A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 11th October 2026 The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

a vibrant, inclusive worshipping community

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

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook:@ChristChurchLancaster

Everyone is welcome to join us in worship this week:

Sunday -11th October
8.30am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *Parish Eucharist*
12.30 & 1.30pm *Baptism*
6pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday
8.45am *Celtic Morning Prayer*

Wednesday
5.30pm *Meditation and 6pm Evening Prayer*

Friday
9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday - 18th October
8.30am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *Parish Eucharist*
6pm Taizé

Prayer for this week

O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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.

Creative Collective
Sunday 1st November 12-1pm in the Church hall. All about Conkers and games we can play with them

Wafers available

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, Thomas, Yan, David, Ron, Ann, Christine, John, Freda, Martin, Ruby, Lou, Peter, Helen, Tony, Marie, Linda, Margaret, David, Kevin, Sheila, Ann

May God's healing, wholeness and peace be with them

For those who have recently died, including:
Joan, Douglas, Trish, Philip, John, Margaret, Iris

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

For those preparing for Baptism
Tommie-Beau and Delilah

May they shine as lights in the world

In our parish, we ask God to bless and provide:
For those who live and work in Mill House Mews, St Peter's Mews. For our long diocese of the Free State in South Africa.

May God's loving kindness be found and shared.

Prayer for youth work
Lord, make your face shine upon our families, illuminate their gifts with your grace. Amen.

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 Please ask the person's permission if you'd like them included in the weekly notices.

Bible Study Group
A new Bible study group started last week and is continuing each Sunday until the end of November. Kingdom over Nation will look at how we can faithfully explore and respond to the rising tide of Christian Nationalism in our land. Please see the poster for details of each session.

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. 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 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 14th October. 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***

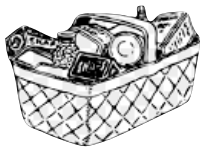
Hall for Hire

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 or 07808 76536 for more information.

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/



Gardening Group

Our friendly gardening group meets on the first Friday of each month (6th November) 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. Please bring gloves & secateurs if you have them.

Book Group

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

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 if you'd like to know more.

Coffee with the Curate

Coffee with the Curate is held weekly on Mondays 10-12 at The Gregson Cafe. Meet new folk and have a chat over a brew. All are Welcome!

Confirmations 2026

On the 29th November, we will be welcoming Bishop Joe for a Confirmation Service at Christ Church. Confirmation is the next step on the journey of Christian faith, where the Bishop gives the gift of God's Holy Spirit to help us follow Christ. For some, Confirmation is also the opportunity to receive Holy Communion for the first time. If you'd like to know more, please talk with Rev'd Carol, Rev'd Kaarina or Innes. Confirmation Group will continue on Sunday 11th, 18th October and 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd November. Snacks provided!

Join us for our new KS2 club, the Creative Collective!

Sessions run monthly in the church hall from 12-1pm where we will make your imagination a reality. Activities include comic making, stop motion, cooking, bracelet making, lego construction - the possibilities are endless! You dream it, we'll make it together! Upcoming session dates:
Sunday 1st of November 12-1pm - All about Conkers and games we can play with them
Sunday 13th of December 12-1 - Stop Motion with a Christmassy twist
Come share the fruits of the spirit with us!

Community at Christ Church:

Eco-Group Thought/Action for the Week

The extended periods of drought this year have impacted the supply and cost of food. Britain's food supply chain is at risk and the UK government plans to advise households on steps that can be taken to prepare for food and water shortages. Take action now to have emergency supplies and help others less able to do so.
Are you concerned about climate change, and caring for Creation? If so, contact 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.

Celebrations 2027

In 2027 Christ Church will be celebrating two big events. On the 3rd July, the Tour de France Peloton will go past our church. And on the 26th September, we'll be marking 170 years since the church was consecrated.
We'd love to hear your ideas about how we might celebrate these special occasions - and share the events with our local community. Please pop your ideas on one of the forms and pop it in the green box at the back of church. If you're able to help (eg baking a cake, designing a banner, local history research, social media) - please put your details down too!

Christmas Tree Festival - Sponsors needed

We are beginning to look for sponsors for our Christmas Tree Festival. If you are able to sponsor a tree, or know a business/organisation that might be willing to, please pop the details on the flyer enclosed (more at the back of church) and put it in the green box at the back. Thank you!

All Hallows Family Fun - Saturday 31st October

On Saturday the 31st of October join us for All Hallows family fun, starting with a halloween organ concert at 4.15pm in church - a musical treat for children all ages followed by a party in the church hall from 5-8pm. Prizes if you come in costume! This is a free event but donations welcome.

All Soul's Memorial Service

Our All Soul's Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 1st November at 6pm. If you wish for someone to be remembered in this service, please add their name to the list at the back of church.

Appeal from Lancaster Homeless Action

Lancaster Homeless Action are appealing for sleeping bags and winter coats (mens' and womens') plus torches, hats, gloves and scarves. Please take donations to their centre on Aalborg Place (near the Magistrates Court) - 9am-1pm Monday-Friday.

Christian Aid Roadshow - Friday 16th October

Christian Aid is holding a South Sudan Roadshow at the Priory on Friday Oct 16th: the sign up link is here: https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/autumn-roadshow-lancaster

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:

Isaiah 25. 1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Psalm 23

Refrain- **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

Refrain- **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain- **I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

5 You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

O God, our sovereign and shepherd,
who brought again your Son Jesus Christ from the valley of death,
comfort us with your protecting presence
and your angels of goodness and love,
that we also may come home and dwell with him in your house for ever

Philippians 4. 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Matthew 22. 1-14**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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

Prayer after Communion:

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Key contacts:

Vicar: …… Rev'd Carol Backhouse 07857 449724
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

Church Warden: ……Greg Skelland. 07944 683847
churchwarden@christchurchlancaster.org.uk

Organist:……Graham Toft
grahamtoft1@aol.com

Parish Administrator……..……..Kim Robinson 07483936011
kimberly.robinson@blackburn.anglican.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer: …….. Mrs Emma Muckalt & Ms Debbie Steele 07547 717060
safeguarding@christchurchlancaster.org

Parish Secretary: ……Mrs Julie Buckley 07717824574
buckleys@live.co.uk

Hall Bookings: ……07462535006 hall@christchurchlancaster.org.uk

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

Support our Family Ministry:

Volunteering to help Innes with family Ministry is a great way to go deeper in your own faith, while having a lot of fun. It is a privilege to pass on our Christian faith to the next generation, and contribute to our wider church family. Come help at Children's Church or support an event! Speak to Innes to find out more, or sign up for the opportunity to make important memories for our families.

Ripley Supplementary Forms

Please speak to Rev'd Carol after any of the services to complete a Ripley Supplementary form for attendance. Following a recent change, Ripley School request that Rev'd Carol collects and delivers the forms to school before the October half term