

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 1st December - Advent Sunday

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 us in worship this week:

Today - 1st December

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist

with Children's Church

4pm Advent Evensong

Tuesday

5pm Evening Prayer Via Zoom (see
notice)

Wednesday

5.30pm Meditation and 6pm Evening
Prayer

Friday

NO Holy Communion

Sunday 8th December

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist

with Children's Church

4pm Darkness to Light Service

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Children's Church

welcomes primary-aged children during the 10.30am service during term time. Parents/guardians are also welcome to join in. Please see back-page notice.

Godly Play - 19 January

Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm in Church for KS1/2 children. (Christingle Service in December.)



Loop
facility



Wafers available



Breastfeeding
Welcome Here



Accessible Toilet
& Baby Changing



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, Thomas Platt, Yan Connell, David Foster, Lucas Calvert, Ron Holmes, Ann Boss, Geoffrey Heywood, Christine McCrann, Steve Wilkinson, Richard Jones, Rev'd Kaarina.

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

Those who have died recently:

May Bailey, Margaret Broad, Keith Bridson, Hannah Green

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 Garnet Street, Kentmere Road.

For local shops and businesses

For the people we will invite to our Christmas Tree Festival

that God's loving kindness is found and shared.

Tuesday Evening Prayer

At 5pm each Tuesday, Rev'd Carol and Rev'd Kaarina say Evening Prayer over Zoom. If you'd like to join them to give thanks for the day past, readings from the Scriptures and prayer, the details are: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?pwd=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.I)

[pwd=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.I](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?pwd=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.I). (Please note the new link.)

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 or text the Prayer Chain on 07980 351855. Please ask the person's permission if you'd like them included in the weekly notices.

Rev'd Kaarina's News

Rev'd Kaarina has had surgery recently, and we keep her in our prayers as she recovers. It is likely to be after Christmas before she returns to ministry at Christ Church, so please direct any enquiries or pastoral conversations to Rev'd Carol in the first instance.

Christ Church Choir

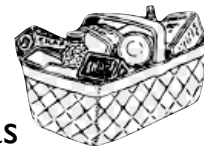
..... sings at the 10.30 service about once a month, plus other special occasions, and practises in church on Thursdays, 7-8:15 pm. New members always welcome; if you're not sure, come along and give it a try for a few weeks! Have a word with Clive or contact him via cliveshaw54@gmail.com



Fairtrade Stall in church - today, 1st December

The Eco-Church Group is hosting a stall full of fairly traded goods after the 10:30 service - Christmas cards, delicious chocolates, gifts, and lots more. Please come and buy!

In Other News...



The Olive Branch Foodbank Christmas Appeal & staples!

The Olive Branch have made a Christmas Appeal - for mince pies, Christmas cakes, boxes of biscuits, crisps, nuts, coffee, Christmas puddings and other seasonal foods to make up the Christmas parcels. *They are also very low on regular staples, like pasta, rice, tinned meat, vegetables, etc.* You can also give money for them to buy what is needed:

<https://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/donate/>

Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week



Money for Madagascar is working with others to bring solar powered energy to local communities, improving lives in every way. You can support this local charity by donating to the big Christmas give between 3rd and 10th December when your donation will be quadrupled. <https://moneyformadagascar.org/big-give-christmas-challenge/>

Recycling at Christ Church - from the Eco Group

On the first Sunday of the month, we collect 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. **No bottle tops or toothpaste tubes, please.**

Craft Group

.... meets in the Hall on the second Tuesday of each month (and sometimes others) at 11.30am. Everyone welcome - bring your own project, or share in one of the others on the go! No prior experience needed.

Craft Sale!

On Saturday 14th December between 9.30am and 1pm in the Hall - drop in for festive crafts and other beautiful home made items, as well as craft making equipment. If you're a crafter who'd like a stall at the event, please contact Julie Buckley.

First Aid Training

There are five spaces left on a certified First Aid at Work course on the 11th January, 9.30-3.30pm in the church hall. Please speak to Rev'd Carol if you're interested.

Allergies at Christ Church

If you help with refreshments and serving food at Christ Church, please consider doing the Food Safety and Allergy training available here: <https://allergytraining.food.gov.uk/> It's free, and simply requires you to register through the website. Thank you!

Christ Church Preserves!

There's a wide range of delicious jams and chutneys for sale at the back of church, some including churchyard apples! Please support the church by buying a jar or two!

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

I ordered four Kindles on a Black Friday deal - and they sent me a Two Ronnies DVD! (With apologies to younger readers.)



Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

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

Psalm 25.1-9

*Refrain: **Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.***

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.

5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

*Refrain: **Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.***

6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

8 He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

*Refrain: **Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.***

I Thessalonians 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 21.25-3**
Glory to you, O Lord.

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

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

Prayer after Communion:



O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Community at Christ Church:

Toy Service Appeal

During the 10.30am service on the 15th December, there will be a collection of new and good-condition used toys for the Salvation Army in Morecambe to support local families this Christmas. No soft toys please.

Helen and Susan's Sponsored Silence!

Well done to Helen and Susan for successfully completing their sponsored silence last Sunday. Nearly £500 has been raised for church funds! Please ensure that the money is paid no later than 1st December, and marked 'paid' on the sponsorship list. Please mark Gift Aid envelopes as 'sponsored silence'.

Christmas Tree Festival

On the 6-8th December, we'll be hosting our fourth Christmas Tree Festival - please would you help?

- Cakes, mince pies and seasonal baking needed for the 6-8th December
- Monday 2nd 5pm Tree installation and furniture moving
- 3rd - 8th Welcoming and stewarding
- Musicians offering live music.
- Please sign up on the sheet at the back and chat to Julie Buckley/Rev'd Carol



Hall for Hire

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

Advent At Christ Church

A season of watching and waiting for Christ, the Light of the World.

Sunday 1st December 4pm - Choral Evensong for Advent

Friday 6th 12noon- 6pm)

Saturday 7th 10am-4pm) Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival

Sunday 8th 12noon-4pm)

Sunday 8th December 4pm Darkness to Light Service, candlelit among the trees.

Tuesday 10th December 7pm Memorial Service to remember loved ones at Christmas

Sunday 15th December 4pm Christingle Service for all the family

Sunday 22nd December 4pm Christmas Carol Service.

Join us for the *Advent Study Group* in the Hall every Sunday after the 10.30am Eucharist from Sunday 1st December, looking at John Bell's book, *Life in the Comma*

Please pick up a leaflet or borrow a book from church for some food for thought and prayer during the Advent season

Why not consider a reverse Advent Calendar? Set aside one tin/packet of food for the Olive Branch Foodbank every week or every day.

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

If you're able to support Christ Church via a direct debit donation, you can do this via the Parish Giving Scheme. Every penny goes to our church, and it's easy to 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.

EasyFundraising

Did you know you can support Christ Church when you shop online? Register using <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>, and the brand's commission will be donated to the church.

PCC

... met on the 11th November. We discussed Safeguarding at Christ Church - both what is practically in place to keep people safe, and also the culture of our community.

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.



Sponsor a Hymn

If you'd like to suggest and sponsor a hymn to be sung within the 10.30am Eucharist, please fill in one of the blue forms from the noticeboard.

Thought for the Week

Advent ... leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realise that the One for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.

Henri Nouwen

Book Group



The church book group meets next on the 3rd January and then on the first Friday of each month at 4 pm in the church hall. Anyone who enjoys reading and discussion 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

Key contacts:

Vicar:	Rev'd Carol Backhouse 01524 942105 revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com
Curate:	Rev'd Kaarina Leong (On Leave)
Children's Ministry Leader	Innes Heron-Stamp 07853791776 children@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Priest with PTO and Choir Contact:	Rev'd Clive Shaw cliveshaw54@gmail.com
Lay Reader:	Dr Pat Allen 01524 39552 reader@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Notices:	Ms Jacqueline Stamper 01524 64083 churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Emma Muckalt & Ms Debbie Steele safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org 07547 717060
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'd like to keep in touch with Christ Church news, events, services and prayer requests, please complete one of the contact cards in the pews and return to Rev'd Carol

Promoting a Safer Church

If you believe that someone is at risk of immediate harm please call emergency services on 999. Any safeguarding concerns in a parish should be brought to the attention of your Parish Safeguarding Officers, Debbie Steele and Emma Muckalt, who can be contacted as above. Concerns can also be raised directly with our Diocesan Team, Tel: 01254 503088 or email safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org

Children's Church

... is an important part of our church life, and one of the ways children learn more about Christian faith. If you can offer one Sunday morning each a month (or more if possible) please have a word with Innes. An Enhanced DBS check will be arranged.

Save the Date: Christmas Carols with Lancaster Churches Together

Please join the singers near Primark in Marketgate on Saturday 14 December from 10.30 – 12noon.. Non-singers also needed to help with the collecting buckets to raise funds for Lancaster Homeless Action (LDHAS). Also to help with carols at Lancaster Royal Infirmary (RLI) Monday 16 Dec from 7.00 – 9.00pm, Wednesday 18 Dec from 10.30 - 12 noon, and Friday 29 Dec from 10.30 = 12 noon For the RLI please email arton.medd@btinternet.com

Christ Church Primary School at 150!

On the 25th January 2025, our school will celebrate its 150th anniversary! If you have photos or other memorabilia which you'd like to share for their history project, please drop this into the school office (labelled, so they can return it to you!). There'll be a special service for the school on the 19th January, and then our 10.30am service on the 26th January will have an open invitation to past pupils and staff to celebrate this fantastic milestone!