

A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 25th May *Sixth Sunday of Easter - Rogationtide*

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 - 25th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Rogation Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church*

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*

Thursday

7.30am *Ascension Day Prayers* at the Ashton Memorial

9.30am *Festal Eucharist* (Lady Chapel)

Sunday 1st June

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Taizé Eucharist*

Prayer for this week

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season: bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, grant us a good harvest and the grace always to rejoice in your fatherly care; 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. 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 - 25th May

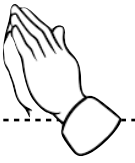
Every 4th Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Hall for KS1/2 children



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, Rev'd David Heap

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 Tarbet Street, Ayr Street.

For all who work at the RLI Hospital

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=jTDuW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjlqVS.I>.

Meeting Up.

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

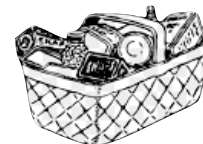
Rev'd Kaarina began a phased return to work on the 6th May. Please keep her in your prayers as she makes a gentle return to ministry in our parish.

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



Today is Rogation Sunday, a day on which we ask for God's blessing on the land and its bounty. We are encouraged to step outside to witness God's creation and to remind ourselves of the integral relationship between humans and the natural world.

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.



Job 28

"Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold to be refined. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. Miners put an end to darkness, and search out to the farthest bound the ore in gloom and deep darkness. They open shafts in a valley away from human habitation; they are forgotten by travellers, they sway suspended, remote from people. As for the earth, out of it comes bread; but underneath it is turned up as by fire. Its stones are the place of sapphires, and its dust contains gold.

"That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it. The proud wild animals have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it.

"They put their hand to the flinty rock, and overturn mountains by the roots. They cut out channels in the rocks, and their eyes see every precious thing. The sources of the rivers they probe; hidden things they bring to light.

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

2 Corinthians 9. 6 to 11

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke***
11.5-13 Glory to you, O Lord

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

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

Prayer after Communion:

God our creator, you give seed for us to sow and bread for us to eat: as you have blessed the fruit of our labour in this eucharist, so we ask you to give all your children their daily bread, that the world may praise you for your goodness; 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- 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., please sign up on the list at the back of church. - 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 a couple of preparation classes before children are formally admitted, 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.

Ascension Day 29th May; Parish Walk 31st May; Concert 8th June

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: 07:30 am Prayers at the Ashton Memorial with Lancaster Churches Together; and a 09:30 am 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!

Thought for the Week

This is the prayer: ask, seek the way, and knock at the heart of God, the friend who accompanies us, the Father, who loves all of his creatures.

Pope Francis

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

A priest, an Imam, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank. (The rabbit may well be a Type O.)

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
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.