

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 16th February - *Third 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 - 16th February

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday 23rd February

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church (Hall)*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the
crowds and brought healing
with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather
together, and by our lives as
they are transformed into the
image of 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

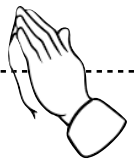
Every 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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, Rev'd Ken Clapham.

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

Those who have died recently: Barbara

Gibson, Anne Hull, Lindsay Benson

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 in Macdonald Way, Nightingale Hall Road.

For the work of our local refuge.

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=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxijqVS.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.

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.

In Other News...

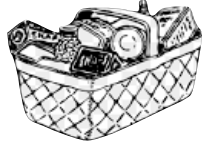
Book Group



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

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

Legislation to ban peat sales has been consulted on and promised for over ten years.



Finally a first reading of *The Horticultural Peat (Prohibition of Sale) Bill* was introduced by Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Dyke on 6th November 2024.

Sadly its Second Reading (due 24th January) was delayed to 1st July. Please do what you can to ensure this bill comes into law as soon as possible by writing to your MP and supporting campaigns.

Further changes to recycling at Christ Church - from the Eco-Group

Sadly, the Philips Recycling Stream has now closed. Bay Area Recycling, who accept the items for recycling from the Eco-Group, can therefore no longer accept dental products. On the first Sunday of the month, we will still continue to collect medical blister packs and personal care items such as soft plastic tubes (e.g. for hand cream), wet wipe packaging and used make-up such as lipsticks, eyeshadow and mascara. Please look carefully at the information provided on and close to the collection boxes to ensure that you only bring in what can now be recycled volunteers. **No bottle tops or dental products, please.**

Thought for the Week

I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.

John Wesley

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Jeremiah 17.5–10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green: in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

Psalm 1

Refrain: **The Lord knows the way of the righteous**

1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not

wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

Refrain: **The Lord knows the way of the righteous**

4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Refrain: **The Lord knows the way of the righteous**

I Corinthians 15.12–20

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our

proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 6.17–2***

Praise to you, O Lord

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

‘Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

‘Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

‘But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

‘Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.’

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

Prayer after Communion:



Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Community at Christ Church:

Monthly Lunch and Open Church - 9th March

On the second Sunday of each month 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 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!

I went to the library and asked if they had a book about Pavlov's dogs and Schrödinger's cat. The librarian said it rang a bell but she wasn't sure if they had it or not.

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.

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.*

A Pint of Theology - 11th March

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.

Thank you!

To everyone who helped and supported our Bingo night yesterday - we had a great time!