

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 12th January - *Baptism of Christ*



a vibrant, inclusive
worshipping
community

Vicar: Revd Carol Backhouse 01524 942105
1 East Road, Lancaster, LA1 3EE

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook:@ChristChurchLancaster

**Everyone is welcome to join us
in worship this week:**

Today - 12th January

8.30am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *Parish Eucharist*
6pm *Ignatian Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation*
6pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday 19th January

8.30am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *Parish Eucharist*
12.30 *Christening*
4pm *Godly Play*
6pm *Celtic Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Children's Church

welcomes primary-aged children during the 10.30am service during term time. Parents/guardians are welcome to join in.

Godly Play - 19 January

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

Messy Church - 26th January

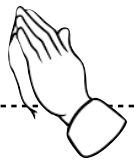
Every 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm in church for KS1/2 children



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, Thomas Platt, Yan Connell, David Foster, Lucas Calvert, Ron Holmes, Ann Boss, Geoffrey Heywood, Christine McCrann, Richard Jones, Rev'd Kaarina, Ruby Rodrigues, Marlene Phillips

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

Those who have died recently:

Miles Hickey, Wendy (Clementine) Allen-Eliis, Barbara Gibson

may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Those preparing for marriage:

Thomas Fishwick and Lydia Benfold

that God will bless them in their new life together.

Those preparing for Baptism:

Innes Heron-Stamp, Amelia Connor

- may they grow in faith and shine as lights in the world

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

For those who live and work on Crag Road, Guidem Park.

For the work of Churches Together in Lancaster

For preparations for the Drop-in Lunch, Messy Church and Godly Play

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?pwd=jTDuW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.I>.

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.

Rev'd Kaarina's News

Rev'd Kaarina has had surgery recently, and we keep her in our prayers as she recovers. Please direct any enquiries or pastoral conversations to Rev'd Carol in the first instance.

In Other News...

Book Group

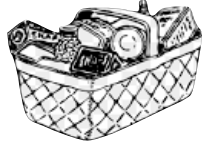


The church book group will meet on the first Friday of next month (7th February) at 4 pm in the church hall. Anyone who enjoys reading and discussion is very welcome to join us. You can just turn up on the day, speak to Joyce, or send an email to

joycelynch1946@gmail.com

The Olive Branch Foodbank

The Olive Branch badly needs the following: tinned curry, chilli con carne, pies, spaghetti/macaroni cheese/ravioli, meatballs, hotdogs, stewed steak, tuna, salmon, pork, corned beef, ham, fruit, rice pudding, custard, tomatoes, sweetcorn, carrots, peas, potatoes, beans, chickpeas; biscuits, crisps, multipacks (biscuit/cake bars), cereal, jam, peanut butter, basmati/long-grain rice, pasta, pasta sauce jars, cooking oil; coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cordial, juice (long-life/non-fridge), long-life milk; and various toiletries. You can also give money for them to buy what people need: <https://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/donate/>



Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week



Let the fossil fuel industry know you are serious about carbon net zero and move your banking and investments to ethical businesses.

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.**

Thought for the Week

In Jesus' own baptism, death and resurrection were already present. And all the multiple layers of meaning that were already present in baptism were to be recentered on the event of Jesus' death and resurrection. Through the water into God's new world.

Bishop NT (Tom) Wright

Epiphany Gifts

If you can make a donation towards the cost of candles, bread, wine, and other sacristy items used in worship, please sign up on the list at the back of church, and mark any cash donations as 'Epiphany Gift'. Thank you!



Isaiah 43.1-7

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

and honoured, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, 'Give them up',

and to the south, 'Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—

everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made.'

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

Acts 8.14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

Prayer after Communion:

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Community at Christ Church:

Monthly Lunch and Open Church - trial in January

We want to increase our welcome to visitors, so in January we are trialling hosting a free soup, bread and cheese (or vegan alternative) lunch on the second Sunday of the month (today - 12th) and keeping the church open during the afternoon, with basic self-serve refreshments available in church. We therefore need volunteers to make and serve soup, buy bread and cheese, etc., and also to welcome visitors into church for a few hours in the afternoon. *Expenses will be reimbursed.* Please sign up on the list at the back of church if you're able to help. (The list for February 9th is at the back of church.)

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 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



Craft Group

.... meets next in the Hall on January 14th at 11.30am. Everyone welcome - bring your own project, or share in one of the others on the go! No prior experience needed. The group is hoping to increase its frequency to alternate weeks - watch this space!

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 information.

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

Q. What is the best way to get to school in January? A. By icicle!

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 go to church.

PCC

... next meets on the 15th January. If there are aspects of life and worship at Christ Church which you'd like discussing, please speak to Rev'd Carol, Julie Buckley, or one of the PCC members.

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.



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 07717824574
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.

Christ Church Primary School at 150!

On the 25th January 2025, our school will celebrate its 150th anniversary! There'll be a special service for the school on the 20th 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!

Talk on the History of Christ Church School - 22nd January

Matt Cole will be giving a fascinating talk on 150 years' history of Christ Church Primary School on Wednesday 22nd January at 7 pm in church - everyone welcome!