

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 15th March 2026 *Fourth Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday*



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

a vibrant, inclusive  
worshipping  
community

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

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

### Sunday - 15th March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *All Together Eucharist for Mothering Sunday*

5pm *Lent Group*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

### Tuesday

5pm *Evening Prayer on zoon*

### Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation and 6pm Evening Prayer*

6.30pm *Lent Group*

### Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

### Sunday - 22nd March

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

4pm *Messy Church*

5pm *Lent Group*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

## Prayer for this week

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen.**

### Little Seedlings

Every Tuesday from 9am in the Church Hall for under 4s and their adults

### Children's Church

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

### Messy Church - 22nd March

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

### Youth Group - 27th March

Meets 3.30-5pm in the Hall for Year 6-9s, with food, fun, and space to chill out.



Please ask the Stewards for directions and assistance.

Please send items for inclusion in this newsletter to Kim Robinson 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, Martin Johnson

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

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

For those who live and work in Skiddaw Road, Elterwater Place

For our care homes: Moorside and Dolphinlee

**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=jTDuW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjJqVS.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.

### Choir Church - Friday 20th March

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. We'll be sharing an exciting performance of the Jonah Man Jazz!

### Lent at Christ Church

You're invited to join the Lent Course looking at Paula Gooder's book *Women of Holy Week*, led by Rev'd Kaarina on Wednesdays at 6:30pm or Sundays at 5pm.

### Mothering Sunday

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

## In Other News...

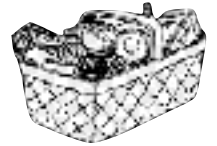
**Coffee with the Curate - Mondays in March at the Gregson** Come along and join Rev'd Kaarina for a brew (on her) and a chat on Mondays at the Gregson Centre, any time 10am-12 noon. No booking needed..

### **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** - A big thank you to Sarah and the team from AXA Insurance who volunteered their time to repaint our hall! It looks much brighter and it's a big improvement! Thank you to all who loaned equipment.

### **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 (10th April) 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 (10th April) 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)

### **Flowers for Mothering Sunday**

Thank you for those who came and helped make up the posies of flowers for Mothering Sunday.

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### Exodus 2.1 - 10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

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

### Psalm 34

**Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.**

11 Come, my children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is there who delights in life and  
longs for days to enjoy good things?

13 Keep your tongue from evil and your  
lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.

**Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is gracious**

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the  
righteous and his ears are open to their  
cry.

16 The face of the Lord is against those who do  
evil, to root out the remembrance of them from  
the earth. 17 The righteous cry and the Lord  
hears them and delivers them out of all their  
troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and  
will save those who are crushed in spirit.

**Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is  
gracious.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous; from  
them all will the Lord deliver them.

20 He keeps all their bones,  
so that not one of them is broken.

**Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is  
gracious.**

## **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **John 19.25-27***

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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

**Prayer after Communion:**

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



## **Community at Christ Church:**

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



As part of its 2030 net zero carbon target the Church of England is urging churches to adopt sustainable, locally sourced, and seasonal flowers and to avoid use of floral foam (micro plastic oasis). Try to follow this example as part of your carbon emissions reduction.

### **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.

### **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 March. All are welcome. Please share this with any youngsters you know.

### **Would you welcome a lift 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.

### **Save the date ! - Lent Lunch - Friday 27th March**

On Friday 27th March, all welcome at the Vicarage (24 Wentworth Drive) for a simple Lent Lunch of homemade soup, raising funds for Christian Aid, starting at 12.30pm

### **Moonrakers Concert - 26th April 3pm In Church**

Celtic traditional and contemporary songs and tunes, Music from the UK & Ireland. Tickets on the door, £15 including a free drink. If you are able to help with drinks and stewarding please let Rev Carol know.

### **Maundy Thursday Vigil**

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church for 30 mins of quiet prayer after the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday. Jesus invites to watch with Him in the night before His death and so we keep vigil before the reserved sacrament.

### **Easter Raffle and Sponsor a Brick on the Banner**

Sign up at the back of church, with donations to Church Funds and the Repair Fund!

### **Invitation to join the Electoral Roll**

If Christ Church is your church, and you would like to join the list of people who are able to vote in the parish elections on the 26th April, please fill in a form and return it to Jane Lippett, our Electoral Roll officer. If you've filled a form in last year - your name will still be on the list!

### **Fairtrade Easter Eggs - coming soon!**

The only Fairtrade Chocolate Easter egg on the market - The Real Easter Egg promises a fair deal for farmers, delicious chocolate, and an Easter Storybook too. Please sign up at the back to order yours - £6 each in milk or dark chocolate.

## 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 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 11th March. We discussed our website, the annual accounts, and many other aspects of life at Christ Church. 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*

### Annual Meeting

Please save the date for Sunday 26th April, for our Annual Meeting, when we review the last year, discuss our finances, and elect our Church Council members. Please prayerfully consider offering your skills and time to share in this work.

**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>Parish Administrator</b> .....	Kim Robinson 07483936011 <a href="mailto:kimberly.robinson@blackburn.anglican.org">kimberly.robinson@blackburn.anglican.org</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!

**Save the Date!**

On Friday 8th May, we'll be holding an Auction of Promises to raise money for the Church Repair Fund. It'll be a fund evening, with lots of food - held at Christ Church Primary School. Please consider what you might offer for auction: perhaps an hour's gardening, a car wash, a month's supply of baking? Please invite friends & family too!