

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 18th May *Fifth 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 - 18th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Godly Play*

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 25th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

Prayer for this week

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love
for the world and the wonder
of your risen life:
give us compassion and
courage
to risk ourselves for those we
serve, 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 - 18th May

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

Messy Church - 25th May

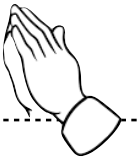
Every 4th Sunday of the month at
4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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:

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 Albion Mews, Balmoral Road.

For Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council

For our preparations for Ascension, Pentecost 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=jTDuW7HO8IR7l0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.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

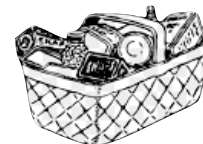
Rev'd Kaarina is beginning a phased return to work on the 6th May. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes a gentle return to ministry in our parish.

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



Last month a small hawthorn tree was planted in the church garden. It will be beneficial for wildlife as it can support up to 300 insect species. Consider planting one in your garden or keep an eye on the church's hawthorn as it grows and blossoms.

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 11.1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

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

Psalm 148

Refrain: O praise the name of the Lord.

1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
2 Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all his host.
3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you stars of light.
4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
6 He made them fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Refrain:

7 Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and birds on the wing;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and women, old and young together; let them praise the name of the Lord.
13 For his name only is exalted, his splendour above earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

Refrain:

Revelation 21.1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

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

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

Glory to you, O Lord

When he had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, “Where I am going, you cannot come.” I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’

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

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen



Community at Christ Church:

Monthly Lunch and Open Church- 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



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

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbours worthy.

Thomas Merton

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

Queen Victoria was out one Sunday with her faithful servant, John Brown. She saw someone fishing from a boat on the loch. "Fancy people doing that on the Sabbath," she remarked. "But, Ma'am, the Lord Jesus was in a boat on the Sabbath." The Queen turned and replied sharply, "Two wrongs don't make a right."

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

After our APCM last week, we elected Helen Simpson, Lorna Skelland, Mandy Whitehouse, Julie Buckley, Celia Brigg, Louise Tuck, Jacqueline Stamper and Clare Mumford as PCC members, co-opting Vijay Philip as our Treasurer and Emma Muckalt and Debbie Steele as our Safeguarding Representatives, and electing Greg Skelland as our churchwarden. Please do talk to them about any aspect of life at Christ Church, and pray for the PCC in its 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.

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

... 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.

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.