

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 1st June *Seventh 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 - Sunday 1st June

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Taizé Eucharist*

Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

Wednesday

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

Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

Saturday

8.30am onwards

Sponsored Scripture Read

Sunday 8th June

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *All Together Eucharist*

No Evening Prayer

Prayer for this week

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with
power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by
sin may find forgiveness and
know your peace, to the glory
of God the Father. **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 - 15th June

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

Messy Church - 22nd June

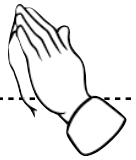
Every 4th Sunday of the month at
4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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, Mary Peel, Valerie Lawrence, Rev'd David Heap, John McCafferty

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

Those who have died recently:

Joyce Wilson, Patricia House.

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 Langdale Place, Melrose Street.

For St John's Hospice.

For our preparations for Pentecost, the Rejoice Concert and the Sponsored Bible Read

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=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.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.

Choir Church

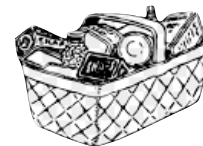
Our recent service in school was a great success, with 40 people attending! Our children's choir sounded fantastic. If you're able to help with the 4th July's service at 3.15pm in school, please have a word with Innes or Rev'd Carol. Thank you.

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 (6th June) 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 (6th June) 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



Environment Day always takes place on 5th June. This year it focuses on combating plastic pollution, which permeates every corner of the planet—even in our bodies in the form of micro-plastics. What can you do to reduce plastic pollution in your environment?

Sponsored Scripture Read

Starting on Saturday 7th June at 8.30am Running through the day and night, with refreshments provided. Join us to read, hear and share the Word of God that guides, comforts, and inspires generations of Christians, as we prepare for Pentecost. Raising funds for the repair of this beautiful historic building - please sign up in church

Climate Conversations, 14th June - St Thomas' Church Centre

Dr Jan Maskell will facilitate interactive workshops about how we can reduce our carbon footprint at St Thomas's Church Centre on 14th June 9:30am-12:30pm or 2pm-5pm. Booking details on the poster in church

Pathfinders & Voyagers - summer holiday clubs - Innes will run activities for Pathfinders (age 4+ Tuesdays) and Voyagers (age 8+ Thursdays) each week during the summer holidays (10am to 12 noon). All youngsters welcome! See the flyers.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Acts 16.16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They

Psalm 97

Refrain: **You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.**

1 The Lord is king: let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

3 Fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.

Refrain: **You, Lord, are most high over all the earth.**

4 His lightnings lit up the world; the earth saw it and trembled.

5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declared his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory.

Refrain:

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in mere idols.

Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced,
because of your judgements, O Lord.

9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

Refrain:

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his faithful and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous and joy for the true of heart.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.

Refrain:

answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptised without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

Revelation 22.12-14, 16,17,20,21

'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 17.20-26** **Glory to you, O Lord**

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

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

Prayer after Communion:



Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Community at Christ Church:

Pimms and Hymns - is back!

Save the date for Sunday 29th June - with a Cream Tea at 3pm, and Christ church's favourite hymns at 4pm. There's a pink voting sheet in church - please use your two votes per person wisely!

Monthly Lunch and Open Church - today - 1st June

On one Sunday of each month there is a free soup, bread and cheese (or vegan alternative) lunch, and the church will be open during the afternoon. Please come along and bring someone. If you can help serve, wash-up, etc., thank you!

Christ Church Choir

..... sings at the 10.30 service about once a month, plus other special occasions, and practices 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



Admissions to Communion

If your child is regularly attending Christ Church, and would like to start receiving communion (bread, and wine with parent's permission) - please let Rev'd Carol or Innes know. There will be two preparation classes on the 1st and 8th June before children are formally admitted on the 29th June, and children need to be Christened/Baptised first. This is a step before Confirmation, and is a sign of being part of the church community.

Rejoice! Concert 8th June

On Sunday 8th June, there'll be a Pentecost Concert in Church at 4pm - have a word with Rev'd Clive if you'd like to offer a musical item! Donations will be taken for church funds. Please invite friends and family!

Thought for the Week

In all of my years of service to my Lord, I have discovered a truth that has never failed and has never been compromised. That truth is that it is beyond the realm of possibilities that one has the ability to outgive God. Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him, He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave.

Charles Spurgeon

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

The visitor to Hell is shown the terrible torment of its inhabitants, each with 4-ft long ladles fixed to their hands, trying to feed themselves with stew from a great pot. The ladles are so long they can't get the stew in their mouths, but slop it everywhere. The visitor is then taken to Heaven, where, surprisingly, the inhabitants have the same ladles permanently fixed to their hands, but they sit calmly around the stew-pot in a circle - and feed each other.

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

Our next PCC meeting is on Monday 2nd June. If there are items you'd like discussing as part of the church's worship and community life - Please do talk to your PCC reps about any aspect of life at Christ Church, and pray for the PCC in it's work this year.

You might want to use the following prayer:

*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.***

The Lord's Prayer Tour

On Sunday 8th June at 4.30pm in Lancaster Priory, the Archbishop of York will be speaking as part of The Lord's Prayer Tour, organised in partnership with Faith in the North—a movement inspired by the stories of Northern Saints like Hild, Cuthbert, Bede, and Paulinus. Faith in the North is dedicated to supporting church growth, revitalisation, and inspiring people to see themselves as part of this ongoing story of faith.

Key contacts:

Vicar:	Rev'd Carol Backhouse 01524 942105 revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com
Curate:	Rev'd Kaarina Leong 07749 489623 curate@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
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
Church Warden:	Greg Skelland 07944 683847 churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk
Notices:	Ms Jacqueline Stamper 01524 64083 j.stamper@btinternet.com
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 - 10th June

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.

Thank you ! Funds raised at the Nearly New Sale!

Thank you to everyone who came to or helped with the Nearly New Sale on 10th May. We raised over £400 for much-needed church funds, for which we're extremely grateful,