

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster
A vibrant inclusive worshipping community

Sunday 18th October 2020

St Luke the Evangelist

*We welcome as our guest preacher today, the Rev'd
Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster Priory and
Patron of this church.*

Collect (*Prayer of the week*)

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings

Isaiah 35.3-6

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will
come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and
streams in the desert.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalms 147

Refrain: Great is our Lord and mighty in power.

¹ Alleluia. How good it is to make music for our God,
how joyful to honour him with praise.

² The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

³ He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up all their wounds.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power.

⁴ He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his wisdom is beyond all telling.

⁶ The Lord lifts up the poor,
but casts down the wicked to the ground.

⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the lyre;

Great is our Lord and mighty in power.

2 Timothy 4.5-17

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

When the Gospel is announced, we stand:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (10. 1-9). Glory to you, O Lord.

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ

Reflection (*from Canon Chris Newlands*)

Prayers

(from Pat, our Reader)

Lord, your servant Luke proclaimed your coming kingdom, and you call your church today to labour in your harvest. We pray for our diocese, our bishops Julian, Philip and Jill, and for our parish of Christ Church: for Rev Carol our Vicar, Jacqueline and Paul our churchwardens, and all who worship and serve you here.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for those who live and work in Rydal Road and Windermere Road, and for our GPs, nurses, health visitors, midwives and other community health professionals.

We ask your blessing on Andrea Stringer, to be baptized today, and we pray for Helen Rawlinson and Darryl Flynn as they prepare for their wedding. Give us willing hearts, hands and voices with which to respond to your call.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Lord, your servant Luke spoke of Jesus' care for the poor and the marginalised. Give the leaders of the nations a heart for the poor, and a desire for justice. We pray for those parts of the world ravaged by war and conflict, remembering especially Syria, Yemen, and Belarus. We pray for the peace talks in Afghanistan, that peace with justice may come to all its people. We pray for refugees, especially those living in camps as the winter approaches.

In our community we pray for our Night Shelter team as they prepare for the coming winter, and the guests whom we will welcome; and also for the work of the Olive Branch, Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service, and all who help the poorest and most vulnerable.

May we all reach out to help our sisters and brothers in need.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Lord, your servant Luke testified to your healing power. Hear us as we bring before you all who are in special need. We pray for all who are sick, or suffering in body, mind or spirit, in hospitals and hospices, or at home, and ask you to bless and strengthen those who care for them.

In our parish we pray especially for: Olive Niccolls, Youngblood McCray, Ernie Wilson, Pat Brooks, Ivy Buckley, Michael Greenhalgh, Stephen Gardner, Eddie Barandino, Ann Gilbride, Sitar Rose, Thea Harris-Ellis, Helen Rawlinson, Ed Bartosinski and Patrick Hare;

and in a moment of silence we bring before you those known to us who need your healing touch... Give peace and hope to all in need.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Lord, your servant Luke proclaimed your Son's resurrection and victory over death.

In this faith we entrust to you those who have died. We pray for the souls of Jack Rennington, Francis Clegg, Philip Marshall, Ron Goodwin (priest), Roy Long, William 'Bill' Briggs, Bill Buckley, Richard Brown, and all our loved ones departed. Comfort all those who mourn. Raise us with all the faithful departed to your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Therefore, rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Luke and all the saints, we commend ourselves and all creation to Your unfailing love.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,

united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

.. **Amen.**

Some suggested hymns and an anthem you may like to follow at home:

- Angel voices ever singing
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nig-VqlyGzA>
- O for a thousand tongues to sing
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-dEfzv6Vms>
- Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3E7QWLyDWe8>
- God of hope and Lord of healing (Margaret Rizza)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgaJo-TRbEE>

Prayer and Worship this week:

Sunday 8.30am: Eucharist

Sunday 10.30am: Eucharist with Canon Chris Newlands (then uploaded to YouTube)

Sunday 2-4pm: Private Prayer in Church

Sunday 3 pm Baptism of Andrea Stringer

Sunday 6pm: Evening Prayer (in the Hall)

Tuesday 4pm: Prayer4 on Zoom.

Wednesday 10: Private Prayer in Church

Wednesday 11am: Eucharist (in the Hall)

Wednesday 5.30pm: Meditation

Wednesday 6pm Evening Prayer (in the Storey Chapel, then via YouTube)

Friday 8.30am: Morning Prayer (YouTube)

Saturday 9pm: Compline (YouTube)

If you are unable to join the service for whatever reason, you may wish to follow the Spiritual Communion service at home (the order of service, and a sermon, are on the website), using the day's readings and prayers.

Our Diocese of Blackburn, and the national Church of England also have YouTube channels where worship is regularly offered.

Returning to Worship

We hope that repairs on the church roof and ceiling will commence before too long, but we shall be continuing to worship in the Hall and online in coming weeks. Please note the following covid- precautions: Should you wish to come to a service, please note: If you have Covid symptoms, or have been told to isolate because you've had contact with someone who has, or are feeling unwell, please let someone know and don't come to church.

Unless you're exempt, please wear a covering over your nose and mouth.

Please gel your hands before and after the service, and before receiving communion.

If you have the NHS COVID-19 app, please scan the QR code on entry to check in. Otherwise you will be asked to record your name and contact number on the sheet for traceability - we're required to do this by law. This will be kept confidentially for 6 weeks.

If you come as a couple, family or household - you may move the seats to sit together (up to six in a group with a 2 metre distance around the group). Solo seats have a 2 metre distance around them.

Children are very welcome to attend the service, but we cannot offer Children's Church for the time being. Please continue to make your offering by Standing Order wherever possible. There will be an offertory box for cash or cheque donations, but no collection will be taken. Communion (bread alone) will be received standing, with a non-touch blessing for those who prefer. There will be no refreshments after the service, and any conversations must happen outside from a sociable distance in small groups. The Hall, and all items that have been touched will be cleaned and disinfected between use. As spaces at the Sunday Eucharists are limited, we ask you to "book" in advance. You can do this on Eventbrite via the links: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christ-church-lancaster-eucharist-830-am-tickets-112091542822>

for the 8:30 Eucharist and

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christ-church-lancaster-1030-eucharist-tickets-112092136598>

for the 10:30 Eucharist.

Please select the date(s) for the Sunday or Sundays you would like to come. Alternatively, just contact Jacqueline (64083, 07808 765364 or email as below) or Rev Carol, and we will add your name(s).

We continue to pray for all those affected by this outbreak - and for the church as we begin to grow again, giving thanks for all who have sustained the prayer and community at Christ Church in recent months.

Opening for Private Prayer

Christ Church will also be open for private prayer, and the opportunity to light a candle this, and forthcoming Sundays from 2pm-4pm, and Wednesdays 10-11am.

Thank you to all the volunteers who are making this happen - and if you'd like to join the rota for October and November, please let Rev Carol know.

Unfortunately we shall have to cease opening for private prayer for the duration of the interior work, which we pray will happen soon, after the required work on the roof itself.

The national prayer for this outbreak:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer and Support

If you would like us to pray for you, or for someone you know, for any reason, please email your request to prayer@christchurchlancaster.org.uk or text the Prayer Chain on 07980 351855. Please ask the person's permission if you'd like them included in the weekly notices.

Zoom Prayer

Perhaps you've found yourself praying more during lockdown? Tuesday 27th October is the next meeting of Prayer4 - 30 minutes of prayer, at 4pm every fortnight. There'll be a short Bible reading, some music, some stillness, and space to pray for the people and places on your heart - all from the comfort of your own sofa. Zoom details:

<https://zoom.us/j/8069459310?pwd=TIV6QUQ5UVdiK0p1MQQ0cE0vRXIvUT09>

Meeting ID: 806 945 9310 Password: ChristChch

Dial in: 0208 080 6591 Meeting ID: 806 945 9310

Password: 310771 (any queries see Rev Carol)

All Souls Sunday 1st November 6pm

A Eucharist to remember those we love but see no longer, and to pray for the souls of the faithful departed. As part of the service, the names of those who have died are read out. They may have died recently, or long ago. If you would like someone to be remembered, please print their name on the sheet at the back of the hall, or write 'The (surname) Family' if there are several people. Alternatively, let Rev Carol know their names before the service. Do invite friends and neighbours along too.

Children's Corner:

Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus knew that the purpose of the question asked by the Pharisees was purely to trap him. They knew that most Jews expected their Messiah to be a military

leader who would overthrow the oppressive Roman rule, but if he appeared to side with the oppressed and responded that they shouldn't pay this unfair tax to Caesar, then they could criticize him for breaking Roman law and report him to the authorities. Jesus, of course, was too wise for them. His answer could not be used in any way against him, since he obeyed the law of the land (agreeing that the money was Caesar's) without breaking any laws of God's kingdom. As Christians, the right thing is to obey the laws of the land because in so doing we are also obeying God. Many of our laws (do not steal, do not bear false witness) are based on God's laws anyway. Do you find it easy or hard to always do the right thing?

Are there things you agree to do as a family that other families might choose not to do? (e.g. go to church, read the bible).

Family Prayer

As a symbol of choosing to do what God asks us to do, even when it's hard, lay out a dish of fruit and a dish of sweets. Invite each person to choose a piece of fruit to taste and enjoy its sweetness. Pray together: Father God, help us to do the right thing, even when it's difficult. *Amen.*

(NB. Save the sweets for later as a reminder that God rewards his people for making the right choice to follow him.)

(There's also a YouTube story for this week on Christ Church's Channel - and colouring and activity sheets at the back of the hall.)

Children's Church meet-up

While we're unable to run Children's Church in current circumstances, if you'd be interested in a Zoom meet-up for families, please let Rev Carol know which days/times you would prefer.

Giggle (or Groan) of the week - suggestions welcome!
Doctor, doctor, I think I'm a pair of curtains.
Well, pull yourself together then!

Our Offering.

The pandemic has affected us all in different ways. The work of the church looks very different now to three months ago, not just at Christ Church but also across the church family, to which we offer our prayers, time, skills, and also our money. Support is still needed - both in the upkeep of Christ Church, and to help churches in poorer areas of our diocese continue God's mission. You may need to give a little less to the church because of current money pressures - that is fine. You may be able to give a little more - even for a short time - to help with ongoing costs and to weather the absence of groups using our buildings. Whatever is given is gratefully received with thanks, please have a word (in confidence) about

what may be possible for you. Or ask Jacqueline (in confidence) if you'd like a Standing Order and/or Gift Aid declaration form.

Pastoral Support

Now that further lockdown restrictions have been imposed, I'm still able to offer pastoral support, especially in times of emergency. Please contact me by phone or email in the first instance. Rev. Carol

Thanks!

With grateful thanks for all the gifts given this harvest season. £115 is being sent as a donation to the Olive Branch food bank, along with the items which can't be used by our winter night shelter. Our cupboard for the coming months is groaning with supplies! Thank you to those who decorated the Hall, and gave to the service musically too - it was a lovely occasion. Also for those who walked with or sponsored Rev'd Carol walking the parish boundaries, raising well over £300!

Half-term event?

If people would be interested in helping with a half-term event around the parish (flowerpot or scarecrow festival, or something else to bring us together despite ongoing lockdown), please let Rev. Carol know.

Elections for Church Council, and our review of 2019

Every year, the church and parish meet together to review the year, and elect our churchwardens and PCC members who will represent us as we plan our worship, outreach, and life together. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will happen on 25th October at 11:15, after the 10:30 Eucharist, including via Zoom (Link to follow later.) Please pray, and have a think if you would like to stand for election, or if you know someone who you'd like to nominate. No previous experience needed - and almost all posts are subject to a DBS check. Do chat to Rev Carol or the current post holders if you're curious about what's involved. They are:

Churchwardens (two posts)

Deanery Synod representatives (who meet with other church representatives from across Lancaster and Morecambe and who elect General Synod representatives from the Diocese). Christ Church is currently eligible to elect two voting representatives. Members of PCC (currently six posts)

Our Treasurer and Parish Safeguarding Officer are ex-officio members of PCC and are appointed by PCC.

Please note: All nominations for PCC, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod representatives have to have been received before the APCM - they cannot be accepted at the meeting. We'll send round a note of people who've already agreed to be nominated, so that we can all pray for our nominees.

The reports for 2019 are now available, so please do read them, and bring along any questions and reflections to the APCM on Sunday 25th October.

Learn the recorder or piano

Now is the perfect time to learn a new instrument. Marlene has offered to give individual lessons via Skype or Zoom in recorder or piano in exchange for a donation to church funds. Please contact her on marlenephillipsmusic@gmail.com

Applications for church schools 2021

If you have a child who will be going into Reception/Year 7 in 2021, and you are considering applying on faith grounds to a church school (Christ Church, or Ripley St Thomas), please discuss this with Rev Carol, as the admissions criteria have recently changed following the Covid disruption.

DONNA WORTHINGTON ONLINE RETREATS

Last week we gave details of the series of online retreats during October, which can be found both on the Christ Church website (newsletter), and also at <https://www.christianretreats.live/online-retreats>

Retreat in Daily Life

Please see the attached notice from Lancaster Priory, for a "retreat in daily life", 18th-23rd October, in which one can participate either in person or online.

The Real Advent Calendar

If you would like to order a Real Advent Calendar (or two!!) with Fairtrade chocolate, and a story booklet about Christmas - there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the hall - and catalogues for other Fairtrade items.

Pleas of the week:

The Olive Branch and Morecambe Bay Foodbanks continue to need donations: please help if you can, either by putting food and toiletries in the collection boxes, or by giving money for them to buy what is needed: <https://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/donate/> or <https://morecambebay.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Church Cleaning:

The next cleaning morning is likely to be on 20th October - all welcome.

Bottles tops needed

Our Scouts are collecting plastic bottle tops for a local project: www.preciousplasticlancaster.co.uk. Milk bottles, shampoo bottles, washing up bottles - anything! If you can donate, please wash the tops and put them in an envelope. Northern Yarn (6 Kings Arcade) are also accepting donations.

Boxes of Hope - Deadline

If you have a Box of Hope, please bring them to the Vicarage by this evening (Sunday 18th October) or christchurchlancaster.org.uk

alternatively, boxes can be dropped off at Brigg's Shoes on the prom in Morecambe.

Administration Post:

A new part-time administration post (16h/week) has become available with the Let's be Friends Service. The role will include working with homeless people and their befrienders in Lancaster. More details from Dusty Thomas - dustymtt@gmail.com.

First Aid Course

We will be hosting a First Aid Course on Sat 14th November (postponed from April) from 9.30 am to 4.30pm. This is a certificated course delivered by a serving paramedic on Basic Emergency First Aid. The event will be held in the Church Hall with a maximum of 12 participants to ensure social distancing. If you are interested in becoming a First Aider at Christ Church, please get in touch with Jane Lippitt on 07930979503 or email her on lippittjane@gmail.com.

The course is also available to people who are not members of the congregation at Christ Church for whom there is a charge of £40.

If you know anybody who would be interested, please give them Jane's details.

Thought for the week

All the **believers** were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. *Acts 2. 44-45 (NIV)*

Eco Group Action for the Week:

Consider avoiding specialist foods, such as avocados, which are intensively farmed, causing environmental damage and depriving local populations of other food sources.

Key contacts:

Vicar: Revd Carol Backhouse 942105

revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com

Lay Reader: Dr Pat Allen 39552.

Churchwarden: Dr Paul Thompson 34949

Churchwarden: Mrs Jacqueline Stamper 64083
churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Ms Jane Lippitt 07930 979503 safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org.uk

Children's Church: Mrs Liz Mills 67005

Nightshelter Co-ordinator: Ms Jan Norbury 07547 717 060 coordinator.nightshelter@gmail.com

Hall Bookings: hallchristchurch@btinternet.com
07890 351855

Christ Church School Ms Emma Simpson 60955
head@christchurch-lancaster.lancs.sch.uk