

A warm welcome to

# The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 24th May 2026 Pentecost

Vicar: Revd Carol Backhouse 07857 449724

24 Wentworth Drive, Lancaster, LA1 3RJ

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook: @ChristChurchLancastercommunity



a vibrant, inclusive  
worshipping  
community

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

## Sunday - 24th May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *All Together Service*

4pm *Messy Church*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

## Tuesday

*Evening prayer via zoom*

## Wednesday

5.30pm *Meditation and 6pm*

*Evening Prayer*

## Friday

9.30am *Holy Communion*

## Sunday - 31st May

8.30am *Holy Communion*

10.30am *Parish Eucharist*

6pm *Evening Prayer*

## Prayer for this week

**God, who as at this time  
taught the hearts of your faithful  
people by sending to them the  
light of your Holy Spirit: grant us  
by the same Spirit to have a right  
judgement in all things and  
evermore to rejoice in his holy  
comfort; through the merits of  
Christ Jesus our Saviour, 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 adults

## Children's Church

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

## Messy Church

Today 24th May 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 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, Christine McCrann, John Lyth, Freda Jackson, Martin Johnson, Ruby Rodrigues, Lou Rawlinson, Peter Milburn, Helen Stewart

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

### **For those who have recently died, including:**

Rosa Maria Trotta, Julie Withers, Henry Shields, Richard Jones

**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 Langdale Place, Melrose Street. For St John's Hospice.

***May God's loving kindness be found and shared.***

### **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.

### **Admission to Communion**

If your child is baptised and regularly taking part in Eucharist services at Christ Church, please talk with them about whether they would like to be Admitted to Communion. This is a step before Confirmation, and enables children to understand the significance of God's grace at work when we share bread and wine as a church family. There will be a special service on Sunday 28th June, with preparation classes on the 7th, 14th and 21st June. Please speak to Rev'd Carol or Innes if you'd like to sign up or know more!

## 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 next PCC meeting will be held on the 3rd June. Please do talk to our 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***

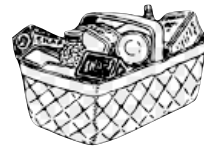
### Stewards for Baptisms

We are in need of volunteers to steward at upcoming baptisms. There is a sign up sheet with dates at the back of church. If you are able to volunteer please sign up. Thank you.

## In Other News...

### 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 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 (5th June) 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 (5th 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](mailto:joycelynch1946@gmail.com)

### Sponsored Hymn

If you'd like a particular hymn singing on a Sunday morning, perhaps in memory of a loved one, please fill in a blue sponsored hymn form from the back noticeboard, and return it to Rev'd Carol. Sponsoring a hymn raises funds for Christ Church - it is up to you how much you donate!

### Save the date - 27th June

Listening Skills training with Simon Stewart, Chaplain at Lancaster Cornerstone. 10.30 to 12.30 - donations welcome. Whether in church or at work - Simon will encourage us to listen well, and share some techniques for supporting people through pastoral crises. Sign up sheet at the back of church or sign up here - Donations welcome.

Listening Skills Training - 27th  
June 2026



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/U6FMiLRN0g>

## **Community at Christ Church:**

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

With rising temperatures, collapsing ecosystems, and disruptive weather extremes you may feel overwhelmed and powerless to make a difference. However as Christians we have a biblical obligation to care for creation. So whatever you do whether its practical action, environmental campaigning or just leading by example remember that we are not alone, God is working through us and with us.

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.

### **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.

### **Favourite Hymns for Hymns and Pimms - Sunday 21st June**

In preparation for our Pimms and Hymns on Sunday 21st June please vote for your favourite hymns! - there is a voting sheet at the back of church, the top votes will be sung at the service. There will be cream tea at 3pm and singing at 4pm. All are welcome!

### **Thy Kingdom Come - we give what we Can when we Can**

Since the very beginning of the Church, these nine days between Ascension and Pentecost have been a time of prayer. Join us at Christ Church as we pray and take action for those in need. How can you join in? Donate 5 cans to the Olive Branch - collection boxes are located at the back of church. Pray for 5 people you know that they can come to know Christ.

### **The importance of Peat - 27th May, 7pm in the Church Hall**

As part of its 10th Anniversary Celebrations, the Church Eco Group is hosting a talk on peat and it's importance for carbon capture, flood defences and biodiversity. Free event given by local gardeners with years of experience. Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7pm in the church hall. All are welcome.

### **Church Choir**

Our Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7 to 8pm in church. Although small in number, we are enthusiastic and newcomers are made very welcome. We sing at services about once a month. Please contact [jean.mccafferty@gmail.com](mailto:jean.mccafferty@gmail.com) if you'd like to know more.

## Scripture Readings for our Worship today:



### Acts 2. 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

### Psalm 104. 26-36,37

Refrain: **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.**

26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!

In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,  
and there move creatures beyond number,  
both small and great.

28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan  
which you have made to play in the deep.

29 All of these look to you to give them their  
food in due season.

30 When you give it them, they gather it; you  
open your hand and they are filled with good.

31 When you hide your face they are troubled;  
when you take away their breath, they die and  
return again to the dust.

32 When you send forth your spirit, they are  
created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Refrain: **I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.**

33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

34 He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will make music to my God while I have my  
being.

36 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in  
the Lord.

37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and  
the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Alleluia.

## I Corinthians 12. 3-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **John 20. 19-23***

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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

**Prayer after Communion:**

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



**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>Organist:</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 9-10.30am 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!

**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=jTDuVW7HO8IR7I0nQ9Jrm2BrMxjQVS.1>