



CHRIST CHURCH LANARK
CLYDESDALE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2023

Schedule of Services

November

Thursday 2
All Souls Day
10.30 am – Eucharist

Sunday 5
All Saints Sunday
08.30 am – Said Eucharist
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 12
Remembrance Sunday
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 19
Trinity 24
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26
Christ the King
Christ Church
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
Holy Trinity Lamington
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist



December

Sunday 3
Advent 1
08.30 am – Said Eucharist
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 10
Advent 2
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 17
Advent 3
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
06.30 pm – Christingle

Sunday 24
Advent 4
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist
Christmas Eve
Holy Trinity Lamington
06.30 pm – Lessons & Carols
Christ Church
Midnight Eucharist
(Time TBC)

Monday 25
Christmas Day
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

Sunday 31
Christmas 1
10.30 am – Sung Eucharist

News in the Pews

- Congratulations and Very Best Wishes to Joyce Moody and Margaret Hannah on becoming octogenarians. Ad multos annos.
- Our Harvest Festival this year was a roaring success. Many thanks for the generous amount of easy-open, ring-pull tins you brought in for donation to Clydesdale Foodbank and for the wonderful bring and share lunch organised by our new Social Committee. A good time was had by all.
- On Advent Sunday (Sunday 3 December) the Social Committee will be holding the first of two “Soupa” Sundays after the Sung Eucharist. (The next will be on the First Sunday of Lent). As the name suggests soup will be served in the hall after the service in addition to the usual teas and coffees. All welcome.
- More thanks to all of you who have contributed a shoebox for this year’s Blythwood Shoebox Appeal. Never have there been so many boxes. Well done to Margaret Hannah for organising this once again.

Away Giving

The collection for Quarter3 has raised £600 for Maggie’s Centre. Final quarter of 2023 collections will go to The Brain Tumour Research Trust. Vestry look to choose one charity for each calendar quarter in the hope that our donations will be a little more meaningful to the recipients. If you have any ideas for our 2024 Away Giving collections, then please pass them on to any vestry member.

Parish Magazine Subscriptions

The magazine subscriptions for 2024 are now due. The cost of 7 magazines including postage is £16. A form is included within the magazine which you should fill in and return to the Treasurer, Bobby Burgon. Cheques should be made out to ‘Christ Church Lanark’ and either left in church or posted to Bobby (his address is on the back of the magazine).

Alternatively, if you use internet banking, you can transfer your subscription to: Royal Bank of Scotland, Sort Code: 83-24-12 Account No: 00125099

Clergy Cogitations



Over the years I have developed something of a soft spot for St Joseph, especially because of the way he is portrayed in the traditional nativity scenes. Poor old Joseph, the tall, quiet boy in a school nativity, with his nondescript tea-towel head-dress and an old brown dressing gown, marooned at the back of the scene. Centre-place given to Mary, seated, and all in brilliant blue, and the crib, with the infant Jesus. Joseph is further edged out by the pushy shepherds and the Wise Men in their silks and crowns and bearing marvellous gifts. To say nothing of the noisy angels in their glistening white and sparkly tinsel. Poor old Joseph indeed.

In Nazareth today, tucked behind the vast Basilica of the Annunciation dedicated to Mary, there is a little church dedicated to Joseph. You have to look to find it, but it sits quietly in the background. It has some wonderful images of Joseph, with Jesus and Mary, including one I particularly like of Jesus and Mary looking after Joseph in his old age.

There is so little said about Joseph in the Bible. The largest section about him is in Matthew's gospel when we read of the angel coming to tell Joseph that Mary is expecting a child and that the child is not his. We gloss over the story because it is so familiar to us, just as we gloss over many other over-familiar stories. It deserves our closer attention. It was certainly something for Mary to accept that she was going to be the mother of Jesus. It was equally something that Joseph, whatever he really thought or felt had happened, was willing to stand-by his fiancée.

Not only through the pregnancy and the birth, but in those crucial years afterwards. Steering them to safety in Egypt when Herod plotted the death of the children in Bethlehem. Bringing the little family home to Nazareth when the threat was over. Fathering other children (the Bible speaks of Jesus' brothers and sisters). Then disappearing from sight entirely.

Joseph is one of the many shadowy people in the Bible. They are on the fringes, populating its pages, giving some depth and colour, but we know so little about them, or the details of their lives. Yet without them, the human stories in the Bible would be so much emptier. What support did Joseph provide for Mary and Jesus? What faith lessons did Joseph pass on to the child as He grew up? Did Jesus remain the favoured older son in the family? Did he preside over a happy home?

In the background, yet one of the key people in the Christmas story, Joseph stands for many who make our contemporary enjoyment of Christmas possible. Those people who provide food, warmth, music, light and so many other things that we take for granted over Christmas. Remember the background Christmas people, without whom Christmas would not be complete, and give thanks for their service. And have a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Drew

Bumper Birthday Presentations



On Sunday 1st October, Drew presented Margaret Hannah, Sheila Cardwell and Joyce Moody with potted plants as they had all recently celebrated 'significant' birthdays.

Happy birthday, ladies

Deacon's Deliberations

The Role of a Vocational Deacon



A Vocational Deacon has many roles, but, at its most basic, it is a servant role of word and deed. It involves serving God and God's church humbly with God's grace, both by assisting the priest in church services and taking the church out into the community. It includes strengthening and supporting the faithful and encouraging others.

A Vocational Deacon works closely with the priest whom the Bishop has assigned them to. Together they help bring the concerns of the world and the local community to God and the congregation through the preached word and the prayers and by encouraging the congregation to show God's love in their community. while still serving God's church and assisting the priest

A vocational deacon will not be ordained a priest but will always remain a deacon. They are able to baptise and conduct funeral services. It is not the role of a vocational deacon to take services with or without the reserved sacrament unless there is absolutely no one else available to conduct the service. Their role is to work in the community with local people who may or may not attend church, carry out home communions and make home and hospital visits.

I feel very strongly that this is my calling to serve God and the community. It is a huge pleasure and privilege to work and learn from our Rector The Revd Canon Drew Sheridan and to serve the congregation of Christ Church and the community of Clydesdale.

I am very grateful for all of the prayers and support that I have received and I would like to ask for your continued prayers and support.

If you would like to know more about the role of a vocational deacon, just ask me, I would love to have a chat with you.

The Revd Jackie Fenton

Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington



On Sunday 24 September I made my way to the Chapel of the Holy Trinity in Lamington to celebrate a 10.30 am Eucharist there. This was the first of what we hope will become a monthly fixture on the fourth Sunday of the month. I will be celebrating the Eucharist there for the first few times; then the plan is to send members of the preaching team who are trained to take services from the reserved sacrament.

The chapel, as you can see from the photo, has been completely restored, both outside and in. It is now a truly magnificent little sanctuary. Used by us once a month, the chapel is also now being used by the Roman Catholic community in Biggar, whose church was closed earlier in the year.

Please pray for the success of our ventures in Lamington and spread the word about our services there. Our aim is to cater for the Episcopalian population on the south side of Tinto who find it difficult to get to church in Lanark on a regular basis. We want as many of them to know that we are offering this service.

The Revd Canon Drew Sheridan

Monastic Musings

Dear Friends



In chapels, churches, cathedrals and monasteries the world over, the beginning of the month of November is a time of “Remembrance”. We remember All the Saints on the first of November, All Souls (the faithful departed) on the second of November and on the eleventh of November the war dead of the two great wars of last century along with those who have died in conflicts waged ever since. We also slip in an additional remembrance on the fifth of November when we remember Guy Fawkes with fireworks and the burning of effigies. At the start of the month of November we remember a lot of things. It really is a time of “Remembrance” par excellence.

Remembering generally involves a “calling to mind”, a “recalling”. We call to mind faces, facts, figures, addresses, telephone numbers. We recall happy times, sad times, good times and bad. It is a fairly routine activity, fleeting, mostly inconsequential. We do it all the time. Remembering in a Christian way, however, is very different indeed. This kind of remembrance is known as anamnesis. It goes much further and deeper than simply calling to mind or recalling. In the Eucharist, when we remember Christ’s blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, we do so in such a vivid, spiritual and sacramental way that Christ’s passion, death, resurrection and ascension become real, once again, in the present moment, they come alive and effective, once again, in the here and now.

In a similar way, when we remember All the Saints, we don’t just call to mind their names and deeds, we remember them as living in another dimension with power to intercede on our behalf. When we remember All Souls, we don’t just recall and give thanks for loved ones whom we have loved and lost and now see no more, we remember them as being among the blessed ones, in the nearer presence of God, enjoying rest eternal and light perpetual, which is our ultimate goal too. And when we remember the war dead, the millions of people who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given their yesterday for our today and tomorrow, we don’t just call to mind their bravery and sacrifice, we remember the justice and peace they fought and died for and our responsibility to follow in their footsteps.

In this season of Remembrance, may your remembering be more than calling to mind and recalling; instead, may it embody the full depth of Christian anamnesis, which makes real in the present what happened in the past and all the more effective for that.

Gerry Creaney



Autumn Ladies

The group started the new autumn season by inviting Pauline and Eileen to tell us about the Alpacas which they keep on their land.

We learned that they have more than 50 between them. Their enjoyment is in working with the Alpacas and watching their behaviour. A lot of hard work goes into keeping them healthy. I witnessed on a visit to Pauline's farm, the environment in which they live is spotless, the animals roaming freely. Even this outdoor environment is kept as 'poo' free as possible. Eileen collects it twice a day on her land to prevent disease.

The Alpaca wool is one of the finest animal fibres in the world and hasn't the 'prickle' of sheep's wool. You will notice on occasion one or two of us wearing garments made from the Alpaca wool.

On the 8th November Rob will be visiting us to tell us of his Christian journey. The Glasgow City Mission will also be visiting to give us an insight into some aspects of life in Glasgow. Other speakers are also booked for the winter months ahead.

Our last meeting of the year will be the 6th December when we will have a party to celebrate our anniversary, Christmas and the making of new friends.

We will restart on 3rd January 2024. Anyone wishing to come along or just drop in are very welcome. There is always a kettle boiling.

Happy Christmas,
Isobel Malcolm

Ordination of Jackie Fenton to the Vocational Diaconate

I'm an old-fashioned kind of Christian. Don't get me wrong, I like to stand in a field and clap along to a worship song from time to time but my faithful heart is steeped in the churches, monasteries, and islands of old Northumberland. So, it really was a delight to be invited along to Jackie's ordination in St Mary's Cathedral on 3rd September. Besides being a splendid building there is no better stage to be held in the heart of a congregation to celebrate the ordination of Jackie.

After the usual chaos of the vestry changing area - lay ministers, deacons and priests jockeying for space to throw on robes while the choir, who's space this usually is, quietly apologise and squeeze through gaps to find their own - we are settled for the incumbents welcome and prayers. This is the part of the duck that few see, but by the time we process into the cathedral our duck becomes a swan and we find our seats.

As a lay reader, a lowly position in these things, we enter at the head of the procession and in turn this means we get the 'good' seats - in the first pew. This meant that when Jackie followed in, Bobby and I had a prime view of everything that was to come.

The service, with its eucharist, went smoothly and the choir were in fantastic voice but the thing that stole the show was the smile on Jackie's face, visible to all from the moment she stepped forward and took her place alongside the bishop. This smile lit up the cathedral and everyone I spoke to afterwards commented on it.

It really is a joyous thing to watch someone becoming who they are meant to be but when it's presented in the glorious setting of St Marys with every single person in there focussed entirely on one person then it becomes a blessing in itself and one I will carry for a very long time to come.

I have had a tiny, but proud, role in Jackie's journey so far with only the smallest of hints and tips as she studied through her placement with us, but I'm really excited to see just what that smile will achieve as she returns to us as our curate.

Jesus Christ, we pray for humility in leading the ministry you've called us to. You were humble, though you are the son of God. Let our hearts be free from pride and entitlement. Let us be faithful servants to your sheep and focus on the spiritual growth of the congregation. Give us the right words when ministering to them. May we serve you in everything we do and say. Amen.

Rob Thain



Our Welcome

We welcome you here today. We offer a special welcome to those who are single, dating, in a civil partnership, living together, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, bi, trans, non-binary, all genders and non, children, adults and working animals (great and small). We offer a special welcome to screaming babies, excited toddlers, and bored teenagers.

You are welcome here if you are committed, curious, just woke up, just got out of prison, just here for the coffee or came on the wrong day and were expecting something else. We don't care if you are more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or if you have not been to church since you rocked up a bit drunk at midnight mass at Christmas in 2007.

We offer a special welcome to anyone over 50 who refuses to grow up yet, and to young un's who are growing up too fast. We welcome hungry artists, struggling students, tree-hugging hippies, flat white drinkers, vegetarians, meat-eaters, vegans, and junk food fans.

We offer a special welcome to those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you are having a few problems, have major life issues, are falling apart, have got it all together, feeling a bit meh or don't like organised religion.

We offer a special welcome to the disabled, non-disabled, the confident and the anxious, the lively, the quiet and the ones who haven't decided how they feel about it all yet. We offer a special welcome to those who work too hard, who don't work, are only here because a friend really wanted you to come with them or because there was nothing else happening today.

We offer a special welcome to those who are inked, not inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could do with a prayer right now, those that had religion imposed on them in childhood and would rather avoid it, and those who were just looking for something to do other than the food shopping.

We welcome the local residents, the pilgrims passing by, the committed, the doubting, the searching and the seeking and those looking to be part of a bigger community. You are in good company. We sincerely welcome you.

Adapted with permission from Kingswood cofe. Original statement from Coventry Cathedral.

A Thank You

I know I've only been to Christ Church three times, but I've been made so welcome, I felt I had to say 'thank you'. Having moved to Carluke 6 years ago, I've put out feelers to people I've come into contact with re 'church' but nothing has happened. A member of Christ Church, actually said, 'Why not come? I did and am so happy I did take the 'step'. With hindsight I would have probably attended sooner as my husband was friends with Alison and Maurice Burrows, but with Maurice's death and Alison moving away plus 'lockdown', it never happened. I have to say the phrase 'God moves in mysterious ways', certainly comes to mind now!

Barbara Waters



Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree, Be looking good in 2023
Our tree needs to look as good as new
so come on Christchurch it's up to you.
A memory bauble to hang for fun
will make our tree the No 1

Please everyone think to donate a Christmas bauble, made of glass, wood, fabric, something that is a little bit of you, either a memory of someone loved or a memory of times gone past. It's up to everyone to bring your happy thought to our tree. A padded box will be placed in the church to receive your little gifts. Many thanks



Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI)
20th Anniversary Celebration
Friday 3rd November 2023
10am to 12pm
St Nicholas Church Hall, Lanark

You are invited to celebrate 20 years of Scotland's most effective
asset based, inclusion and health improvement social enterprise.

Book your place via
<https://20yearsofCCI.eventbrite.co.uk>

Laughter is the Best Medicine

When I say that 'I am a Christian', I am not shouting that 'I am clean living. I'm whispering 'I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven.'

When I say 'I am a Christian', I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say 'I am a Christian', I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say 'I am a Christian', I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say 'I am a Christian', I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say 'I am a Christian', I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say 'I am a Christian', I'm not holier than thou, I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

Today is Beautiful Christian Person's Day.
Pretty is as Pretty does but, Beautiful is just plain Beautiful..

I'm supposed to send this to Beautiful People, and you are one of them!!!

If you share this with another person, you will boost another person's self esteem, and they will know you care about them!

Be Blessed, Be a Blessing.

When you feel like you're drowning in life, don't worry -- your Lifeguard walks on water.

Thank you Ken Scott for this thoughtful piece.

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and it seemed to fascinate the seven-year-old. "All those names," he said to the minister. "Who are they?"

"Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?"

Cheese

Ban sliced cheese. Make Britain grate again.

Answered prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

St Matthew

Underneath a street sign 'St Matthew's Close', someone had added: 'Well, I can't see him.'

As for those signs found outside churches:

Church carpark sign...FOR MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised.

No God - No Peace. Know God - Know Peace.

Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!

Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!

When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'

Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!



...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

CHRIST CHURCH LANARK

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Please remember Christ Church in your will as an act of thanksgiving for the Church. For confidential advice please speak to the Treasurer

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