



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



6th January 2022

Sunday Worship 9th January 2022

Epiphany 1 – Baptism of Christ

08:00 BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's Scotforth Road

09:45 Altogether All-Age Service to celebrate Epiphany at St Paul's Scotforth Road

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

16.00 Worship@4: Taizé Prayer Service at St Paul's Scotforth Road

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:

The 6th of January is 'Epiphany' the 'Epiphany of our Lord' and ends the 12 Days of Christmas. This Sunday we're marking Epiphany, the arrival of the wise men from the East. Matthew's gospel is the only one to include the Epiphany, and he doesn't number the wise men - only their three gifts, the material objects of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The worship of Jesus, which began with Mary and Joseph's devotion and the shepherds' awe, continues with the wise men. When the star stopped over where Jesus was with his family, Matthew describes these men as being 'overwhelmed with joy.'

So let us be inspired by the perseverance and joy of wise men and start 2022 expecting to find Jesus and to worship him in the year to come.



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: The isolated homes within the Parish. Aldcliffe Mews, Inverlune and Residences of the University.

From our Church prayer diary: All staff and governors at Scotforth St Paul's School.

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, Reg Wollington

All who mourn: Peter Hudson, David Hennedy, Yesudian Jeremiah, Kathleen Winder

Collect for 9th January 2022:

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted
children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 60. 1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2. 1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel"' ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and

search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage,'⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11;
John 2.1-11

Worship@4:

We start our new series of Sunday afternoon services this week. They will be at 4pm and last about 45 minutes.

The aim is to offer a range of worship styles with time for personal prayer and reflection. The pattern will be:

- First Sunday of each month: Holy Communion
- Second Sunday of each month: Taizé Prayer Service
- Third Sunday of each month: Evening Prayer
- Fourth Sunday of the month: Celtic Worship
- Fifth Sunday of the month : Evening Prayer (BCP)

This Sunday will be a Taizé Service. Please come along and join in our worship

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.

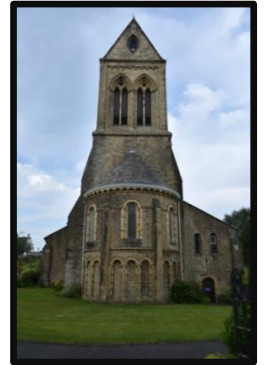
Our Holy Communion services at 08.00 on Sundays and 09.15 on Thursdays allow for plenty of space for social distancing. There is no singing at these services. We hope that if you are feeling vulnerable or nervous at this time you may feel that these services would be appropriate for you.



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.

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.



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.

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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: 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
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