

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 23rd February - *Second Sunday before Lent*



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 - Sunday 23rd

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church (Hall)*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

With thanks to Alex, Gary and Pat for covering the services today.

Tuesday

No Evening Prayer

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday 2nd March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Taizé Eucharist*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, 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 - 16th March

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

Messy Church - 23rd March

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, Liz Hilton, Marlene Phillips, Rev'd Ken Clapham.

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

Those who have died recently:

Lindsay Benson, Anne Hull

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 Willow Grove, Ellwood Square.

For all foster carers

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=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.

Lent Quiet Morning

Join us on Saturday 15th March 9.30-1pm for a Quiet morning of prayer and reflection, led by John Rodwell, a longstanding friend of Christ Church and diocesan environment officer. John will lead us in thinking about Bread from the Desert - the Christian hope in times of climate crisis. Suggested donation £10 to include lunch. Please speak to Rev'd Carol to book a place.

Thought for the Week

A human being is a vessel that God has built for himself and filled with his inspiration so that his works are perfected in it. *Hildegard von Bingen*

In Other News...

Ash Wednesday

.... is on the 5th March this year. There will be a Eucharist at 7pm, where the invitation is to receive a cross of ash as a sign that we seek to turn afresh to God's ways as we begin the season of Lent.

Lent

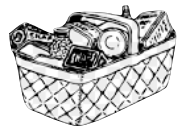
The season of Lent invites us to follow Christ's example of spending 40 days of prayer, study and fasting as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Please consider what habits you might take up (as well as give up!) to follow more closely in Christ's footsteps.

You may like to join the **Lent Course - The Sacraments** meeting in the hall on Sundays after the 10.30 Eucharist, for 5 weeks from the 9th March.

Please also pick up a **Living Hope** booklet, and you're welcome to borrow some of the other books as food for the soul this season!

The Olive Branch Foodbank

The Olive Branch badly needs all kinds of long-life food and drink (cans of vegetables, meat, fish, pulses; packets of rice, pasta, biscuits, crisps, bars, cereals; jars of pasta sauce, jam, peanut butter; coffee, tea, hot chocolate; cartons of juice milk) and various toiletries. You can also give money for them to buy what people need: <https://www.the-olivebranch.org.uk/donate/>



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.

New Compost Heaps

With thanks to the hard work of Neil and the gardening group, we now have new compost heaps in the churchyard, to help us make better use of all the green waste our garden produces. Please *do not* add food waste (as we don't want to attract vermin) and please ensure any branches are chipped into small pieces to aid compost.

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

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.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

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

Psalm 65

Apologies - no room to print in full.

The refrain is:

Refrain: **Be joyful in God, all the earth.**

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will

show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 8.22-25***

Praise to you, O Lord

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

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

Prayer after Communion:

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Community at Christ Church:

Notice of the Revision of the Church Electoral Roll

This year a completely new Church Electoral Roll has to be compiled, requiring all members of Christ Church to sign a new form. The new Electoral Roll will open on **Sunday 9th March. For a period of 6 weeks**, new forms will be available at the back of church for each person to complete and sign. An electronic copy of the form will also be sent out with the newsletter on March 9th, with more details of how to complete and return electronically. Thank you. Jane Lippitt - Electoral Roll Officer

Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week

Most commercially-grown salads are grown in a peat medium, as are most mushrooms.



One national retailer now supplies peat-free grown mushrooms, responding to customers' concerns and working towards its carbon net zero goals. Look out for these and other changes in food production that may occur.

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

The Philips Recycling Stream has sadly 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. **No bottle tops or dental products, please.**

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!

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



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

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.

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

... meets on the 10th March. 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.

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

Q. What do you call a retired vegetable? A. A has-bean.

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, 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.

New Lighting

New LED lighting is being installed in the Hall, Baptistry and Sanctuary to replace broken fittings and improve our energy efficiency. Because Christ Church has a large carbon footprint, we've been eligible for grants from the Net Zero Quick Wins scheme.