

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 3rd March *Third Sunday of Lent*

Vicar: Revd Carol Backhouse 01524 942105

1 East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EE

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook: @ChristChurchLancaster



a vibrant, inclusive
worshipping
community

Everyone is welcome to join in prayer and worship this week:

Today - 3rd March

8:30am *Holy Communion*

10:30am *Parish Eucharist*

12noon *Lent Group (Hall)*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation* followed by

6pm *Evening Prayer*.

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion* (Lady
Chapel)

Followed by Churches Together
Prayer walk - see notice.

Next Sunday - 10th March

8:30am *Holy Communion*

10:30am *Parish Eucharist*

12noon *Lent Group (Hall)*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, whose most dear
Son went not up to joy but first he
suffered pain, and entered not into
glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in
the way of the cross, may find it
none other than the way of life and
peace; 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.**

Children's Church

Every Sunday of term time during the
10.30 service for KS1/2 children

Godly Play - 17th March

Every 3rd Sunday of the month at
4pm in Church
for KS1/2 children

Contact: Rev'd Carol for more
information



Please ask the Stewards for directions and assistance.

Please send items for inclusion in this newsletter to Jacqueline Stamper by Thursday lunchtime. Many thanks.

Please remember in your prayers:



Those who are sick:

Youngblood McCray, Ernie Wilson, Thomas Platt, Yan Connell, David Foster, Susanna Michaelis, Juliann Dougherty, Lucas Calvert, Ron Holmes, Ella Patterson, Ann Boss

that God's healing, wholeness and peace are with them

For those who have died recently:

Winifred Tyson

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

In our parish, we ask God to bless and provide for:

Those who live and work on Willow Grove, Ellwood Square

For all foster carers

For those attending Mingle on Mondays, the Pilgrim Course, and Godly Play -

that God's loving kindness is found and shared.

Zoom Prayer:

Tuesday 12th March is the next meetings 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/8069459310?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8069459310?pwd=cVJlZDlnNXF2dDVFVThVa0Z0VVE5dz09)

[pwd=cVJlZDlnNXF2dDVFVThVa0Z0VVE5dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8069459310?pwd=cVJlZDlnNXF2dDVFVThVa0Z0VVE5dz09). Meeting ID: 806 945 9310 Passcode 942105

Lent Course - The Lord's Prayer

All are invited to join in this six-session Lent course, exploring the Lord's Prayer as a gateway to the Gospel, a guide to our own prayers, and a way of deepening our relationship with God. Every Sunday after the 10:30 Eucharist, in the Hall - do come!

Thought for the Week

Faith is never identical with piety.

Karl Barth

Meeting up

The clergy are available for pastoral support and spiritual direction, so please don't hesitate to be in contact. If you or someone you know is going through a difficult time or is seriously ill, please let us know as soon as possible, to arrange prayers, home communion, a hospital visit, or anointing of the sick. 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.

Hall for Hire - Don't forget that the Hall is available for hire, especially at weekends and during the day. £24/first hour and £12 for each subsequent hour/part-hour. Please contact Pat on hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk 07980 351855 for more info.

In Other News...



The Olive Branch Foodbank

The foodbank continues to be in great need of tins of curry, chilli con carne, pies, meatballs, hotdogs, stewed steak, tuna, salmon, pork, corned beef, ham, fruit, rice pudding, custard, tomatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, peas, kidney beans, chickpeas; biscuits, crisps, multipacks of cake, cereal, jam, pasta sauce; packs of hot chocolate, coffee, tea, sugar, cordial, longlife juice, and many types of toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, toilet rolls, etc.) Or you can give money for them to buy what is needed: <https://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/donate/>

Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week

The Big Plastic Count runs from 11th to 17th March. Please help to collect this important information which will help form a national picture of plastic waste in UK. You can do this online <https://thebigplasticcount.com/> or by filling out a form at the back of church which will be collated and submitted by the Eco Group.



Changes to recycling at Christ Church - from the Eco Group

We can still collect plastic bottle tops/lids, plastic toothbrushes and electric brush heads, covers and flosser nozzles, also flossing sticks, interdental brushes and dental tape containers, We can still take medical blister packs, but owing to the large quantities, please take your own to Superdrug if you can. Thank you for your ongoing support with recycling on the first Sunday of each month - including this Sunday, 3rd March.

Giggle (or Groan) of the week - suggestions welcome!

I'm giving up negativity for Lent. We'll see how long that lasts.

Fairtrade Church

As a sign of our care for creation, and our support for better working practices for farmers, Christ Church have become a Fairtrade Church. This means that we commit to using and serving *only* Fairtrade tea, coffee, and sugar - more info here: <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>. If you buy items for church events, please check for the Fairtrade logo first.

Christ Church Choir

..... sings at the 10.30 service about once a month, plus other special occasions, and practises in church on Thursdays, 7-8:15 pm. New members always welcome; if you're not sure, come along and give it a try for a few weeks! Have a word with Clive or contact him via cliveshaw54@gmail.com



Christ Church Time Capsule

We've been invited by the Friends of Miss Whalley's Field to bury a time capsule in the field. Do you have photos of Christ Church, or other small items which could be included as a reflection of our community in 2024? Please speak to Rev'd Carol

Churches Together Prayer Walk

On Friday 8th March, you're invited to join a walk from Christ Church into the centre of town, praying for the various Christian communities we pass along the way. We'll gather for the 9.30 Eucharist, and then set off. Please ask Rev'd Carol for more info.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Exodus 20.1 - 17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

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

Psalm 19

Refrain: The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 One day pours out its song to another and one night unfolds knowledge to another.

3 They have neither speech nor language and their voices are not heard,

4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands and their words to the ends of the world.

5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and rejoices as a champion to run his course.

6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens and runs to the very end again, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Refrain:

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.

11 By them also is your servant taught and in keeping them there is great reward.

Refrain:

12 Who can tell how often they offend
O cleanse me from my secret faults!

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me; so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Refrain:

I Corinthians 1.18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 2.13-22

Glory to you, O Lord

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Prayer after Communion:



Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Community at Christ Church:

Prayers of Love and Faith

The Prayers of Love and Faith are a series of prayers commended by the Church of England's House of Bishops to be used to pray with and for a same-sex couple who love one another and who wish to give thanks for and mark that love in faith before God. They include prayers of dedication and thanksgiving; prayers for guidance, for companionship, for God's blessing, and for the couple's home and families. If you'd like to read them, they can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/prayers-of-love-and-faith.pdf>

This follows the Living in Love and Faith journey which the Church of England undertook (and which Christ Church took part) to discern the calling of the Holy Spirit about identity, sexuality, marriage and relationships. On the 9th February 2023, General Synod voted on a way forward, and there has since been an ongoing process of choosing the Prayers that would be used, and putting pastoral guidance in place so that the many sharp differences of opinion and belief within the community that is the Church of England can continue to be held together.

The Prayers of Love and Faith can be used in private prayer or as part of a regular service. It is important to note that they are not a form of wedding service, and so couples would need to seek a registry office wedding. Rev'd Carol and the PCC have agreed that the Prayers of Love and Faith will be offered at Christ Church. If you would like to discuss this, Rev'd Carol is available to talk.

Book Group

The church book group meets on the first Friday of each month at 4 pm in the church hall. Books are provided by Lancashire Libraries, in addition to those shared by members. The date of the next meeting is 5th April. Anyone who enjoys reading and discussion books is very welcome to join us. You can just turn up on the day, speak to Joyce, or send an email to joycelynch1946@gmail.com

Craft Group

.... meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11.30am in the Hall. Everyone welcome - bring your own project, or share in one of the others on the go! No prior experience needed. The group meets next on the 12th March.

Quiet Morning - everyone welcome

In keeping with this season of Lent, the invitation is to set aside some time for quiet prayer and reflection, so as to draw closer to God. On Saturday 9th March 9.30am-1pm, there will be a Quiet Morning in church, with reflections led by Sr Judith OCCM. There will be a simple soup lunch to finish. Suggested donation £10. Please let Rev'd Carol know if you'd like to come, or are curious.

Mothering Sunday - Help needed!

It's traditional to share posies of flowers during our Mothering Sunday services. If you can help make these, (and/or can donate greenery from the garden) please pop along to the Vestry on Saturday 9th March at 2pm. Please bring secateurs if you have some!

Maundy Thursday - Invitation to our Cathedral

On the 28th March at 11am, churches and clergy from across the diocese are invited to share in a special Chrism Eucharist at Blackburn Cathedral. During the service, the Bishop blesses the oils used for baptisms, confirmations and anointing in the year ahead. If you'd like to come, Rev'd Carol has space in the car - please let her know.

Supporting Christ Church

Supporting Christ Church - One-Off Gifts

If you would like to make a one-off donation to the church as an offering, to pay a fee, or as a gift to regular funds, you can give through our 'Give a little' page: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/f63a0655-b270-4d05-bf35-3994747785d0> This will also give you the option to Gift Aid your donation (if you pay tax in the UK), enabling the church to get an extra 25p back from the taxman for every £1 you give.



Supporting Christ Church - Regularly

Christ Church is now taking part in the Parish Giving Scheme, which enables you to give regularly by Direct Debit, and to easily review how much you give depending on circumstances. Online at www.parishgiving.org.uk Or by telephone 0333 002 1271 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. For any of these methods our PGS code 030603240 ensures that your gift goes to our church.

PCC

.... next meets on the 13th March. Please let Rev'd Carol or Julie Buckley have your ideas and suggestions for discussion. We ask you to pray this prayer 'this time tomorrow' after a Sunday service - wherever you are. (Why not put a reminder in your phone?)

Lord God, Together with you by our side, we can bring growth to our Church. Send your Holy Spirit to give us good planning, wise actions, joy in worship and our welcome, the right words when we speak to others. Help our Church grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Donations for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Donations of washing powder, laundry liquid, men's toiletries, men's hats and gloves needed. Please leave donations in the box at the back of church for RAIS.

Notice of APCM

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will happen at 12noon on Sunday 21st April, at which our Churchwardens and Parish Church Council will be elected for the next year. Please prayerfully consider who you'd like to nominate to represent your congregation - and whether you have skills and experience you can offer.

The Electoral Roll

Would you say that Christ Church is **your** church? If so, please consider adding your name to the Electoral Roll (a list of people who are part of Christ Church and who worship here regularly). This entitles you to vote in church elections, and also helps us know how many people feel at home here. Please pick up form at the back of church, or see Jane Lippitt for more info. (You don't need to complete a form if you signed up last year.)

Key contacts:**Vicar:** Rev'd Carol Backhouse..... 01524 942105 revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com**Churchwarden:**Ms Jacqueline Stamper
01524 64083churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk**Priest with PTO and Choir Contact:**Rev'd Clive Shaw
cliveshaw54@gmail.com**Lay Reader:**.....Dr Pat Allen
reader@christchurchlancaster.org.uk 01524 39552**Parish Safeguarding Officer:***currently vacant*
safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org 01254 503088**Parish Secretary:**Mrs Julie Buckley
buckleys@live.co.uk 01524 37229**Hall Bookings:**.....hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk 07980 351855**Christ Church School**Miss Emma Simpson 01524 60955

If you would like to receive the notices by email, please contact Jacqueline Stamper.

Mingle on Mondays this Winter

This space for warmth, welcome, food and fellowship is open from 11:30 am - 2 pm each Monday. If you're able to help please sign up on the rota at the back of church. Please encourage people to come along and enjoy a warm welcome! Thank you.

Mothering Sunday

As part of our service on the 10th March, we will take a collection of toiletries to our local Refuge. Please could you donate one or more of the following items: shower gel, shampoo, soap, sanitary towels and tampons, moisturiser, conditioner, bubble bath? Thank you.

Gardening

If you can spare some time to help weed and tidy the church garden, our gardening group meet on the first Friday of the month, between 12 and 2pm, starting on the 5th April. Please bring gloves and secateurs if you have them - and contact Liz Mills if you'd like to know more.

Working Party

Please could you help with a few cleaning and DIY jobs around church, on Saturday 16th March, 9.30-11.30am? Brunch provided.

Lent Lunch

Tuesday 5th March - everyone welcome for a simple homemade lunch at the Vicarage, pop in between 12 and 2pm. Donations welcome for Christian Aid - please bring cash if possible.

Godly Play! 4pm on the third Sunday of each month

In January, we began *Godly Play*. This is a way of sharing Scripture stories with children, and helping them wonder about their faith, using a Montessori approach, with crafts and a snack to share too. It's free, and especially suitable for primary age children (accompanied by an adult please). The next gathering is on the 17th March at 4pm. If you can help, or would like to come along, please pick up a flyer, and ask Rev'd Carol if you are curious.