

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 16th March - *Second Sunday of Lent*



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 - Sunday 16th March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

12noon *Lent Group*

4pm *Godly Play*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer (Zoom)*

Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday 23rd March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

12noon *Lent Group*

4pm *Messy Church*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God,
by the prayer
and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the
mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
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 March

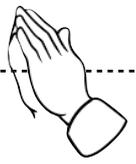
Every 4th Sunday of the month at
4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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, Jamie Haxby

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

Those who have died recently:

Anne Hull, Rev'd Ken Clapham, Derek Santon

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 Grizedale Road, Coniston Road, Scarfell Road.

For the students and staff at the universities of Lancaster and Cumbria.

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=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.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

We keep Kaarina in our prayers as she recovers from surgery. Please direct any enquiries or pastoral conversations to Rev'd Carol in the first instance.

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 at 3.15pm in school, please have a word with Innes or Rev'd Carol. Thank you.

Thought for the Week

Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile. *Connor Franta*

In Other News...

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 (4th April) 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.

Book Group



The church book group meets on the first Friday of each month (4th April) 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.

Sponsored Walk

On the 29th March, Bruce Carter will be walking through (and staying in) our parish as he walks from John O'Groats to his home church in Salisbury, to raise funds for ABCD Bethlehem, a charity helping injured children in Gaza. If you wish to sponsor him, details are here: <https://www.abcdbethlehem.org/donate>

Mothering Sunday 30th March - As part of our service, we will be collecting toiletries to share with our local refuge. If you can, please bring shampoo, shower gel, bubble bath, tampons and towels, nappies, moisturiser or skincare products to any of the services that day. Many in a refuge arrive with nothing, so these donations are really appreciated. Thank you.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates'.

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

Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

Psalm 27

Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

4 One thing have I asked of the Lord and that alone I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

5 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek his will in his temple.

6 For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter; in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me and set me high upon a rock.

7 And now shall he lift up my head above my enemies round about me;

8 Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness;

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Refrain:

9 Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy upon me and answer me.

10 My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.

11 Hide not your face from me, nor cast your servant away in displeasure.

12 You have been my helper; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Refrain:

13 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

14 Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of those who lie in wait for me.

15 Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and those who breathe out violence.

16 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

17 Wait for the Lord; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

Refrain:

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke 13.31-35***

Praise to you, O Lord

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

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

Prayer after Communion:

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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 opened on 9th March, and will end on 20th April. During these six 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 newsletters with more details of how to complete and return electronically to Jane Lippitt - Electoral Roll Officer lippittjane@gmail.com



Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week - PLANT

Sow seeds for some home grown vegetables and herbs or for wild flowers for the birds, bees and butterflies.

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

On the first Sunday of the month, we 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 - 13th April and 4th May

On the second Sunday of each month there is 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*). 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



Working Party - Saturday 29th March

Help is needed with some cleaning, maintenance and DIY tasks, as well as to prepare the Mothering Sunday posies, between 9.30-11.30am on 29th March. Please drop in even if you can't spare the whole morning. Brunch will be provided. Children (accompanied by and adult) are welcome to help too.

23rd Lancaster Scout Group (Christ Church) - Trustee wanted!

Our large, successful Scout Group <https://23rdlancaster.org.uk/> provides adventure and life-skills to children aged 6-15. It now seeks members of our local church community to join its Trustee Board, to discuss and agree the direction of this active and outgoing group - only three Board meetings a year involved. If you are interested, please speak to Louise Tuck or email her on louisethearcher@hotmail.com

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

... met on the 10th March. We discussed our annual accounts and budget, plans for children's ministry, and plans for work to repair the building. 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. Why do we put bulbs in the soil? A. So the worms can see where they're going.

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 - 8th April

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.

Fairtrade Easter Eggs

If you'd like to celebrate a sweeter Easter, then the Real Easter Egg will soon be on sale. Made with dark or milk Fairtrade chocolate, and containing a story booklet. Please reserve yours on the list at the back of church. £5 each for church funds.