A warm welcome to

The Parish of Christ Church, Lancaster

Sunday 25th October 2026 Last Sunday after Trinity

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

a vibrant, inclusive worshipping community

www.christchurchlancaster.org.uk Facebook:@ChristChurchLancaster

Everyone is welcome to join us in worship this week:

Sunday -25th October
8.30am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *Parish Eucharist*
6pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday
8.45am *Celtic Morning Prayer*

Wednesday
5.30pm *Meditation and 6pm Evening Prayer*

Friday
9.30am *Holy Communion*

Sunday - 1st November
8.30am *Holy Communion*
10.30am *Parish Eucharist*
6pm *All Souls Memorial Service*

Prayer for this week

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, 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

T Loop facility

Large Print

GLUTEN FREE Wafers available

Breastfeeding Welcome Here

Accessible Toilet & Baby Changing

FAIRTRADE PLACES OF WORSHIP

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, William

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

For those who have recently died, including:
Margaret, Iris

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 Grasmere Road, Ullswater Road. For those beginning half term this week.

May God's loving kindness be found and shared.

We pray for people attending and helping with
All Hallows Family Fun, Magic Morning

Bless our community and those who share in worship and service here

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
The Bible study group will continue 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.

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.

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 24th November. 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***

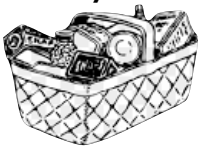
Hall for Hire

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 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

Trees are known as the lungs of the earth as they absorb carbon and produce oxygen. They are essential in the fight against climate change providing shade which reduces heat stress and cools our homes and cities. Their roots soak up heavy rain, protecting soil and reducing the risk of floods. This Autumn can you help by planting a tree or by supporting charities such as The Woodland Trust in their efforts to increase tree cover.
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 and decorators needed

If you would like to sponsor a tree or decorate a tree for our Christmas Tree Festival, or know someone who might, please take a flyer or two from the back of church. Full details and who to contact are on there. The proceeds from the Festival gets split between supporting Christ Church and the Lancaster & District Homeless Action Centre.

Appeal from Lancaster Homeless Action

Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service offer a accessible and welcoming space for people in crisis facing homelessness and housing instability, with an average on 20 people attending each day. They will again this year be providing support and meals over the Christmas period. If you are able to make a donation to help support the wonderful work they do please make cheques payable to LDHAS and drop off at the centre or post to 2 Aalborg Place, Lancaster LA1 1BJ for the attention of David Bristow. Our Christmas Tree Festival also supports this cause.

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.

Magic Morning - 7th November 9.30 - 11am

On 7th November we will holding another Magic (maintenance and gardening in church) Morning. Help is needed from 9.30am-11am with some odd jobs, cleaning and basic DIY around church. Children welcome to help with parent's supervision. Brunch provided! Thank you!

Scripture Readings for our Worship today:

Leviticus 19. 1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

Psalm 1

Refrain- ***the Lord knows the way of the righteous.***

1 Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked, nor
lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

2 Their delight is in the law of the
Lord and they meditate on his law day
and night.

3 Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves
that do not wither, whatever
they do, it shall prosper.

Refrain- ***the Lord knows the way of the righteous.***

4 As for the wicked, it is not so with
them; they are like chaff which the
wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able
to stand in the judgement, nor the
sinner in the congregation of the
righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous, but the way of the wicked
shall perish.

Refrain- ***the Lord knows the way of the righteous.***

1 Thessalonians 2. 1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Matthew 22. 34-end**

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet'"? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Prayer after Communion:

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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 - Sign-in sheet

As from the 1st November, we will be introducing a sign-in sheet for families wishing to record attendance for Ripley Supplementary forms. Ripley's criteria have become more rigorous in recent years, and we wish to keep the process fair for everyone. Please remember that Christ Church is a place where we want every to feel welcome in the worship and community life here - whatever your reason for coming to church, we hope you encounter something of the transforming peace and love of God.'