

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 8th December - *Second Sunday of Advent*

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 - 8th December**

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist  
with Children's Church*

4pm *Darkness to Light Service*

## **Tuesday**

5pm *Evening Prayer Via Zoom*

7pm *Memorial Service*

## **Wednesday**

5.30pm *Meditation* and 6pm  
*Evening Prayer*

## **Friday**

9.30am *Holy Communion*

## **Sunday 15th December**

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist with  
Children's Church & Toys Collection*

4pm *Christingle*

## **Prayer for this week**

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus  
Christ comes again as judge  
and saviour, we may be  
ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord  
and our God.

**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.*)



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, Richard Jones, Rev'd Kaarina, Ruby Rodrigues, Anne Brockbank.

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

### **Those who have died recently:**

Keith Bridson, Hannah Green, Miles Hickey, Edith Hoyle-Santom

***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 Keswick Road, Bowness Road.

For our Parish Safeguarding Officers

For the people we 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=jTDuVW7HO8lR7l0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.l)

[pwd=jTDuVW7HO8lR7l0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.l](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?pwd=jTDuVW7HO8lR7l0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.l). (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](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.

### **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](mailto:cliveshaw54@gmail.com)

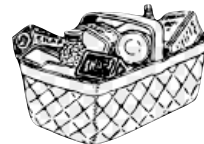


## In Other News...

### 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](mailto:joycelynch1946@gmail.com)



### 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



Try to find environmentally friendly Christmas decorations and cards this year. Look on the EcoChurch Christmas tree for ideas.

### 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 two 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!

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### **Malachi 3.1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

### **Canticle - The Benedictus, the Song of Zechariah.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### **Philippians 1.3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a

good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 3.1-6***

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

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

**Prayer after Communion:**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



## **Community at Christ Church:**

### **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!*

*The population of Ireland's capital city is really growing fast. It's Dublin.*

### **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! There is still some sponsorship. Money outstanding - please ensure you pay no later than 8th December, and mark 'paid' on the sponsorship list. Please mark Gift Aid envelopes as 'sponsored silence'.

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make our Christmas Tree Festival possible this weekend - from sponsors and decorators, musicians, organisers and co-ordinators, welcomers and washers-up! Half the funds raised will support the work of Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service.



### **Christingle**

As part of our Christingle service this year, we will be raising funds for the Children's Society, a national charity working with children and young people to help them have a better future. Please collect a donation candle to fill with loose change and notes, or make a donation online.

### **Advent At Christ Church**

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

*Sunday 8th 12noon-4pm* Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival

*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



## 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](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.

### 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

We must be the change we want to see in the world. *Variously attributed to Mahatma Gandhi or Nelson Mandela.*

### 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](mailto:hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk) 07980 351855 for more info.

**Key contacts:**

<b>Vicar:</b> .....	Rev'd Carol Backhouse 01524 942105 <a href="mailto:revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com">revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com</a>
<b>Curate:</b> .....	Rev'd Kaarina Leong (On Leave)
<b>Children's Ministry Leader</b> .....	Innes Heron-Stamp 07853791776 <a href="mailto:children@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">children@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Priest with PTO and Choir Contact:</b> .....	Rev'd Clive Shaw <a href="mailto:cliveshaw54@gmail.com">cliveshaw54@gmail.com</a>
<b>Lay Reader:</b> .....	Dr Pat Allen 01524 39552 <a href="mailto:reader@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">reader@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Notices:</b> .....	Ms Jacqueline Stamper 01524 64083 <a href="mailto:churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer:</b> .....	Mrs Emma Muckalt & Ms Debbie Steele <a href="mailto:safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org">safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org</a> 07547 717060
<b>Parish Secretary:</b> .....	Mrs Julie Buckley <a href="mailto:buckleys@live.co.uk">buckleys@live.co.uk</a> 01524 37229
<b>Hall Bookings:</b> .....	<a href="mailto:hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a> 07980 351855
<b>Christ Church School</b> .....	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](mailto: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](mailto: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!