

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 19th January - *Second Sunday of Epiphany*



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

a vibrant, inclusive
worshipping
community

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook:@ChristChurchLancaster

Everyone is welcome to join us in worship this week:

Today - 19th January

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

12:30pm *Baptism*

4pm *Godly Play*

6pm *Celtic Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday 26th January

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church*

6pm *Pilgrim Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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

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, Cathy Picken

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

Those who have died recently:

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:

Amelie 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 Honister Road, Ambleside Road.

For our servers, readers and intercessors.

For preparations for our School's 150th celebrations and the guests we welcome.

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=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjqVS.I)

[pwd=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjqVS.I.](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?pwd=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjqVS.I)

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. Please direct any enquiries or pastoral conversations to Rev'd Carol in the first instance.

In Other News...

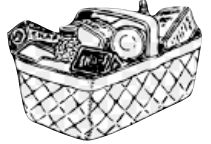
Book Group



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



Only 9% of plastic is recycled, so recycling alone can never deal with the sheer volume of plastic produced on our planet. Choose one item that you can replace with a non-plastic option.

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

Jesus may have chosen this family situation [*the wedding at Cana*] to perform this miracle because it is something everyone in every culture can relate to. An ordinary setting became the showcase for His supernatural power. Perhaps that is another lesson He wants us to learn from it. He wants to do something supernatural in the everyday events of our lives, as well.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A warm invitation to join in Compline at Lancaster Cathedral on Monday 20th at 7pm with Christians across Lancaster.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Isaiah 62.1–5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

Psalm 36.5–10

Refrain: **With you, O God, is the well of life**

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens;
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.
7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God!
All mortal flesh shall take refuge

under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house;
they shall drink from the river of your delights.
9 For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.
10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

Refrain: **With you, O God, is the well of life**

I Corinthians 12. 1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Christ according to **John 2.1-11***

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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



Prayer after Communion:

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Community at Christ Church:

Monthly Lunch and Open Church

On the second Sunday of each month (February 9th) there will be a free soup, bread and cheese (or vegan alternative) lunch, and we shall be keeping the church open during the afternoon. Please sign up on the list at the back of church if you're able to help by making or serving soup, buying bread and cheese, etc. (*expenses will be reimbursed*), or welcoming visitors into church for a few hours in the afternoon - thank you!

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 28th 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.

A Pint of Theology

On the second Tuesday of the month, at 7:30pm, starting 11th February, everyone is welcome in the Olive Bar at the Gregson for an hour's discussion (with or without a pint) on aspects of Christian theology and its place in our contemporary world. Please share with others who might be interested, and contact Innes if you'd like to know more.

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

Q. What do you call a fish wearing a bow tie?

A. Sofishticated.

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

... met on the 15th January. We discussed an external defibrillator, plans for children's work, repairs to the roof, and our 2025 budget. 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.



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!

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 has an open invitation to past pupils and staff to celebrate this fantastic milestone!

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

Dr Matt Cole of the Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University, 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!