

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 15th February 2026 *Sunday before Lent*

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 - 15th February

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Taizé Eucharist*

## Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer via Zoom*

## Ash Wednesday

12noon *Said Eucharist with ashing*  
7pm *Sung Eucharist with imposition  
of ashes.*

## Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

## Sunday - 22nd February

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

## Prayer for this week

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 - 22nd February

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, Ron Holmes, Ann Boss, Geoffrey Heywood, Christine McCrann, Richard Jones, Marlene Phillips, Jenny Lowe, John Lyth, Freda Jackson, Julie Withers

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

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

Katie McDermott, Muriel Grice.

**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 Willow Grove, Ellwood Square.

For all foster carers

For Kim, as she prepares to be our 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=jTDuV7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.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

[revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com](mailto:revcarolbackhouse@gmail.com) Please ask the person's permission if you'd like them included in the weekly notices.

### **Choir Church - Friday 20th March**

If you missed last Friday's fantastic service, please join us at Christ Church Primary School for our next Choir Church Service (led by our children) at 3.15pm on Friday 20th March. Everyone welcome!

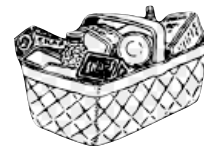
### **Lent at Christ Church - I**

Please take one of the free booklets from the back of church to accompany you through Lent. You may also like to join the Lent Course looking at Paula Gooder's book 'Women of Easter', led by Rev'd Kaarina on Wednesday evenings and Sundays at 5pm

### **Mothering Sunday**

As part of our service on the 15th March, we will be taking a collection of toiletries for our local refuge. If you can bring shower gel, shampoo, sanitary towels, tampons, deodorant, soap and other pamper products, please give generously.

## In Other News...



### **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/>

### **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. (See elsewhere for information about contributing ideas for fundraising events We're getting closer to the target - can you help us get over the line? Thank you in advance.

### **Hall improvements - appeal for loan of decorating equipment**

The new kitchen is very impressive, but has shown up the need for re-painting. We have volunteers to help with the work on 10th March, but if you could possibly help by lending paintbrushes, rollers, paint trays, or dust sheets, that would be great, 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 Lorna on [hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk](mailto:hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk) or 07808 76536 for more information.

### **Gardening Group**



Our friendly gardening group meets on the first Friday of each month (6th March) between 12noon and 2pm to keep our church garden looking lovely. New members welcome, for all or part of the time - contact [lippittjane@gmail.com](mailto:lippittjane@gmail.com). Please bring gloves & secateurs if you have them.

### **Book Group**



The church book group meets on the first Friday of each month (6th March) 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.

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### Exodus 24.12-18

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

### Psalm 99

*Refrain: **Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.***

1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;  
he is enthroned above the cherubim:  
let the earth shake.

2 The Lord is great in Zion  
and high above all peoples.

3 Let them praise your name,  
which is great and awesome;  
the Lord our God is holy.

4 Mighty king, who loves justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and  
righteousness in Jacob.

**5 Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.**

6 Moses and Aaron among his  
priests and Samuel among those  
who call upon his name;  
they called upon the Lord and he  
answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the  
pillar of cloud;  
they kept his testimonies and the  
law that he gave them.

8 You answered them, O Lord our  
God;  
you were a God who forgave them  
and pardoned them for their  
offences.

9 Exalt the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy  
hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

*Refrain: **Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.***

## **2 Peter 1.16-21**

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Matthew 17.1-9***  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

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

### **Prayer after Communion:**



Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Community at Christ Church:

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



As Christians we are traditionally asked to give something up for Lent. Consider carbon fasting by reducing energy, waste and consumption, and increasing engagement with nature. Even better, adopt sustainable habits beyond Easter.

### Are you concerned about climate change, and caring for Creation?

If so, contact [joycelynch1946@gmail.com](mailto:joycelynch1946@gmail.com) to find out if our active Eco Group is something you'd like to be part of - it meets every six weeks at a member's home.

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

All are warmly invited to a Chinese New Year Dinner in the Hall, organised by Rev'd Kaarina. Tickets (£10 adults) and a sign-up list (including dietary requirements) are available at the back of church. Proceeds in aid of the Chimneytops and Spires Appeal.

### Save the Date! Table Top Sale - Saturday 28th 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."

### New Youth Group

Innes has started a new group for Year 6 upwards, meeting on the last Friday of the month, 3:30-5 pm, in the hall. The next will be on 27th February. 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.

### Lent at Christ Church - 2

On Ash Wednesday, 18th February, there will be a Said Eucharist at 12 noon and a Sung Eucharist at 7 pm. Both services will also offer the imposition of ashes (made from last year's palm crosses) as a sign of mortality, repentance and humility, should you wish to receive them. We hope you'll be able to join one of these services on this solemn day.

### Thought for the Week

God places us in the world as his fellow workers - agents of transfiguration. We work with God so that injustice is transfigured into justice, so there will be more compassion and caring, ..more laughter and joy, .. more togetherness in God's world. *Abp Desmond Tutu*

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

Q. Why couldn't the candle get any sleep? A. Because there's no rest for the wicked.

## Supporting Christ 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.

### 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.

### PCC

Our PCC met on the 4th February. We discussed plans for the Annual Meeting and the year ahead. 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! Holiday activities will be provided for older siblings this week too.

**Welcome to our new Parish Administrator!**

Kim Robinson will be starting in March as our new parish administrator. Kim brings extensive experience from her previous role in the NHS and will be a blessing to Christ Church. Please keep her in your prayers as she prepares for the role.