
December 2024

Sunday morning worship takes place at 10.30am on Zoom and in-person at Scotforth Road. Evening worship is at The Cornerstone at 6.30pm.

December 1st

am Rev Linda Catlow
Communion Service
pm Rev Emma Holroyd

December 8th

am Helen McGregor
pm Rev Linda Catlow
Communion Service

December 15th

3 pm Rev Linda Catlow
Carol Service

December 22nd

am *Local Arrangement*
pm Simon Stewart

December 29th

am Barry Catlow
(pm *No Service*)

January 5th

am David Battarbee
pm Rev Emma Holroyd

Our morning services are designed to be inclusive - usually starting with an all-age section. After this, during term time, separate provision is made for any school aged children.

The evening service has an informal style of worship with an opportunity for reflection and conversation.

On Wednesdays we have a quiet reflective service with meditative singing and readings, 6.30-7pm by Zoom.

A *local arrangement* service is organised by the church stewards.

Lancaster Methodist Church
Scotforth Road, (LA1 4TE, corner of Kensington Road),
The Cornerstone, Sulyard Street (NE off Dalton Square), LA1 1PX

Lancaster Methodist Church

www.LancasterMethodistChurch.org.uk

registered charity No. 1170840

Minister: Revd Linda Catlow (07787829921)

Christmas Services



Carol Service on 15th at 3pm followed by Christmas Party at Scotforth Road

Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 6.30pm at LMC Cornerstone led by Rev Linda

Christmas Day Service at 10.30am at LMC Scotforth Road led by Andy and Keeley Lund

LMC Christmas Appeal 2024

Our Christmas Appeal is working with Christian Aid's Appeal to support refugees fleeing from the civil war in Sudan. This is a forgotten war, but one every bit as brutal as those in our news daily. Christian Aid shares [the story of Shede](#), a mother and grandmother from Darfur, Sudan who worked in a restaurant and tended her organic farm, which sustained her family. In April 2023 her life changed in an instant when conflict erupted across Sudan. Shede's brothers were killed and she had to flee with her daughters and granddaughters to Wedweil Refugee Settlement in neighbouring South Sudan. Shede is unable to contact her husband who is still in Sudan. Food and rations are scarce in the refugee settlement and there is no employment. Shede's elder daughters had to leave the settlement to find work, leaving Shede to care for her grandchildren.

Christian Aid is working alongside its partner, Smile Again Africa Development Organisation (SAADO), to provide vital financial help to families like Shede's. To date, they have supported 4,550 people there with small cash grants to allow families to buy essential items such as food, medicine, blankets, and clothing.

Rather than using bank transfer, you can donate easily using the [LMC Digital Envelope](#) and invite family/friends to do so.

Alternatively there will be **Christian Aid envelopes available at Scotforth Road and Cornerstone** from the beginning of December so you can give by cash or cheque at any point in the month. As usual, we also assign the loose collections on the three Christmas Services to the Appeal. (Full details of donating at the end)

Foodbank and Toy Pop-up Collection – Sat 7th December

We are having a special Pop-up collection for Christmas, including a warm welcome with drinks and mince pies inside! We are collecting toys for the BID distribution, and toys can also be left earlier in the church on Wednesdays 10-12 or before or after Sunday morning services, up to 9th Dec, with food donations left in the trays in the entrance.

Please see the attached flier for more details.

Games Café, 7-9pm, December 6th at Scotforth Road

We have traditional games on offer like boggle, scrabble and othello. We also have newer games that are a lot of fun and not complicated. We are always on hand to show you how to play as all the games are ours. Young people under 18 need an adult with them. Meet some new people, or play in your family or friends group. Great fun with free drinks and snacks, so please come along or suggest it to your friends. email Kate for further info kateehaywood@gmail.com - also after New Year on Jan 3rd

Youth Fellowship – next on 8th December

If anyone has any questions please email kateehaywood@gmail.com

Monday Meeting Point – All Welcome!

9th December: David Atkinson; 2.00 pm in the Foyer

Craftaid Shop at The Cornerstone

Craftaid, the Fairtrade shop, has a stall every Thursday morning at The Cornerstone from

10.00am. It sells food, Christian cards and small gifts and is a registered charity.

Christian Aid Christmas Gifts

You can also help Christian Aid's work by giving Charity Christmas Gifts or asking for others to give them to you - with gifts ranging from chickens to olive trees, from emergency essentials to smartphones for home businesses, and much more! There are some catalogues in the Foyer, or see [Christian Aid's special webpage describing how this works.](#)

Christian Aid Christmas Cards for the Middle East

Christian Aid and Embrace the Middle East have jointly produced [Mother and Child Christmas cards](#) to support those facing hardship in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq.

Lancaster University Soup Lunch

Over this last year a small team (2-3) from LMC have been on the Soup Lunch rota at Lancaster University, which is served weekly on a Wednesday. The LMC team go about once a month, arriving to prep at 11.45, serving from 12.30 to 1.30, leaving before 2 pm. Barry is our head chef. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the friendly students and staff and last week we served approx 35 in the Chaplaincy Centre. Would you like to come and help? It would be good to have a couple more volunteers that we can call upon. We are booked in for 4th December. Please contact Rev Linda: revlindcat@gmail.com or 07787829921. Also the students and staff always welcome cake so do let us know if you would like to bake for these occasions.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGERS WANTED

Lancaster Churches Together asks: Please join us to sing carols at all or any of the following times:

Marketgate, Lancaster

Saturday 14 December from 10.30 – 12noon to raise funds for **Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service Christmas Support.**

Non-singers are also needed to help with the collecting buckets and tins.

Lancaster Royal Infirmary (RLI)

Monday 16 Dec from 7.00 – 9.00pm

Wednesday 18 Dec from 10.30 - 12 noon

Friday 20 Dec from 10.30 - 12 noon

For the RLI events please email (arton.medd@btinternet.com) or phone (01524 64730). We can then let you know where to

meet when Rev Ian Dewar (RLI Chaplain) lets us know in which wards we are singing. Copies of words will be provided but if you wish to sing harmonies *Carols for Choirs green*) would be useful.

With thanks in advance for your support,
Christine and Arton Medd

Remembering our concern for Palestine, Israel, Lebanon

While we focus on so many other crises in the world today, it is important to remember all that continues in Palestine, Lebanon and Israel. Christian Aid offers a [Just Peace Campaign](#), suggesting we may Learn, Act and Pray for the Middle East. Prayers are offered for us to share, including a moving prayer from The Very Revd Canon Richard Swell, Dean of St George's College Jerusalem. We can act – maybe contributing to Christian Aid's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal. And maybe we can learn more about the situation in the Middle East: for example, from a very informative article, [A reflection on a war that is about more than just Gaza](#), by William Bell, Christian Aid's Head of Middle East Policy & Advocacy, where he reflects on the urgent need for understanding and peace.

Groups Meeting this month

For any further details, contact Simon simoncornerstonecafe@gmail.com

'LGBTQ Sunday', 3pm first Sunday of every month (December 1st)

LGBTQ-led informal service with reflection and conversation – a safe space for all.

'Big Questions' Spiritual searching group, every Tuesday at 7pm. Each week we wrestle with our own big questions of faith. Newcomers are welcome, with their questions!

Emotional Health 12 Steps Support Group, Thursdays 6.15pm

Emotional Health Group for People with Special Needs: For friendship, fun, arts & crafts and serious discussion. Next meeting Wednesday December 18th 4pm

The Cornerstone House Group for faith sharing and theological discussion, approx fortnightly, Next meetings December 5th & 19th.

Lunchtime Holy Communion with Rev Linda, 1.15pm Thursday December 12th

Lancaster Men's Hub 'Elevenses' every Friday from 11am to 1pm. For good company, games and a good lunch. The Hub now has its own workshop space and a 'studio' as well which you can find out more about at Elevenses.

'The Making Place' craft cafe every Thursday, 10am -1pm (entrance £4) – finishes for Christmas 5th Dec, returns 9th Jan. Good company and excellent cake!

Theological Book Group, on [Zoom](#) once a month. We will be starting a new book in the new year: *'How To Be a Bad Christian (And a Better Human Being)'* by Rev. Dave Tomlinson. Next meeting will be 3.30pm on December 6th looking afresh at the Infancy narratives. Please contact Simon or LMCNotices for the zoom link.

'Writers Inc'. Writers' group for any budding scribblers... 10.30am to 12pm 1st and 3rd Saturdays - December 7th & 21st

Global Village Cafe lunch club for refugees and asylum-seekers: Every Wednesday from 12.30pm. And open to the general public, price for lunch £3.

'Hard To Be Merry' Reflective Service, 1pm December 16th at The Cornerstone

A special Christmas service designed for those for whom this time of the year might be difficult. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of quiet, music and worship.

PLEASE NOTE

The Cornerstone will be closed from Christmas Eve through the rest of the week, though LMH 'Elevenses' will happen on December 27th

Prayer Buddy - Torrisholme

Torrisholme are particularly pleased to have Linda as their minister to give them some stability. They ask us to carry Linda in prayer, remembering all the work she does across the circuit. They also ask for prayers for their new team of stewards who are currently learning on the job. We pray that they will feel supported and appreciated in their efforts, even if things don't go as smoothly as they would like. Finally, we pray for their Messy Church. They currently have a willing team of helpers but not many children - may they find God's presence with them.

If there are any people/areas of church life you would like Torrisholme to hold in prayer, please let Rachel know. rspybey@gmail.com

Solidarity Circle for Carers

Through the Justice, Dignity & Solidarity strategy, the Methodist Church seeks to understand, acknowledge and move away from behaviours and policies that isolate, exclude or marginalise. Sue Spencer is looking for Carers, present or past, who may be willing to share (in confidence) stories of their lived experience as Carers.

It may be that you want to put something in writing of your experience, good or bad, within the Methodist Church.

It may be that you would like to meet with other Carers and join the Solidarity Circle to share, influence and steer the Church towards becoming more inclusive. Meetings would be informal gatherings via Zoom about every 6 weeks. Information given would be anonymised and strictly confidential. Sue would take Issues raised to the JDS Committee.

If you would like to learn more, please get in touch with Sue at bjcdfs@gmail.com

Handel's Messiah at Lancaster Priory

The highly regarded [Wild Arts](#) ensemble is bringing their semi-staged production north, to Lancaster on December 12th (at Hexham and Carlisle in the previous evenings). Tickets from £15 at

www.tickettailor.com/events/wildarts/1222772

Looking Ahead:

LMC's Covenant Services are:

12th Jan, 6.30pm at The Cornerstone

19th Jan, 10.30am at Scotforth Road

Our LMC Facebook page is [here](#)



Dates for your diary

December

1st LGBTQ Sunday service -The Cornerstone

6th 7pm Games Cafe at Scotforth Road

7th 10.30am Pop-up Collection at Scotforth Road

9th 2pm Monday Meeting Point at Scotforth Rd

12th 7pm Handel's Messiah at Lancaster Priory

15th 3pm Carol Service and Christmas Party at Scotforth Road

16th 1pm 'Hard to be Merry' Reflective Service at The Cornerstone

24th 6.30pm Holy Communion Service at The Cornerstone

25th 10.30am Christmas Day Service at Scotforth Road

Little Pebbles is our parent/carer & toddler group and meets every Thursday at Scotforth Road from 10-11.30 during term-time.

The notices are usually distributed monthly.

If you would like an e-copy of the Notices, send an email to lmcnotices@gmail.com

Ways to give to the LMC Christmas Appeal

1. **LMC Digital Envelope:** We have set up a digital envelope on the Christian Aid website for people at LMC to give donations, and to invite family/friends to do so: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/lmc-christmas-appeal-christian-aid>, or you can use this QR code to access the envelope: You will be given the chance to Gift Aid when you've pressed the 'donate' button and inserted the amount.



2. **Christian Aid envelopes available at Scotforth Road and Cornerstone:**

These will be available at both sites from the beginning of December so you can give cash or cheques at any point in the month. Please complete the slip and insert it in the envelope if you are able to Gift Aid (taxpayers only). Please make cheques payable to Christian Aid.