

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 4th May *Third 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 4th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

(no Children's Church)

1.30pm *Wedding*

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 11th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *All Together Eucharist*

followed by APCM

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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

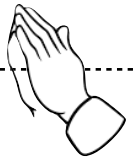
Every 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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, Joyce Wilson, Patricia House.

may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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 Edward Street, Wyresdale Gardens.

For our primary and secondary schools

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=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.

Rev'd Kaarina's News

Rev'd Kaarina is beginning a phased return to work on the 6th May. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes a gentle return to ministry in our parish.



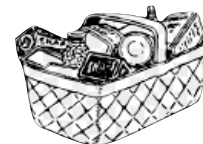
Sponsor a Hymn

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.

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.

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

Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat needed by wildlife. No Mow May is Plantlife's annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature. Join their campaign learn more <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/>



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.**

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.

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! Flyers will follow.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Acts 9.1-6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

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

Psalm 30

Refrain: **You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.**

1 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have raised me up and have not let my foes triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you and you have healed me.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; you restored me to life from among those that go down to the Pit.

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime. Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Refrain: **You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.**

6 In my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved. You, Lord, of your goodness, have made my hill so strong.'

7 Then you hid your face from me and I was utterly dismayed.

8 To you, O Lord, I cried; to the Lord I made my supplication:

9 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

10 'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; O Lord, be my helper.'

Refrain: **You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.**

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Refrain: **You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.**

Revelation 5.11-14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and

honour and glory and might for ever and ever!’ And the four living creatures said ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 21.1-19** **Glory to you, O Lord***

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, ‘I am going fishing.’ They said to him, ‘We will go with you.’ They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’

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

Prayer after Communion:

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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 an unconventional Easter egg? A. Egg-centric!

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.

Save the dates:

On Thursday 29th May, 40 days after Easter, we keep Ascension Day - remembering Jesus' return to heaven after His resurrection, and Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit upon His church. Join us for: 0730am Prayers at the Ashton Memorial with Lancaster Churches Together; and a 0930am Festal Eucharist in Christ Church.

Then on Saturday 31st May, join us for a walk around our parish boundary, approx 7.5 miles, leaving Church at 10am. We'll walk through Scotch Quarry, along the Lune, and back via Halton and the Prison. Accompanied children and dogs welcome - please bring a packed lunch and suitable footwear.

And - 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!

Monthly Lunch and Open Church - today - 4th May

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!

Thought for the Week.

In Peter, we find the strength of the rock, the reliability of the stone, and the littleness of a simple pebble. He is not a superman – he is a man like us, who says 'yes' generously to Jesus in his imperfection.

Pope Francis

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.easyfundraising.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.

Christian Aid Week - 11th - 17th May Dying crops means food stops

You can help farmers like Amelia in Guatemala, dependent on crops but heatwaves have dried up the river watering her land, by donating to <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/lancaster-and-area-christian-aid-group>

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
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