



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



16th December 2021

Sunday Worship 19th December 2021

Fourth Sunday of 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

16:00 Christmas Carol Service at St Paul's Scotforth Road

7:30-8.30pm Reflective Prayer Group
at St Paul's Scotforth Road Tuesday 21st December

Morning Prayer by telephone conference each Wednesday – at 09.00.
Please contact Margaret Ives if you would like to join the telephone
conference.

09.15 Holy Communion at St Paul's Scotforth Road - Thursday

15:00 Christmas Eve Creative Crib Service at St Paul's, Hala (there is
a limit on numbers that can attend this service, please book a seat
by emailing Claire@stpauls-scotforth.org – thank you)



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

A message from Reverend Rebecca:

Our new banner is up outside of church advertising our Christmas services. It includes the Church of England's Advent and Christmas theme: 'At the heart of Christmas.' I wonder what lies 'at the heart of Christmas' for you?

You may expect me to say that Jesus is at the heart of Christmas, and of course this is true. There is no Christmas without 'Christ.' During Advent our Young Church has been learning about different characters from the nativity story, God's Big Story, but with an important twist. On the first Sunday of Advent, Kaarina and the kids made peg figures of themselves, so that they could include themselves in the story of Christmas.

This Advent and Christmas I want to encourage all of us to see ourselves as part of the God's story of love and saving grace. As children of God, we are invited to put ourselves into the heart of the Christmas story. Whatever you have been through since the start of the pandemic, God's love has not changed. Every expression of love and worship we share in the coming weeks reflects the love of God poured out for the world in Jesus Christ.

St Paul's Scotforth and Hala have stood as witnesses to God's love expressed through successive generations and we hope you will be able to join us over the coming weeks. Whoever you are, you are welcome to worship with us at Christmas and throughout the year. We have an interactive family-friendly Nativity Trail around the church grounds (see more in the Parish News), a Christmas Carol service on the 19th at 4pm, on Christmas Eve we have a Crib Service and

Christingle at 2pm and Holy Communion at 11:30pm,
followed by an 8am BCP and 10am Family Eucharist on
Christmas Day.

Whatever you place at the heart of Christmas this year, I pray
that you may know the light of Christ and the love of God.

A message from Kaarina:

Are you #TeamBelieve?

I have a love of Christmas jumpers: reindeer, fair isle, Pokemon, Star Wars, Santa, dancing turkeys... I love them all. There's something persistently jolly in them, which never fails to raise a smile from me. This year a certain high street shop really hit gold with their offering. Black jumpers with the word 'Believe' across the chest in bold lettering. When I first saw it, it stopped me in my tracks. What an amazing thought! Not 'Do you believe?' nor 'Wishing upon a star.' No mention of Santa, just the word – believe. Of course, I bought the jumper, and as I have quickly discovered, I am not alone. It's become somewhat of a zeitgeist for clergy Christmas jumpers this advent, trending across social media with the #TeamBelieve.

Believe? Believe. Believe!

It could be a question, or a statement, or an invitation, or an
acclamation.

It shares the good news of Jesus – Emmanuel – God with us.

It opens a doorway to conversation and to joy.

Believe!

Advent Creed

I believe in the promise of Christmas

And the importance of celebrating it in church.

I believe in the God at the centre of Christmas,

Whose hope for the world was imagined by the prophets.

I believe in Mary,

Who sang of turning the world upside down and who allowed her life to be disrupted by God.

I believe in Joseph,

Whose broken heart broke the rules to do the right thing.

I believe in the smell of the stable –

I believe there is no place where God will not go.

I believe in the shepherds,

Those ones open to hear the angels' song.

I believe in the Magi,

The ones outside the faith, outside the community who searched out the Holy.

I believe in Jesus,

Born in poverty, soon a refugee,

raised in faith, lived seeking justice,

died speaking forgiveness,

rose with a love that could not be stopped.

I commit to use this season to seek out the Holy, both in God among us, and in God beyond us.

I open myself to an Advent journey of great joy that will change my life.



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: Stodday

From our Church prayer diary: Parochial Church Council

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, Pirkko Leong,

We pray for the parents, godparents and family of: Esther Rose who is to be baptised this week

All who mourn: Mark William Satterley, Peter Hudson

Collect for 19th December 2021:

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings for 19th December 2021:

Micah 5.2-5a

² *But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,*
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

Luke 1.39-45

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a
Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with
a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the
fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that
the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard

the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be* a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Post Communion Prayer for 19th December 2021

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14 Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]

The Omicron Variant:

The Church of England has issued new guidelines for us to use to ensure that our services are as safe as practicable for all to attend. We have reviewed these and can confirm that the steps that we have in place - sanitising on entry, wearing of masks, ventilation, the one-way system, communion in one kind, singing wearing masks - are still appropriate for the uncertain situation we now face. In line with Government guidance please do consider taking a free NHS Lateral Flow Test (LFT) if you are feeling any Covid symptoms.

Within the Church we believe that everyone is known and loved individually by God and that as many members within one body we are called to be responsible to and for one another, respecting the more vulnerable whose suffering is our suffering (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Where we are now means we are being asked to take even more personal responsibility around coronavirus. If we all do this as a church family, we can enable as many as possible to join in worship.

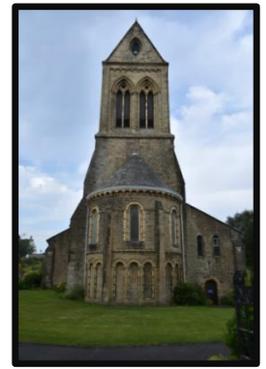
Our Holy Communion services at 08.00 on Sundays and 09.15 on Thursdays allow for plenty of space for social distancing. There is no singing at these services. We hope that if you are feeling vulnerable or nervous at this time you may feel that these services would be appropriate for you.

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.

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.



Advance notice of office closure:

The parish office will close at 12 noon on Thursday 23rd December and re-open again on Tuesday 4th January. The telephone and emails will be monitored for urgent communications during this time. The final edition of the Parish News will be produced and circulated on Thursday 23rd December and any items to be included for the remainder of the year should be sent to the Parish Office by 12 noon on Tuesday 21st. We would like to wish everyone in the Parish a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year and to thank you for all your support during the year.

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- **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: sjaynewweatherill@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
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Merry Christmas! Kristhu piranda nalvajthukal!
Wir wünschen Ihnen ein gutes und gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest.
Blessings of hope, peace, joy and love
from **Amali, Sundiya, Rev Rebecca and Rev Anderson**

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the gladness of Christmas
which is Hope, and the Heart of Christmas which is Love.
Jayne, Keith and Emily

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas
and healthy New Year. **Maureen and Stuart Leach**

I would like to wish Rebecca and her family and all my friends who come
to St Paul's Church a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
I would also like to remember at this special time a much loved husband
and son. Happy Christmas and Best Wishes to all.
Jean Nicholson

Glad tidings of Comfort and Joy to all at St Paul's this Christmas.
from **Margaret Ives**

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2022 to all my friends at St Paul's. Hoping that
we'll be able to meet safely some time in 2022.
A Parishioner



With Christmas Greetings to all at St Paul's.
with love from Judith Frost

Wishing everyone at St Paul's a happy and
healthy Christmas.
from **Phillip and Yvonne Simpson**





To all my friends at St Paul's and Hala, wishing you joy and peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year. from **Joan G.**

With love and best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all my friends. from **Gwen**

I wish everyone at St Paul's and Hala a joyous and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.
Anne Quainoo

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and joyful Christmas and New Year.
Richard and Tricia Impey

To wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year with good health.
Best wishes from **Jean J.**

Wishing everybody at St Paul's Church and the Hala Centre a very Happy Christmas and good health for 2022.
Sandra Makinson

A peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year to all.
Arton and Christine Medd

Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas.
from **Sue Croft**

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.
Brian and Judith Threlfall





CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S SCOTFORTH

This Christmas season we look forward to welcoming you to St Paul's Church, Scotforth. These services are in addition to our regular 8am and 9.45am services.

Sunday 19th December at 4pm -Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve:

Crib Service with Christingle at 2.00pm
Holy Communion at 11.30pm

Christmas Day:

Holy Communion (BCP) at 8am
Holy Communion at 10am

There will be no services on Sunday 26th December.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
EVERYONE AT ST PAUL'S
SCOTFORTH**

**At the heart
of Christmas**



Tel: 01524 843135

Email: office@stpauls-scotforth.org

Web: <https://stpauls-scotforth.org>



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.