



SCOTFORTH ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

19th November 2020

Sunday Worship 22nd November 2020 Christ the King

09.45 Please join us for our online service on our St Paul's Scotforth YouTube channel -
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UctJUjp8QOUAnLzbhP0rxaJA>

Wednesday at 09.15: Morning Prayer by telephone conferencing

Readings for Sunday 29th November:

Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37



give
a little

If you would like to financially support the mission and ministry of St Paul's Church then please visit our online giving page by clicking on the Give a Little logo on our website -
<https://stpauls-scotforth.org>
- thank you.

Worshipping God, Growing in Faith, Serving the community

A message from Reverend Rebecca:

This week we are encouraged by the news of possible Covid-19 vaccinations in development, which offer a glimmer of hope in his time of uncertainty.

Even though we are a long way off from returning to 'normal' life, we continue to encourage and support each other in our daily lives. The pain and suffering caused by Covid-19 in our midst is real and long-lasting. Personally, in March, Anderson and I both experienced Covid-19 symptoms long before testing was widely available. We each had very different symptoms and I struggled more than Anderson. I was largely confined to my bed for almost three weeks and it took well over a month before I started to feel like I was improving.

As the months progressed, I continued to find myself feeling tired and easily fatigued. Initially I thought it was just a general lethargy from Covid-fatigue and missing normal parish ministry. After seeking medical advice and going for scans, I have been diagnosed with 'long-Covid,' the longer lasting impact of the disease. There are days when I feel perfectly fine and other days when my initial Covid-19 symptoms return. While I am not incapacitated, I am focusing my energy and efforts to strengthen our sense of community and to nurture our Christian life. Incidentally, God has reminded me that this is my primary vocation as a priest and as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Maybe now is the time to start reorienting our parish priorities so that they align with our Christian calling in this parish and wider afield.

These last few months have taught me afresh how God's grace is made perfect in weakness, how much my vocation means to me, and has given me insights into the nature and character of the St Paul's Scotforth and Hala family. While I am able to continue ministering, it may take longer than usual for me to return phone calls or reply to an email. As I continue to pray for you, please remember me in your prayers as I seek to recover my energy and stamina.

I am grateful to the ministry team, Wardens, and Anderson, who have all continued to partner in ministry within the parish both online and in church.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Our mission Partners: Stephen and Marit Impey managing Wycliffe Bible Translators Ethiopian work.

From our Parish prayer diary: Acorn Close, Spruce Avenue, The Cedars, Cherry Tree Drive

From our Church prayer diary: Our Clergy and all involved in Lay Ministry

Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Alan, Kath and family, Mary Wilson, Eunice Parkinson, Marion Corkill, Katherine McHale, Pat Mitchell, John Fidler, Betty Hartley, Jill Harker, Sarah Huddleston

All who mourn: Wendy Francis, Elle Wiltshire, Sylvia Robey, David Froggatt. Those who have died because of Covid-19

Collect for Sunday 22nd November

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

COLLECT

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 whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the
 throne of heaven that he might rule
 over all things as Lord and King:
 keep the Church in the unity of the
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FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalm 95:1-7a

R *The Lord is a great God,
 and a great king above all gods.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
 let us shout for joy to the rock of
 our salvation.
 Let us come before his presence with
 thanksgiving
 and raise a loud shout to him
 with psalms.
 For the Lord is a great God,
 and a great king above all gods. **R**

In his hand are the depths of the earth,
 and the heights of the hills are his also.
 The sea is his, for he made it,
 and his hands have moulded the
 dry land. **R**

Come, let us bow down and bend
 the knee,
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
 For he is our God,
 and we are the people of his pasture
 and the sheep of his hand. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
 the wills of your faithful people;
 that they, plenteously bringing forth the
 fruit of good works,
 may by you be plenteously rewarded;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AROUND THE PARISH

Poinsettias for Christmas: This is just a reminder that the last day for requests is Sunday 6th December. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like another copy of the form.



Parish Christmas Greetings: If you haven't managed to get your Christmas cards before lockdown or possibly don't feel up to sending out lots of cards this year, we are planning to produce our usual Christmas Greeting sheet for the parish.

All your messages will be sent to you via our weekly Parish News. If you would like to join us please return your greeting (no more than 30 words) with a donation in aid of church funds to myself at 20 Newlands Rd. or to the parish office (letterbox at top of the parish hall steps). The last day for donations will be Sunday December 6th. Cheques should be made payable to St Paul's Church PCC.

If you have any queries please contact Maureen Leach on 61606/07531285199 or at leachmaureen@hotmail.com.

Compline (Night Prayer):

Every Thursday evening at 21.30 we will be offering a service of Compline by telephone conference - no computer required. The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. If you would like more details either email us at pastoral@stpauls-scotforth.org or phone Tony Walker on 382397.



The Olive Branch: Booths have just relaunched their Booths Card. As part of the card changes, cardholders can now opt to have the 5% reward they earn (5% back on 1000s of products) donated to their local foodbank. The Olive Branch is partnered with the stores in Scotforth, Carnforth, Milnthorpe and Kirkby Lonsdale.

They also have a new initiative to encourage customers to buy an item and give the other to their local foodbank; it's called 'buy one - give one free'. As well as the customer donating additional food items Booths will also donate the profit from the additional items to the foodbank as a further donation.

So if you shop at Booths, here is a good way to support The Olive Branch

Traidcraft at Christmas – an article by Arton Medd:



Following on from Advent Calendars in last week's Parish News what about fairly traded Christmas cards and presents? No stalls in church and no Green Fair at the Friends' Meeting House so please phone 0191 491 0591 for a catalogue or go online at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk.

Traidcraft has a wide range of Christian Aid/Traidcraft/Cafod/SCIAF Christmas cards, and fairly traded products made by skilled craftsmen and women in the poorer countries, that you could give as presents or keep for yourself, and also many foods and drinks for your regular shopping. These include teas of all types, coffees of all strengths, biscuits and snacks, breakfast cereals, pastas, rice, sauces, herbs and spices, nuts, dried fruits and jars of peanut butter to name a few items from their range. Clothing and household items are also in the catalogue. Make your order large enough and you will get free delivery. They also sell the Real Advent Calendars.

Traidcraft, founded in 1979, was the first fair trade company in the UK and they have set a standard for others to follow with all their goods ethically sourced. Because of the quality, price comparisons need to be made between the more expensive lines in supermarkets rather than the cheapest own brand products. The 35% cocoa solids in the Advent Calendar chocolate, for example, are well above the 20% -25% of the Nestlé/Cadbury popular products. You can also be assured that, whatever the item bought from Traidcraft whether it is food, clothing or household goods; there has not been exploitation of growers, producers or other workers in getting it to the shelves.



Submissions to the Parish News:

If you have an article, request for inclusion on the Parish News then please email/ring the office before noon on a Tuesday – thank you.

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: **VICAR:** Rev Rebecca Aechtner - Tel: 32106

: Email: vicar@stpauls-scotforth.org

: *Rest day – Friday: Please try not to call except in an*
: *emergency.*

: **WARDENS:** Mrs Jayne Weatherill – Tel: 60597; email:

: sjayneweatherill@gmail.com and Mr Tony Walker – Tel:

: 382397; email: walkerar@hotmail.co.uk

: **PARISH OFFICE:** the office is currently closed during the
: lockdown period however the telephone and email will
: be monitored and we will get back to you as soon as
: possible. Tel: 01524 843135

: Email: office@stpauls-scotforth.org

: **BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS:** Booking enquiries - please
: contact the parish office or

: Email: lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org

: **CHURCH WEBSITE:** www.stpauls-scotforth.org

: **FACEBOOK:** regular updates about life at St Paul's can
: be found: @scotforthstpaulschurch
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