

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 27th April - First Sunday of Easter

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 - 27th April

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist

12.30pm Baptism

6pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday

5pm Evening Prayer via Zoom

Wednesday

5.30pm Meditation and 6pm Evening
Prayer in the Storey Chapel

Friday

9.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 4th May

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Eucharist (**no
Children's Church**)

1.30pm Wedding

6pm Evening Prayer

Prayer for this week

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked,
no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of
others and walk the joyful
road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the
Father. **Amen**

Children's Church

welcomes primary-aged children
during the 10.30am service during
term time. (Not 4th May.) Parents/
guardians are welcome to join in.

Godly Play - 18th May

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

Messy Church - 25th May

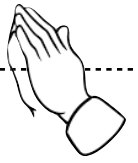
Every 4th Sunday of the month at
4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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:

David Whitehouse, His Holiness Pope Francis.

may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Those preparing for Baptism

Maeve Shellnack

may they shine as lights in the world.

Those preparing for Marriage

Jodie Townley and Simon Wearing

May God bless them in their new life together.

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

For those who live and work in Alfred Street, Shaw Street.

For our farmers and agricultural workers

For our preparations for Choir Church on the 16th May.

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=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.I>.

Meeting Up.

The clergy are available for pastoral support and spiritual direction, so please don't hesitate to be in 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

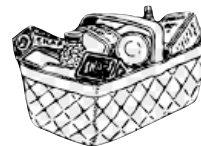
We keep Kaarina in our prayers as she recovers from surgery. Please direct any enquiries or pastoral conversations to Rev'd Carol in the first instance.

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.



In Other News...



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 (2nd May) 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 (2nd May) 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.

Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week



As the days lengthen we can begin to enjoy and explore the natural world more fully and witness the unfolding of colour and life all around us. Take time to observe these changes and perhaps capture them on your camera.

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 - 4th May

On one 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!

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Acts 5.27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' *This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 150

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

1 Alleluia. O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; praise him upon the harp and lyre.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dances; praise him upon the strings and pipe.

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

5 Praise him with ringing cymbals; praise him upon the clashing cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia.

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Revelation 1.4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who

pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 20.19-31** **Glory to you, O Lord***

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’

But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Prayer after Communion:

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him:

deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen



Community at Christ Church:

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



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

Q. What do you call a very tired Easter Egg? A. Eggs-austed!

Annual Meeting and Elections

On Sunday 11th May, after the 10.30 Eucharist, we will hold our church Annual Meeting, giving thanks for all that happened within our community during 2024. We will also elect our Churchwardens and church council (PCC) members who will serve the community in the year ahead. Please save the date and come along!

Please prayerfully consider whether you can offer your time and skills to help the church in the year ahead, and have a chat with Rev'd Carol or one of the current PCC members about what's involved. Nomination forms for PCC members and Churchwardens are available at the back of church.

Please also collect copies of the annual accounts and annual report.

Thank you!

To everyone who has helped make our Holy Week and Easter services such special occasions - whether preparing the sanctuary ready for worship, rehearsing our choir and musicians, photocopying orders of service, preaching and praying, leading children's work, welcoming guests; donating flowers, candles etc, and many other roles too!

Please note: No Children's Church on Sunday 4th May

There will be no Children's Church on 4th May, as Innes will be on annual leave.



Supporting Christ Church

Choir Church

Our first service in school was a great success, with 40 people attending! Our children's choir sounded fantastic. If you're able to help with the 16th May's service at 3.15pm in school, please have a word with Innes or Rev'd Carol. Thank you.

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.easypundraising.org.uk/> and the brand's commission will go to church.

PCC

... met on the 9th April. We discussed our financial deficit, and plans for children's ministry. 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.

Thought for the Week. Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,/You put your finger on the nub of things./We cannot love some disembodied wraith,/But flesh and blood must be our king of kings./Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,/Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh/Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine/The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

Malcolm Guite

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 (Advance notice - NO Children's Church on 4th May)

... 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 - 13th May

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.

Nearly New Sale - Saturday 10th May 10am-2pm - in the Hall

Come and find a bargain in our sale of pre-loved clothes and other items, be a sustainable shopper and raise funds for church at the same time. Free entry. Please bring a bag with you. Refreshments provided. *Need a clear out?* Bring your clean and good quality clothes and other items to the hall on Friday 9th May 10am-4pm. If possible, clothes on hangers and shoes tied together please. Further details from Julie Buckley or Jane Lippitt