

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 2nd February - *Feast of Candlemas*



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 - 2nd February -
Candlemas**

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Festal Eucharist*

6pm *Taizé Eucharist*

Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday 9th February -

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Godly Play*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty, whose beloved
Son was this day presented in the
Temple, in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to
you with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ 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 - 9th February

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

Messy Church - 23rd February

Every 4th Sunday of the month at
4pm in the Hall 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.

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

For those who live and work on Ennerdale Close, Ridge Lane.

For Ryelands Sure Start Centre

For those attending the M:Power course.

that God's loving kindness is found and shared.

Tuesday Evening Prayer

At 5pm each Tuesday, the clergy 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=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.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.

Holding Hope in Her Hands: Christian Aid Update Event:

Zoë Abernethy from Christian Aid will be speaking about the work of Christian Aid in Latin America and the Caribbean, and specifically about the work in Guatemala, the focus of Christian Aid Week 2025. All welcome – come along and be inspired! Tues Feb 11th 2025 at 7 pm Lancaster Methodist Church, Scotforth Road, Lancaster.

In Other News...

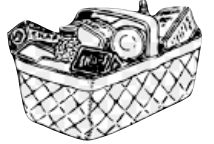
Book Group




The church book group will meet on the first Friday of this 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

 We now know that 2024 was the hottest year in the last decade and the first to pass 1.5° C above pre - industrial temperatures. According to the *New Scientist*, every fraction of a degree of rising temperatures that we can prevent counts. So keep on trying in every way you can.

Recycling at Christ Church - update from the Eco Group

On the first Sunday of the month, we collect medical blister packs and some dental care products. We are now adding some personal care items such as soft plastic tubes used for hand creams, wet wipe packaging and used make-up such as lipsticks, eyeshadow and mascara to our monthly collection. Please look carefully at the information provided on and close to the collection boxes to ensure that you only bring what can be recycled by our local Terracycle volunteers. **No bottle tops or toothpaste tubes, please.**

Thought for the Week

We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us thru that darkness to a safe and sane future.

John F Kennedy

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.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Malachi 3.1-5

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.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

Psalm 24.

*Refrain: **The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.***

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

Refrain:

3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;

5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6 Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Refrain:

7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8 'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

*Refrain: **The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.***

Hebrews 2.14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 2: 22-38***

Praise to you, O Lord

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

Prayer after Communion:

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**



Community at Christ Church:

Monthly Lunch and Open Church - 9th February

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 February 4th 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 - watch this space!

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

Q. *How do you describe someone who's just had every candle stolen from their home?*

A. *Delighted!*

Gardening Group

Our friendly gardening group meets on the first Friday of each month (7th February) between 12noon at 2pm to keep our church garden looking lovely. New members always welcome - whether for all or part of the time. If you can, please bring gloves and secateurs.



Ripley Church of England Educational Trust - Clerk vacancy

The Trust is seeking to appoint a clerk. Duties include: enabling the Ripley Trust to serve its beneficiaries; monitoring the compliance of key areas of governance on behalf of the trust; and supporting the Board of Trustees and Chair in the smooth running and administration of the trust. Please see the notice accompanying the newsletter, and contact Keith Robinson, Vice-Chair, at Keith@st.tees.org.uk for a position description and further details.

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, prayer and worship, please complete a contact card from the pew-end 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. *All children need to be accompanied to church by a parent/guardian, please.*

Save the Date!

Eyes down for a fun evening of Bingo, with prizes for all the family. Saturday 15th February in the Church Hall, from 5.30pm. Tickets £5 each or £10/family, price includes drinks and snacks.

A Pint of Theology - 11th February

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.