Full details of our plans will be in the next Messenger but please note that there will be a Carol Service at Park House on Sunday November 9th and Music in the Afternoon for Christmas on Sunday December 16th.

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY

10.45am Morning Worship &
Junior Church

6.30pm Evening Worship*
*2nd Sunday at Park House

MONDAY

10.00am Craft Club

7.45pm Ladies Guild*
*2nd and 4th Monday each month

FRIDAY

7.45am CTL Morning Prayers

10.00am Coffee Morning

SATURDAY

9.30am Christ Church Ramblers*
*2nd Saturday each month

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