



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



18th November 2021

Sunday Worship 21st November 2021
Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent

08.00 BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's Scotforth Road

09:45 Service of Holy Communion at St Paul's Scotforth Road

11:15 Service of Holy Communion at
St Paul's, Hala

Morning Prayer in church on Monday and Tuesday and by telephone conference on Wednesdays – at 09.00.

Please contact Margaret Ives if you would like to join the telephone conference.



*Worshipping God, Growing in Faith,
Serving the community*

A message from Reverend Rebecca:

Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 21st) is the last Sunday of the church liturgical year. Advent brings about a new year as we await the birth of Christ at Christmas. Christ the King is relatively new in the life of the Church. It was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI as a reaction against Mussolini and the growth of nationalism in Europe. It was attempt to remind Christians of Christ's supreme, universal and ultimate authority over earthly powers and rulers. This Sunday we will be looking at the idea of power and truth in our service and in Young Church.

Last Sunday was the first time Young Church met in the Parish Hall. The children were blessed in church before leaving and crossing Scotforth Road safely. It was a joy to see them return to church at Communion and tell us all they learned in their time together. The first Sunday of each month will be our 'Altogether Service' when we will worship together and other Sundays Young Church will learn and worship in the Parish Hall.

Anderson and I co-authored 'Christ, the (Subversive) King' for the Political Theology Network, in which we explore the relationship between power and truth more thoroughly. You can read it here: <https://politicaltheology.com/christ-the-subversive-king/>

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Our mission Partners: Stephen and Marit Impey managing Wycliffe Bible Translators Ethiopian work, the work of Global Link and MIND (Lancashire).

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

From our Church prayer diary: Our sidespeople

Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Mary Wilson, Eunice Parkinson, Marion Corkill, Katherine McHale, Maureen Thorpe, Jacqueline Gothard, Rev Rebecca, Kath Beck, Val Gedge, Olive Jenkinson, Mollie Glover, Ruth Territt

We pray for the parents, godparents and family of: Ava Rose
who is to be baptised this week
All who mourn: Tina Bowers

Collect for 21st November 2021:

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.

Readings for 21st November 2021:

Revelation 1.4b-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed^{*} us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made^{*} us to be a kingdom, priests serving^{*} his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18.33-37

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters^{*} again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ ³⁴ Jesus answered, ‘Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?’ ³⁵ Pilate

replied, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?’ ³⁶Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’ ³⁷Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’

Post Communion Prayer for 21st November 2021

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.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end;
Luke 21: 25-36

Admitting Baptised Children and Unconfirmed Adults to Communion:

On 8th November, after prayerful discussion the PCC voted in favour of admitting baptised children and unconfirmed adults to receive Holy Communion within St Paul’s parish. This decision was taken with careful individual theological reflection. As of 2006 the Diocese of Blackburn, in accordance with the Church of England, allows for baptised children to receive Holy Communion once they have been accepted into this practice by a local church and following preparation. The Bishop of Blackburn has been informed that the resolution was supported by the Incumbent and passed by the PCC.

The painful closure of our church buildings for worship during the Covid-19 pandemic and our phased re-opening has resulted in new families, previously unknown to us, worshipping with us and presenting their children to receive communion. This has been a real source of joy and has inspired our new Young Church programme. Over the last few months more and more children and families have been asking to receive communion or to learn more about the life of our church. Witnessing the joy and inclusion of new and existing young people around the altar, mixed with the uncertainty of some existing children and adults as to whether they are permitted to receive, was a potential source of tension.

In thinking through who is welcome to receive Communion at St Paul's, we are also re-examining our emphasis on the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, while also maintaining our value of Confirmation. I pray that by opening the Lord's table to all baptised Christians, we will also emphasise Baptism, offer teaching on Communion, and see Confirmation as a meaningful way in which people confirm their faith in God within the St Paul's family.

Some children and their parents will decide to wait, and that is a decision we support fully. The importance lies in having these conversations, speaking openly about our faith, and in affirming the importance of Communion as central to the life of our church, whether that is to receive, or to hold off receiving until the child and parent agree they are ready. I remain committed to Confirmation and have put in a formal request for a Confirmation service in 2022 (date to be confirmed). I see Confirmation, not as entry into Communion (however it will be for some), but rather as a public act of confirming faith and affirming our baptismal promises

The sacraments of Baptism and Communion are central to who we are as Christians and as a worshipping community. As such we will talk about communion in Young Church and in our 'Altogether' (All Age) Services throughout the year in which we will reflect on the importance of communion as an entire worshipping congregation.

At the moment we are receiving in one kind, bread only; when we decide to offer the common cup of wine, we suggest that children over the age of 7 intinct (dip the communion wafer into the wine) until they are confirmed or are ready to drink the wine.

I long to see children and people of all ages and backgrounds more involved in participating in the life of our church. In inviting more people to receive communion we are proclaiming the importance of sharing the Lord's Supper together as the family of God here at St Paul's Scotforth and Hala.

Admission of baptised children and non-confirmed adults to Communion is not done in isolation; rather it is done within the context of the whole worshipping church. It will inevitably, and wonderfully, prompt us to ask questions about other ways in which children might be better involved in worship and included in church life generally.

Please let me stress that decision to receive communion is just that, a choice. Some people will rightly want their children to wait to receive until they are older or confirmed, and some adults do not feel comfortable receiving. We honour those decisions. It is a joy to offer a blessing to anyone who comes forward. If parents, children, young people or anyone who worships at St Paul's Scotforth or Hala has questions or concerns, please contact me (vicar@stpauls-scotforth.org and 01524 749693, or Rev Claire).

Young Church:

A reminder of that everyone will meet in church as normal, and after the announcements our Young Church will be invited to the front for a blessing and then sent out to have fun in the Parish Hall. The children will cross Scotforth Road safely, with the presence of 3 adults wearing high visibility vests and using a traffic lollipop. Some children will wish to stay with their families and friends in the main service and we will continue to offer activity packs and space for younger children at the back of church.

Contactless Giving in Church is now available.

Our machine will be at the back of church so that on your way out, rather than giving a cash donation, you could consider giving by card.



Submissions for the Parish News:

The deadline each week is Tuesday at noon but we can always add contributions to the following week's Parish News. We look forward to receiving your contributions and supporting each other in the Body of Christ during this time. Please email the parish office, leave a message on the answer machine for a telephone submission or post/leave an article for the Parish Office in the Parish Hall letterbox.

The Real Advent Calendar:

The Real Advent Calendar (£4.50) has a line from the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows and includes a 24 page Christmas story-activity book with a page for every day of Advent and some fun challenges along the way. It is Fairtrade, the quality milk chocolate is 35% cocoa solids, palm oil free, sealed in foil, and the box and tray are recyclable. I will have some for sale so please email arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730 to reserve one. If you can order a Real Advent Calendar direct from www.meaningfulchocolatecompany.co.uk and also reusable ones, Christmas Tree decorations, Christingle chocolate oranges and a range of other chocolate items. They also have a 'Send Chocolate Scheme' which will send the chocolate you buy to someone else with your personal message on a card.

Children's Society:

Julie and Tim Forsdick have stood down as our representatives for the Children's Society. Thank you to them for doing this important job for the last few years. If you feel able to take on this role so that our church can continue to support the Children's Society, please contact the office or Tony Walker. If you have a collecting box which needs to be emptied, please either bring it to church or to the office.

Christian Aid:

Are you looking for an opportunity to do something further for some of the poorest people in the world? Christian Aid has been working with them for 75 years, and it is dependent on networks of churches in the UK to raise the money to help them do so. Tony Walker is the CA parish representative for St Paul's which is one of twenty or so churches supporting Christian Aid in the Lancaster area, and they receive CA Week resources and other information from the Lancaster organiser - it is for this Lancaster Area Organiser job that a new person is needed. The current organiser wishes to step down after several years in the job and will be very happy to give support to a successor.

The basic job specification is that you maintain a list of church representatives and liaise with them in Feb/March over the envelopes etc that they require for Christian Aid Week, total up the requests and then send a bulk order online to Christian Aid. The materials arrive and you divide them up according to the church requests. A meeting is then arranged at which the church reps. collect their goods. There is a treasurer so you do not have to deal with the money collected but you do sign a final return when the accounts are complete. If you are interested and want to know more please contact Tony or myself for further information.

Arton Medd tel. 01524 64730

Traidcraft for Christmas:



If you wish to steer clear of the anticipated rush, and if you are looking for fairly traded goods unfortunately The Craft Aid shop at St Thomas's has closed. However Traidcraft is very much in existence and orders can be made by phone on **0191 491 0855** or online at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk I have one or two catalogues that you can peruse, and they cover a wide range of goods from Christmas cards to food, drink, clothing and homewares.

Arton Medd (01524 64730; arton.medd@btinternet.com)

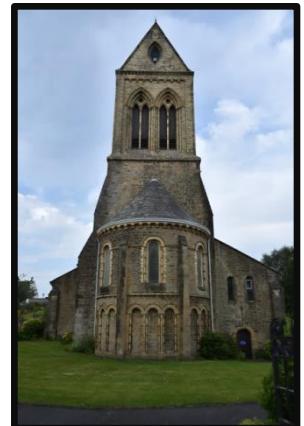


Intruders at Hala:

In the early hours of Monday morning (15th November) intruders gained access into Hala from Beck View. Apart from a small amount of cash in the collecting box, nothing was taken. There was some minor damage to cupboards and the contents of one were pulled out onto the floor.

Church Tower Appeal:

If you would like to make a donation but don't have access to the internet then you can send a cheque to the Parish Office, St Paul's Parish Hall, Scotforth Road, Lancaster, LA1 4TS – please write 'Tower Appeal' on the reverse of the cheque. Or if you contact us then we can let you have our bank account details to make a BACs transfer. Please tell your friends and family about our appeal. If you have any questions about how you can donate or the building project then please contact either Jayne or Tony via the Parish Office.



Christmas Greetings:

Christmas is getting nearer and you have all those cards to write. A frightening thought! One way to reduce your workload would be to send just one Christmas greeting message to everyone in the parish. This means that it will be sent out in the Parish news and displayed on the Church and Hala notice boards.

Donations will be in aid of the Tower Fund. If you would like to join us please hand your greeting (no more than 30 words) with a minimum donation of £5 to myself at 20 Newlands Rd, to a churchwarden, sides person or the Church Office. The closing date will be **December 3rd**. Any messages arriving later than this date will possibly miss the printing deadline. If you have any queries please contact Maureen Leach on 07531285199.



Poinsettias for Christmas

As we once again prepare to go to Bethlehem to worship the Christ-child, we invite you to consider making a gift to St Paul's for the purchase of poinsettias for the decoration of the church at Christmas.

You may wish to make your gift as a thanksgiving for the life of a departed family member or friend, or for a particular blessing in your own life.

Forms to complete are available in church from Sunday 14th November and are also available from the Parish Office. Once you have completed the form please place this, with the suggested donation of £8 (which covers the cost of purchasing the poinsettias) into an envelope with Poinsettia written on it and either place it in the offertory plate, hand to a churchwarden or sides person or take to the parish office by Wednesday 1st December.

Let us take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your gift and to wish you and yours the joy and peace of the Christmas Season.

Jayne and Tony, Churchwardens

Parish Walk:



Our next walk will be on Sunday November 28th. As there will be an Advent Service later in the afternoon the arrangements will be slightly different from usual. **Please meet on Morecambe Prom by the Mother and Child Statue which is just after Happy Mount Park at 12.15.** We will then have a quick lunch stop in Happy Mount Park before setting off on a **3 mile** walk which goes behind Morecambe Golf Club, along the canal, finishing for a short while on the shore.

The attached photos are from last month's allotment walk some of which were easier to find than others. We saw where Arlene used to have an allotment with her husband and we also visited Canterbury Avenue allotments where I spent a lot of my early childhood as my dad had an allotment there. As we only managed to visit 5 on a rather damp day there will be a second allotment tour some time in the New Year. For further information please contact me on 07531285199.
Maureen Leach



Parish Office Clerical Assistant – maternity cover to commence on Tuesday 11th January 2022

We are seeking to employ a Clerical Assistant for 5 hours per week to cover a seven-month period of maternity leave in the first instance. There may be an extension to this time period. The hours will be worked from 9.30am-12 noon on Tuesday and Thursday's – hourly rate is £9.50 (Real Living Wage).

The position involves a number of administrative tasks for which you would need an excellent working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages. For further information or an application pack please contact Mrs Jayne Weatherill, Churchwarden OR Miss Sarah Green, Parish Business Manager, tel: 01524 843135 or email: lifeevents@stpauls-scotforth.org

Closing Date: Wednesday 15th December 2021 at mid-day.

Interview Date: Monday 20th December 2021

• **VICAR:** Rev Dr Rebecca Aechtner –

• Tel: 749693; Email: vicar@stpauls-scotforth.org

• Rest day is Friday – if you have an urgent enquiry then please contact a Churchwarden.

• **PIONEER MINISTER:** Rev Claire Cooke:

• Email: Claire@stpauls-scotforth.org

• Work days are Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday

• **WARDENS:**

• Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

• Tel: 60597; Email: sjayneweatherill@gmail.com

• Mr Tony Walker:

• Tel: 382397; Email: walkerar@hotmail.co.uk

• **PARISH OFFICE:** The office is open Monday – Friday from 9.30am – 12 noon.

• Tel: 01524 843135; Email: office@stpauls-scotforth.org

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

• Email: lifeevents@stpauls-scotforth.org

• **CHURCH WEBSITE:**

• <https://stpauls-scotforth.org>

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

• **INSTAGRAM:** @scotforthstpauls