

May 2026

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.

May 3rd

am *Local Arrangement*
3pm LGBTQ+ *Open Table*
pm Simon Stewart

May 10th

am Peter Gorst
pm Rev Linda Catlow
Holy Communion

May 17th

am Lynn Blair
pm Simon Stewart

May 24th

am Rev Kara Cooper
pm Rev Linda Catlow

May 31st

am *Circuit Service at Dolphinholme*

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 (07787 829921)

Dear friends

It is lovely to be back with you after my Sabbatical and delayed return, due to an unexpected time in the hospital. I am now fully functional and looking forward to catching up with you all at worship, coffee mornings or meetings. Thank you for all the 'Thinking of you' messages and cards – your prayers were much appreciated.

There is a saying, 'Expect the unexpected'. I return to ministry during the Easter season when we remember the stories of the risen Jesus Christ. The Disciples and other close companions to Jesus had watched their friend and Lord die on the Cross, a terrible death which brought much sorrow. But these companions certainly learnt to 'expect the unexpected' as Jesus appeared in the garden, in the Upper Room, on the Emmaus Road and on the Beach. Each time bringing comfort, healing and renewed hope. Whatever may happen, whether the expected or unexpected, watch out for Jesus Christ because he steps in through a kindly stranger, a caring friend, a supportive relative, an unexpected glimpse of our Lord, bringing comfort, healing and renewed hope.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26

Blessings. from Rev Linda.

Christian Aid Week, 10-16 May 2026

Christian Aid Week 2026 is fast approaching.

Please donate if you can

The focus of this year's Christian Aid Week appeal is on supporting urban farmers in the large informal settlements of Nariobi, the capital of Kenya. Through this work Christian Aid's partner Beacon of Hope is helping to increase resilience and overcome poverty and hunger.

£5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.

£10 could pay for a pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.

£15 could purchase hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.

£30 could buy the trio of cone garden planters for a tiny city farm. Please help if you can.

Ways to donate

Whichever way you make your donation, if you are a UK taxpayer please consider increasing the value of the gift at no cost to you by using **Gift Aid**. You can give:

- Through the digital envelope:

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/lancaster-methodist-church>



- Using this QR code:
- Using the Christian Aid envelopes available in church.
- If you receive a delivery-only envelope through your door you can bring it to church on Sunday 17 May if that is more convenient than taking it to another drop-off point.
- Putting cash in the bucket/tin in church.

70K in May – thank you Keeley

A big thank you to Keeley Lund who has taken up the [70K in May](#) challenge in support of LMC's Christian Aid Week appeal. It is not too late if you would like to fundraise through this challenge too.

Daily Devotional

If you would like a copy of this collection of reflections, prayers and thoughts to accompany you through Christian Aid Week please ask Helen Boothroyd or Elaine Morphet for a paper copy, or download it from <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/uk/christian-aid-week/daily-devotional>

For those delivering envelopes

A big thank you to everybody who has volunteered to help with our delivery-only collection. Please collect your envelopes and packs from Elaine and Helen at church on either 3rd or 10th of May or let us know if you will not be at either service and we can drop them off to you. Please deliver them on Sunday 10th or Monday 11th if possible.

How do we decide what to do in response to injustice?

The Methodist Church has made a commitment to be a [Justice Seeking Church](#). How can we do justice in ways that are sustainable, flourishing and transformative, and are rooted in God? Our practices for justice includes **what we do in response to injustice** and **how we do it**

We may have different strengths and preferences. For some, doing justice might involve helping to meet people's immediate practical needs or contributing to longer term change through campaigning. Others will be involved in building community power and relationships, using financial choices to achieve change, or creatively offering public hope or lament. Some actions may be more needed at particular times and places.

All of these actions have a place in a justice-seeking Church.

- *Responding to need*
- *Relationship building*
- *Changing rules or practices at local, national and global level*
- *Ethical living*
- *Creative witness*
- *Visible activism*

Confirmation and membership Class:

Have you made a public commitment to follow Jesus Christ? If not, would you like the opportunity to explore your faith and consider taking this step and be Confirmed and come into membership of the Methodist Church? You may have already made this commitment in another Church- would you therefore like to become a member of Lancaster Methodist Church?

Rev Linda will be holding a Confirmation and Membership Class in June. If you are searching or looking to make a commitment to Jesus Christ or to become a member of LMC then please contact Linda at revlindcat@gmail.com or text/ring: 07787829921

Games Café, 7-9pm, May 1st at Scotforth

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

'Reflect in the City' every Wednesday

A quiet reflective service with meditative singing and readings, 6.30-7pm by Zoom, open at 6.20. Everyone is welcome to join us for about 30 minutes of prayer, song, silence and reflection. Contact LMCNotices@gmail for the link.

Welcome Space on any Wednesday at LMC

Scotforth Road between 10 and 12 for a cuppa and chat!

Churches Together Ascension Day Service Christ has gone up on high! 7.30am 14th May at

Ashton Memorial: Prayers for the City of Lancaster.

Caton Methodist Church Anniversary Weekend

Caton Methodist will be celebrating their Church Anniversary over the weekend of 2nd – 3rd May. On Saturday evening at 7.00pm, friends from Lancaster Methodist Church will be leading the service, which will be followed by supper, and celebrations will continue on Sunday morning with Paul Bowden. All are welcome.

Online Retreat: Be Still & Know That I Am God

Tuesday 5th May 10am – 12.30pm by Donna Worthington [further details of retreats here](#)

Circuit Service Sunday 31st May at 10.30am

We are calling everyone from across our Circuit to come together for worship at **Dolphinholme Methodist Church**. We will be celebrating the long-service of one of our Local Preachers and have the opportunity to hear from a Student Minister Deacon, who will share her story and her calling. Details of how to travel to follow

“Clerical Errors” musical ensemble concert

Sunday May 31st 3.30pm at Hying Monastery. This event sold out really quickly last year. The proceeds from the ticket sales will be shared between Hying Monastery (Carnforth) and Churches Together in Lancashire. Tickets for concert followed by harmonious tea: £12.00 Bookings can be made directly with Hying. By email to Sr Mary Bernard: hyingbookings@yahoo.co.uk
By telephone: 01524 732684

Sunday 7th June AGM after 10.30 am service with Rev Linda leading Holy Communion, our Annual General Church Meeting. Everyone is invited.

Lancaster Pride 2026 Sunday 14 June,

Planning is well underway - in cooperation with the Lancaster Pride organisers - for a Christian presence throughout the day, to include Big Jesus in the parade from 11am, Christian speakers on the mainstage in Dalton Square, a Christians at Pride stall in Dalton Square (including Big Jesus and the Prayer Tree), and a Celebration Service at The Cornerstone at the end of the afternoon at 4pm.

The next planning meeting is at The Cornerstone at 2pm on Sunday 17 May: come to help!

Lyrics and Lunch Annual Celebration Day

Saturday 16th May 9.30-2.30 at St Thomas Church. [Lyrics and Lunch](#) is a locally based

charity helping churches to reach out to people living with dementia and their carers and other older people in the community through fun singing and sharing food together.

This year the special guest speaker is Bishop Jill Duff speaking on "Grey Hair is a Crown of Glory - Valuing Older People." Lunch provided - no cost but donations welcome. Please contact Jeanette to book in and let her know any dietary needs. Email contact@lyricsandlunch.org or phone 07486 985 357

People’s Emergency Briefing Film June 11th

7:30pm at Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster. People’s Emergency Briefing is a 40-minute film presented by Chris Packham and produced by National Emergency Briefing (<https://www.nebriefing.org>). Nine leading UK scientists and experts present the latest evidence on how climate and nature breakdown will affect us all, including through the cost of living, food security, extreme weather and health, outline possible credible, positive responses.

The screening will be followed by reflection and discussion on what’s happening with climate and nature, what this means for everyday life in the UK now and in the future, and what we can do locally here in Lancaster.

The Cornerstone House Group: Fortnightly on a Thursday at 7.30pm. Open and friendly discussion on faith, Christian life and ethical issues. Now starting using Bible month resources for Paul’s Letter to Philippians. Next on May 7th – all welcome at The Cornerstone.

Meetings at The Cornerstone this month

For any further details, contact Simon simoncornerstonecafe@gmail.com
‘LGBTQ Sunday’, 3pm first Sunday of every month LGBTQ-led informal service with reflection and conversation – a safe space for all. Next on May 3rd.

Bereavement Support Café: 10.30am to 12noon every Monday (not April 6th)

‘Big Questions’ Spiritual searching group, every Tuesday at 7pm. Come and share with us.

‘Stronger Together’ We all need a little help from time to time so join us for ‘Stronger Together’, a group designed for people to come

together to share their emotions and feelings in a safe and supportive environment. No judgement. Just support, kindness and connection. We are all in this together. 6-7pm every Thursday, Room 4 at The Cornerstone

Emotional Health Group for People with Special Needs: For friendship, fun, arts & crafts and serious discussion. Last Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: May 27th

Lunch-time Holy Communion with Rev. Linda, Thursday May 14th 1.15pm: All welcome.

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 £5). Good company and excellent cake! Next on April 16th

Theological Book Group, on Zoom once a month. We are reading 'The Heart of Christianity' by Marcus Borg. The next meeting will be 3.30pm on May 22nd. Please contact Simon or LMCNotices for the zoom link.

'Writers Inc'. Writers' group for any budding scribblers... 10.30am to 12pm on 1st and 3rd Saturdays - May 2nd & 16th.

The Cornerstone Music Café, every Monday from 13th, 1-3pm. Come along for a sing-a-long of timeless classics with our very own house band! Tea and coffee available.

Global Village Café lunch club for refugees and asylum-seekers: Every Wednesday from 12.30pm. Open to the general public, price for lunch £7.50 (waged).

'Chewsday' Lunch Café every Tuesday 12- 2pm



If you feel you could bake some fresh cakes or make soup to be sold as part of the lunch please contact Simon. To do that we would ask you (and pay for you) to do a Food Hygiene course, which can be done online.

Our LMC Facebook page is [here](#)

Our Cornerstone Facebook page is [here](#)

Dates for your diary

May

- 1st 7:00pm Games Café at Scotforth
- 3rd 3pm LGBTQ Sunday Service – at Cornerstone
- 10th-16th Christian Aid Week
- 14th 7:30am Ascension Day Service at Ashton Memorial
- 31st 10:30am Circuit Service at Dolphinholme

June

- 5th 7:00pm Games Café at Scotforth
- 7th 10:30am Holy Communion & AGM
- 7th 3pm LGBTQ Sunday Service – at Cornerstone
- 11th 7:30pm People's Emergency Briefing film & discussion at Quaker Meeting House
- 14th Lancaster Pride Day at Cornerstone & Dalton Square
- 15th JPEG meeting by Zoom

Little Pebbles is our parent/carer & toddler group and meets every Tuesday 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 .