



# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



27<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
**Sunday Worship 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022**  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

08:00 BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's Parish Hall

09:45 Holy Communion at St Paul's Parish Hall

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

16.00 Worship@4: Evening Prayer - BCP Service at St Paul's  
Scotforth Road

Thursday – 09:15 Holy Communion at St Paul's Parish Hall

**Morning Prayer** by telephone conference each Wednesday –  
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:



This Sunday we celebrate the Presentation of Christ, also called, 'Candlemas.' The lectionary readings are the same every year and mark the official end of the Christmas Season as we look towards Lent and the Cross. When Jesus was a just baby, his parents, Mary and Joseph, brought him to the Temple in Jerusalem to 'present' him to the Lord. While at the temple, the young family encounter Simeon and Anna who speak words of blessing over him and praised God because of him.

In Medieval times the Presentation was used as a festival of light when candles, wax, and bees were all blessed. Wax candles were incredibly precious and were the main source of light. Clergy would either go into the fields to bless the hives or sometimes the hives were brought into church for blessing - to encourage and thank the bees for wax. People brought their candles (mostly tallow) from home to be blessed. The natural Christmas decorations in church - holly, ivy, and greenery were taken down and ploughed back into the fields - as a blessing on the land. The church turns to face Lent and prepares for a penitential season of reflection.



On Sunday as we remember Simeon and Anna, we will also remember our baptismal promise to 'shine as a light in the world, to the glory of God the Father.'

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Our mission Partners:** For Stephen and Marit Impey's work with Wycliffe Bible Translators International.

**From our Parish prayer diary:** Newlands Road, Farmdale Road, Chequers Avenue

**From our Church prayer diary:** Rowallan Cub Pack (16<sup>th</sup> Lancaster)

**The residents and staff of Chirnside House as they live with a COVID outbreak amongst residents and staff.**

**Those who have asked for prayers for healing:** Mary Wilson, Eunice Parkinson, Marion Corkill, Katherine McHale, Maureen Thorpe, Jacqueline Gothard, Rev Rebecca, Val Gedge, Olive Jenkinson, Mollie Glover, Ruth Territt, Pirkko Leong, Reg Wollington, Mary Smith

**We pray for the parents, godparents and family of:**

**All who mourn:** Yesudian Jeremiah, Michael Pearson, Carol Ann Riding, Alan Smith

### **Collect for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022:**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
light of the nations and glory of Israel:  
make your home among us,  
and present us pure and holy  
to your heavenly Father,  
your God, and our God.

### **Readings for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022:**

#### **Malachi 3.1-5**

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a

refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.\* <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **Luke 2.22-40**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.'<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;\* this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.\* <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon\* came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon\* took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant\* in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon\* blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna\* the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived

with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child\* to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### **Post Communion Prayer for 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022:**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus  
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*Shared from the Lectionary app. Material subject to copyright. Please visit the About this App page for further information.*

### **Readings for next Sunday:**

Isaiah 6.1-8 [9-end]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Luke 5.1-11

### **Important Information about the Parish News:**

As we try to reduce our carbon footprint and costs, we are going to reproduce the readings to go into service booklets and not the full copy of the Parish News. The Parish News will be available in church for those who don't receive a copy electronically

### **Parish Office – important information:**

From Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January the office will only be 'open' on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9.30am until 12 noon. On Tuesday and Thursday we will monitor emails and phone calls and respond to anything that is urgent though this will, in the main, be carried out remotely. It is hoped that this will be a temporary amendment to our opening hours whilst we seek to appoint a temporary administrator.

## **A message from Dennis, Barbara and Elsie:**

The kind comments in the parish news came as quite a surprise to all three of us, but were very much appreciated. It has been our privilege to work with some wonderful people over many years and we value their friendship. For the future, we do hope that live organ music, lovely flowers, and support for the over 60s will always be a part of St Paul's in years to come. Thank you again.

*Dennis, Barbara, and Elsie*

## **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.



## **January anniversaries by Margaret Ives:**

In those Churches that celebrate Saints Days the life of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> January. Born in Antioch about 347 A.D. John was at one time Archbishop of Constantinople and an important figure in the early Church. He is honoured not only as a great teacher of the Christian faith through his numerous writings but also as a renowned and eloquent preacher. Hence his designation "Chrysostom" which means "Golden Mouth". One prayer attributed to him has made its way into the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England and is still used at Evensong and as part of the Litany.

January 27<sup>th</sup> is now also Holocaust Memorial Day to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by the advancing Soviet armies in 1945. It is a day when services and vigils are held in many places to remember all who perished in the Nazi concentration camps of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and in many other acts of genocide both before and since. There are few words spoken on such occasions. Even John Chrysostom would have been at a loss to find anything adequate to say when confronted with the evidence of such crimes against humanity.

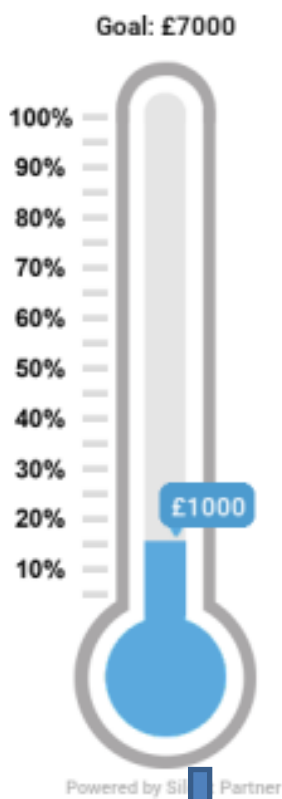
"The tongue "according to the Letter of James "is an intractable evil, charged with deadly venom. We use it to sing the praises of our Lord and Father, and we use it to invoke curses on our fellow-men who are made in God's likeness.....My brothers, this should not be so." (James 3, 8-9). This is a salutary reminder of the power of words to promote not only good, but also horrendous evil. Hitler was a great master of rhetoric who used his anti-





## Church Boiler Replacement:

If you would like to make a donation but don't have access to the internet to scan the QR code then you can send a cheque to the Parish Office, St Paul's Parish Hall, Scotforth Road, Lancaster, LA1 4TS – please write 'Heating 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 boiler replacement then please contact either Jayne or Tony via the Parish Office.



***It's slowly getting warmer!***

**Help us to offer a warm welcome at St Paul's**

*We need to raise £7000 to replace our church boiler which has stopped working. Most of our services are currently in the Parish Hall but we want our church to be a warm welcoming place for those special life events.*

You can make a donation online - please use the QR code or contact our Parish Office - telephone 843135 for details on how to make a donation. Thank 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.