

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 25th January 2026 *Conversion of St Paul/Epiphany 3*

Vicar: Revd Carol Backhouse 07857 449724  
24 Wentworth Drive, Lancaster, LA1 3RJ

[www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk](http://www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk) Facebook: @ChristChurchLancaster



a vibrant, inclusive  
worshipping  
community

**Everyone is welcome to  
join us in worship this  
week:**

**Today - 25th January**

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist (with  
Children's Church)*

4pm *Messy Church*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

**Tuesday**

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

**Wednesday**

5.30pm *Meditation* and 6pm  
*Evening Prayer*

**Friday**

9.30am *Holy Communion*

**Sunday - 1st February**

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist (with  
Children's Church)*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

## Prayer for this week

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your 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**

## Little Seedlings

Every Tuesday from 9am in the Church Hall for under 4s and their parents/carers

## Children's Church

welcomes primary-aged children during the 10.30am service during term time. Parents/guardians are welcome to join in.

## Messy Church - 25th January

On the 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, Nicola, Ron Holmes, Ann Boss, Geoffrey Heywood, Christine McCrann, Richard Jones, Marlene Phillips, Jenny Lowe, John Lyth

**may God's healing, wholeness and peace be with them.**

### **Those who have died recently**

Joyce Hodgson, Katie McDermott, Muriel Grice.

**may they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

### **Those preparing for Baptism**

Ruby Riding

**may they shine like lights in the world**

### **In our parish, we ask God to bless and provide:**

For those who live and work in Ennerdale Close, Ridge Lane.

For Ryelands Sure Start Centre

For the appointment of a parish administrator

**may God's loving kindness be 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=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.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 [revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com](mailto:revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com) Please ask the person's permission if you'd like them included in the weekly notices.

### **Rev'd Kaarina's First Eucharist and Lunch - thank you**

Congratulations to Rev'd Kaarina, who was ordained Priest last Saturday. It was a wonderful service at St Bartholomew's in Colne, and a great celebration on the Sunday too - thank you to everyone who helped and contributed.

### **And a big thank you from Rev'd Kaarina ....**

A great big thank you to everyone who made last weekend's ordination celebrations such an amazing time. It was heartwarming to see so many of you in Colne on Saturday, and joyful to once again experience Christ Church hospitality in full flow on the Sunday. I am so glad for the privilege of ministering with you all. Blessings.

## In Other News...

### Hall for Hire

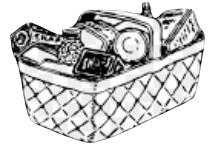
Don't forget that the Hall is available for hire, especially during the day and at weekends. £24/first hour and £12 for each subsequent hour/part-hour. Please contact Jacqueline on [hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk](mailto:hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk) 07808 765364 for more information.

### Chimney Tops and Spire Appeal

Urgent repairs are needed to our church chimney and spires to make the building watertight and safe - 170 year old mortar has washed out, causing damage inside the building. We need to raise £10,000 ourselves before we are eligible for grant funding. Please would you help? Pick up a flyer with details of how to donate, and if you have ideas for fundraising events please have a word with Rev'd Carol or the fundraising team. We're getting closer to the target - can you help us get over the line? Thank you in advance.

### The Olive Branch Foodbank

The Olive Branch badly needs all kinds of long-life food and drink - please bring a tin or packet to church with you to leave in the collection crates.



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 February) between 12noon and 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 February) 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](mailto: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.

### Choir

Our Choir rehearses on Thursdays 7-8:15 pm in Church. We're a friendly and supportive bunch who welcome new singers. Please contact [grahamtoft1@aol.com](mailto:grahamtoft1@aol.com) if you'd like to know more.

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

Q. Which king liked to do things on his own? A. **Solomon**

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### **Jeremiah 1.4–10**

The word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

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

### **Psalm 67**

**Refrain: Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

**let all the peoples praise you.**

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
- 2 That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

**3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

**let all the peoples praise you.**

- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously

and govern the nations upon earth.

**5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us.

- 7 God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

**Refrain: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

### **Acts 9.1-22**

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.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor

drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah. *This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Matthew 19.27-end.***

***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

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

**Prayer after Communion:**

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## **Community at Christ Church:**

### **Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week**



**Celebrate Commitment** Despite a failed global treaty to reduce plastic production individual governments around the world are taking action against plastic pollution. This year we've seen the incredible impact that many people taking small steps can make. At least 174 million people across 190 countries avoided 290 million kg of plastic.

### **Save the Date! Family Quiz Night - Saturday 31st January**

Our next Family Quiz Night will be on Saturday 31st January at 6pm! Join us in the Hall for a light buffet, and lots of fun. Please BYO drinks. £10/family or £4/individual

### **Save the Date! Chinese New Year Dinner - Tuesday 17th February**

All are warmly invited to a Chinese New Year Dinner in the Hall, organised by Rev'd Kaarina. There'll be a sign-up list in due course, but please put the date in your diary in the meantime.

### **Save the Date! Table Top Sale - Saturday 28 February**

If you haven't been to a table top sale before, it's like a flea market or an indoor car boot sale. Come and have a rummage for bargains, you never know what you may find! Suggested donation for entry: 50p, to raise funds for the church chimney tops and spires. If you fancy your own household clear-out, table hire is £10. You can keep your earnings, but will need to take back anything unsold at the end of the sale. Contact Clare on 0741 921 1461 for information and booking."

### **Hall Kitchen and Cupboards**

Thanks to grants from the Walney Trust, Community Fund and the Harold and Alice Bridges Trust, we have a new Hall Kitchen! Please ask for help if you are using any of the white goods for the first time - there will be a short briefing/orientation session so watch this space! Work is still needed to redecorate - but we're nearly there!

### **New Youth Group - starting 30th January**

Innes is starting a new group for Year 6 upwards meeting on the last Friday of the month, 3:30-5 pm, in the hall, starting on Friday 30th January. All are welcome. Please share this with any youngsters you know.

### **Lifts to church? Why not join the FunBus?**

Do you or someone you know need a lift to church? If you're finding it difficult to get to church services (perhaps especially in the winter months), we're organising a "bus" to bring people to church. Please contact Rev'd Kaarina if you're interested.

### **Thought for the Week**

Entrusting myself to the power of [God's] forgiveness, letting myself be taken by His hand, I can come out of the quicksands ... of selfishness and of every false security, to know and live the richness of His love. *Pope Benedict XVI, Conversion of St Paul, 2009*

## Supporting Christ Church

### Fundraising - ideas, opportunities, and support needed!

We're blessed to have received some generous grant funding for the work we need to do on the building, but we still need all the help we can get to raise the match funding we still need from our own resources. You're welcome to send more ideas to [buckleys@live.co.uk](mailto:buckleys@live.co.uk). If you're able to send a financial contribution by using the QR code below, thank you. We're getting closer to the target, so anything you can give would be much appreciated.

### 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](http://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 for free when you shop online? Register using <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> and the brand's commission will go to church.

### PCC

Our PCC met on the 7th January. We discussed our plans for the year ahead, fundraising for the repair work, and long term planning for Children's Ministry among other things. 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***

### Sponsorship needed - varnishing the wooden floors in church

Susan Brooks has kindly volunteered to sand and varnish the wooden floors in church, and asks for your sponsorship to do so. There's a sign-up sheet at the back of church, so please support Susan in this great fundraising effort, which is also helping to keep our church in good condition and looking attractive.

**Key contacts:**

<b>Vicar:</b> .....	Rev'd Carol Backhouse 07857 449724 <a href="mailto:revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com">revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com</a>
<b>Curate:</b> .....	Rev'd Kaarina Leong 07749 489623 <a href="mailto:curate@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">curate@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Children's Ministry Leader</b> .....	Innes Heron-Stamp 07853791776 <a href="mailto:children@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">children@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Church Warden:</b> .....	Greg Skelland. 07944 683847 <a href="mailto:churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Director of Music:</b> .....	Graham Toft <a href="mailto:grahamtoft1@aol.com">grahamtoft1@aol.com</a>
<b>Notices:</b> .....	Ms Jacqueline Stamper 01524 64083 <a href="mailto:j.stamper@btinternet.com">j.stamper@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Parish Safeguarding Officer:</b> .....	Mrs Emma Muckalt & Ms Debbie Steele 07547 717060 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org">safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org</a>
<b>Parish Secretary:</b> .....	Mrs Julie Buckley 07717824574 <a href="mailto:buckleys@live.co.uk">buckleys@live.co.uk</a>
<b>Hall Bookings:</b> .....	07808 765364 <a href="mailto:hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk">hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk</a>
<b>Christ Church School</b> .....	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](mailto: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.*

**Little Seedlings**

Our baby and toddler group, Little Seedlings, meets 9-10.30 every Tuesday in the Church Hall. If you know someone with a child 0-4 who would like to come along, please invite them. It's free!

**Epiphany Gifts Appeal**

Each year, we appeal for funds towards the cost of candles, bread, wine, and other items used in worship. Please take a list at the back of church, and sign up to purchase one (or more) items. If you are paying cash, please mark the envelope 'Epiphany Gifts'. Thank you very much!