

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 9th February - Fourth Sunday before Lent



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 - 9th February

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist

4pm Godly Play

6pm Evening Prayer

### Tuesday

\*No\* Evening Prayer

### Wednesday

5.30pm Meditation

6pm Evening Prayer

### Friday

9.30am Holy Communion

### Sunday 16th February

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist

6pm Evening Prayer

## Prayer for this week

Lord of the hosts of heaven,  
our salvation and our strength,  
without you we are lost:  
guard us from all that harms or  
hurts

and raise us when we fall;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 - 16th March

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

### Messy Church - 23rd February

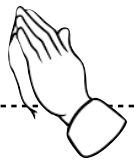
Every 4th Sunday of the month at  
4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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:**

Barbara Gibson

***may they rest in peace and rise in glory.***

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

For those living and working on Lowther Road, Caldbeck Road.

For the work of local food banks

For Choir Church as it begins under Jayne Crow's leadership

***that God's loving kindness is found and shared.***

**Tuesday Evening Prayer**

At 5pm most Tuesdays, the clergy say Evening Prayer over Zoom. If you'd like to join to give thanks for the day past, readings from the Scriptures and prayer, the details are:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81366929814?pwd=jTDuVW7HO8IR710nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.I>.

*Please note that there will be no Evening Prayer online this coming Tuesday, 11th February.*

**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](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. 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! Tuesday Feb 11th 2025 at 7 pm Lancaster Methodist Church, Scotforth Road, Lancaster.

## In Other News...

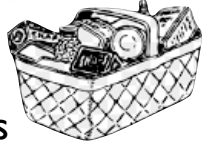
### Book Group



The church book group meets on the first Friday of each month (7th March) 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

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



Peatlands are among the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth, storing twice as much carbon as the world's forests. Not buying peat compost is a significant action towards protecting the environment and carbon stores. You could also get better gardening results by ditching peat and using a soil-based growing medium.

### 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

In the Great Commission the Lord has called us to be ... fishers of [people]. We've turned the commission around so that we have become merely keepers of the aquarium.

*The late Bishop Sam Shoemaker, TECUS*

### 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 information.

### Fundraising thank you's!

The Christingle collection from church and school raised just under £350 - thank you all very much for this great contribution to the invaluable work of the Children's Society. Helen and Susan's Sponsored Silence raised £405 for church funds, and an anonymous donor has generously offered to match the amount raised - thank you to all who gave!

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### Isaiah 6.1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

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

### Psalm 138

*Refrain:* **Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.**

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods will I sing praise to you.

2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me; you put new strength in my soul.

*Refrain:* **Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.**

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; as for the proud, he regards them from afar.

*Refrain:* **Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever.**

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you will preserve me; you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand will save me.

8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; forsake not the work of your hands.

*Refrain:* **Your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever**

### I Corinthians 15.1-11

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you

are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 5.1-11***

**Praise to you, O Lord**

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

**Prayer after Communion:**



Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Community at Christ Church:**

### **Monthly Lunch and Open Church - today 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 couple of 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](mailto:cliveshaw54@gmail.com)



### **Craft Group**

.... meets in the Hall most Tuesdays at 11.30am. Everyone welcome - bring your own project, or share in one of the others on the go! No prior experience needed. Please talk to Julie Buckley if you'd like more info.

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

*You can tune a guitar, but you can't tuna fish. Unless, of course, you play bass!*

### **Gardening Group**



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

### **Choir Church**

We're delighted that our Choir Church Project is now up and running. Mrs Jayne Crow, a local music teacher, is leading singing lessons and a Choir Club in Christ Church School. The children will then share a eucharist with their families in school each half term. If you're able to help with the 28th March's service, please have a word with Innes or Rev'd Carol. Thank you.

### **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!

## 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 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.



### 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](mailto:Keith@st.tees.org.uk) for a position description and further details.

**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> 07717824574
<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, 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](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. *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.