

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 7th April - Second Sunday of Easter

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 - 7th April

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

*(With thanks to Rev'd John, and Rev'd  
Peter for covering our services today)*

## Wednesday

5.30pm *Evening Prayer*  
(Storey Chapel)

## Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*  
(Lady Chapel)

## Sunday 14th April

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *All Together Eucharist*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

## Prayer for this week

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked,  
no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of  
others  
and walk the joyful road of  
sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.  
**Amen**

## Children's Church

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

## Godly Play - 21st April

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



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, Geoffrey Heywood.

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

**For those preparing for marriage:**

Sue Taylor and Andrew Neal

**that God will bless them in their new life together.**

**For those who have died recently:**

Winifred Tyson, Ronald Stamper

**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 Mardale Road, Bulk Road, Grebe Wharf  
For gardeners and all who work to keep our public places clean and beautiful  
For our community fair, that help would be forthcoming.

***that God's loving kindness is found and shared.***

**Zoom Prayer:**

Tuesday 16th April 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?pwd=cVJI ZDlnNXF2dDVFVWThVa0Z0VWE5dz09>. Meeting ID: 806 945 9310 Passcode 942105

**Thought for the Week**

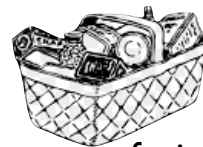
Doubt is not the opposite of faith. The opposite of doubt is certainty. Doubting is part of believing.

*Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

**Meeting up.** The clergy are available for pastoral support and spiritual direction, so please don't hesitate to be in 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 fish, meat, vegetables and fruit. Also 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**



Today is World Health Day which is dedicated to raising awareness about critical health issues facing the world. The World Health Organisation cites the climate crisis as the single biggest health threat facing humanity. Do what you can to support their campaigns and keep the pressure on our government to meet their net zero targets.

### **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..

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

*Q. What did the rabbit say to the carrot? A. It was nice gnawing you.*

### **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](mailto: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

### **Easter Gifts**

Please could you contribute to the costs of the consumables (e.g. candles, wine, etc.) we use each week in church? There's a list at the back of church for your gifts.. Thank you.

### **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 9th April.

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### Acts 4.32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

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

### Psalm 133

*Refrain:* **Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

1 Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard,

3 Even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion

5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore.

*Refrain:* **Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

### 1 John 1.1 - 2.2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 20.19-end***

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**Prayer after Communion:**



Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## **Community at Christ Church:**

### **Porch Repairs - Thank you**

\*Thank you\* to everyone who has supported the £4.5k work to repair our church porch. The re-mortaring work was done before Christmas - and we've now had confirmation that the repairs have been inspected to a good standard. Adding lime mortar to the stonework will ensure that the porch remains watertight, and doesn't shed its outer layers of salt. There are other ongoing projects, so please consider making a donation to the Church Repair Fund if you can.

### **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 3rd May. 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](mailto:joycelynch1946@gmail.com)

### **Farewell to our Brownies**

Sadly, the Christ Church Brownie pack had to close before Easter, owing to a lack of volunteers. Holly Bretnall, the Brown Owl, continues to run a pack in Bowerham and our girls will transfer there. Thanks to Holly for all her hard work in sustaining the group for so long.

### **Community Fair**

Our community life at Christ Church wouldn't be possible without the gifts, skills and time of so many people. We have a display of help needed at the back of church along with booklets of what's up for grabs - so please take a look and consider how you might support your church!

### **Cross Bay Walk for Lightaware**

Eleanor Levin, one of our congregation, is organising a Cross-Bay walk to raise much needed funds for the LightAware charity. This will be starting at Arnside at 1pm on Saturday 1st June. Children and dogs also welcome. <https://lightaware.org/> <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/54767?> If anyone needs a lift, please let Rev'd Carol know.

### **Wedding Invitation**

Sue and Andrew are getting married at Christ Church at 2pm on Saturday 27th April! They've invited everyone at Christ Church to come and share their special day, plus the refreshments in the Hall afterwards. If you're driving, please consider parking in the Grammar School/Wyresdale Road car-park (opposite Wyresdale Gardens). Please keep Sue and Andrew in your prayers as they prepare for their wedding day.

### **Pilgrim - A course for the Christian journey**

On Tuesdays at 7.15pm in the Vicarage, starting 16th April, everyone is welcome as we continue Pilgrim - A Course for the Christian Journey. Whether you're new to church, or wanting to go deeper, this 6-week course will help us think about what it means to turn to Christ. Please ask Rev'd Carol if you'd like more info - why not invite a friend?

## 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](http://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 10th April. Please let Rev'd Carol/Julie Buckley know if there are ideas/suggestions you'd like the church council to discuss. 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.*

### 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.)

### 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.

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

**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. . Please bring gloves and secateurs if you have them - and contact Liz Mills if you'd like more details.

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

Godly Play is a way of sharing Scripture stories with children, and helping them wonder about 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 Sunday, 21st April, 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.

**Holy Week and Easter**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the music, prayer, worship and children's work during Holy Week and Easter - all the hard work and effort are greatly appreciated!

**Ascension Day (9th May)**

To mark Jesus' ascension into heaven, 40 days after His Resurrection, there will be two services on the 9th May.

- 7am Prayers with Churches Together outside the Old/Top Cemetery Chapels (as we can't get access to Williamson Park due to the Highest Point Festival)
- 12noon Eucharist in Christ Church

**Community Fair**

*\*You\** make our community possible - please might you be able to help Christ Church by sharing your time and skills? All sorts of roles and jobs are up for grabs. Please take a moment before/after the service today to look at the display in church.