

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 11th May *Fourth 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 - 11th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *All Together Eucharist
followed by APCM*

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*

3.15pm *Choir Church (see notice)*

Sunday 18th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Godly Play*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things which
are above,
where he 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. 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

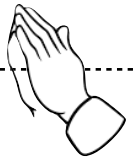
Every 4th Sunday of the month at
4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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, Mary Peel, Valerie Lawrence.

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 recently married:

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 Moor Lane, East Road.

For our Eco Group, Craft Group and Book Group

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

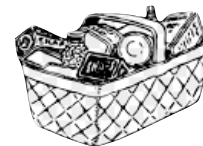
Rev'd Kaarina is beginning a phased return to work on the 6th May. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes a gentle return to ministry in our parish.

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.



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



Acknowledged by RHS to be beneficial for nature, dandelions provide vital early spring food for many insects, including bees and butterflies. Their roots loosen soil and improve drainage and soil health. Please leave them alone to do their job.

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! Flyers will follow.

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



Acts 9.36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Psalm 23

Refrain: **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

Refrain: **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain: **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Refrain: **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Revelation 7.9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their

hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John 10.22-30***

Glory to you, O Lord

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

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

Prayer after Communion:

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 lights up a football stadium? A. A match!

Annual Meeting and Elections

Today, 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!

Vicarage News

The Diocese have found a new Vicarage on Wentworth Drive (near the Moor Hospital) to replace 1 East Road. It is a smaller and warmer property, easier to maintain, and closer to the centre of our parish. There's no moving date yet. Please chat to Rev'd Carol if you have any questions, and any concerns can be raised with the Diocesan Property Department.

Thought for the Week

Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not. *Samuel Johnson*

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:

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|---|--|
| 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

... 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 - Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped with our Nearly-New Sale yesterday! The final total will be announced soon.