



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



24th February 2022

Sunday Worship 27th February 2022

Sunday next before Lent

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

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

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

16.00 Worship@4: Celtic Worship

Wednesday 2nd March at 7pm – Ash Wednesday Service at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

Thursday – 09:15 Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Rd

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 Sunday before Lent is Church Action on Poverty Sunday and in our service we will give, act, and pray as part of the movement to end UK poverty. 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the charity Church Action on Poverty. Arton Medd has included two contributions to this edition of the Parish News on Fairtrade Fortnight and CAP.

The rise in energy bills, national insurance, inflation, and food prices is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. Our Hala Pantry food club is reaching out to our local community and also sharing food that otherwise would go to waste. This fantastic initiative has prompted many people to rethink food waste and helps people top up their weekly food shop for a small membership fee (see the Hala Pantry Facebook page for more details).

As we approach Lent once again, people have started talking about what they are planning on 'giving up.' This year, I want to challenge our community to 'take something up' instead. What if we made an effort to collect food items for the Olive Branch like we do during Harvest? Maybe during the 40 days of Lent we could commit to collecting one item each day for the Olive Branch; think of it as a reverse Advent calendar but in Lent instead. As part of our Easter celebrations we can ensure that people in our city have the dignity which comes with having enough food to eat.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2 March) and we will be holding a quiet and reflective service in St Paul's Scotforth at 7pm. Everyone is welcome and the imposition of ashes will be offered.

OUR PRAYERS

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

From our Parish prayer diary: Greenacre Court; Hala Hill

From our Church prayer diary: Church Musicians

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

All who mourn: Olive Jenkinson, Eric Timlin

Collect for 27th February 2022:

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings for 27th February 2022:

Exodus 34.29-end

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant* in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Luke 9.28-36

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus* took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men,

Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake,* they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,* one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen;* listen to him!' ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Post Communion Prayer:

Holy God,

we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:

may we who are partakers at his table

reflect his life in word and deed,

that all the world may know his power to change and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Psalm 91.1,2,9-end; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13



We would like to say a big thank you to Vikki and team for all their hard work in organising the Community Raffle to raise funds for the church boiler replacement. Also, our grateful thanks to all the local businesses who donated the wonderful

prizes and to our community for purchasing tickets. The total raised was an amazing £1030!

Some changes in church: Over the next week we will be removing some of the practices we have had in place over the last few months. We will still be asking everyone to hand sanitise when entering church, we will still recommend wearing a face mask, we will still operate a one-way system for receiving Communion (please continue to follow the direction of a Churchwarden when coming forward), we will still sing two hymns, doors will remain open to allow ventilation and we will wipe down pew ledges between services.

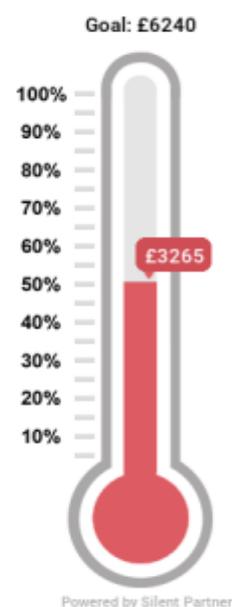
What will change?

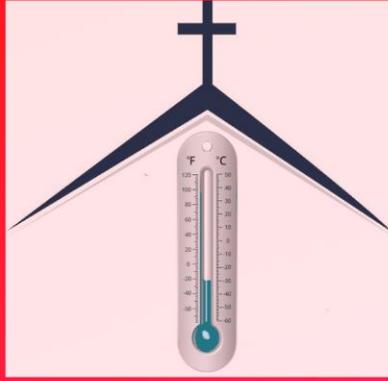
- You can enter and leave church through the main door;
- The collection plate and card machine will be by the front door for on the way in and way out;
- Hymn books and bibles will be back in the pews so you will only need to collect a service booklet and readings sheet;
- The pew runners will be returning and some kneelers;
- You will be able to visit the book exchange and purchase handmade cards again.

We will continue to review our practices over the next few weeks and will keep you notified of any further changes via the Parish News.

Church Boiler Replacement:

As many of you will be aware the church boiler has now been replaced and we have moved all our services back into the church. However, it is not too late if you would like to make a donation towards this unexpected cost. If you 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.





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.



Fairtrade Fortnight 21 February – 6 March (FT14) 'Choose the World You Want' by Arton Medd:



Two topics that are frequently in the news are climate change and levelling up and, though you may not know it, by choosing to buy Fairtrade goods you are making positive steps to affect both. All crops that go into Fairtrade products are grown in an environmentally friendly way with reference to pesticides and fertilisers and many are organically certified. We hear of rainforest depletion for mass production crops, but farmers who belong the Kuapa Kokoo Co-operative growing cocoa trees within the rainforests in Ghana and Sierra Leone also have to plant and maintain extra native forest trees within their small-holdings. By choosing Fairtrade you are helping to preserve that rainforest. Similarly in a different climate, the best coffee is grown high up in mountain areas under the shade of other trees, which is where Fairtrade coffees come from in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Peru.

But it is not just the environment that benefits as the award of a Fairtrade mark requires fair wages to be paid to all involved in the production line, be they farmers or process workers. It also means that the producers receive a Fairtrade premium which they can spend on healthcare, schools, clean water supplies or whatever they wish to benefit their communities - an example of a levelling up agenda actually happening and in which you can play a part.

Fairtrade goods are available in many supermarkets and other shops all year, including M&S, but in Fairtrade Fortnight there are both in-store and online offers. For example the Co-op's Fairtrade offers, until 8 March, include grapes, oranges and tomatoes, delicious Sauvignon Blanc wine, and many chocolate bars.

Divine Fairtrade chocolate (which uses Kuapa Kokoo cocoa and has lots of information inside the wrapper) has 25% off at Waitrose from 23 February to 22 March, and 20% off at Oxfam for the duration of Fairtrade Fortnight. To find out about all other available offers look up www.fairtrade.org

Looking beyond FT14, I am taking orders for Meaningful Chocolate Real Easter Eggs which come complete with an Easter story booklet for children. They are Fairtrade, have 35% cocoa (check that against the 20% - 25% of usual brands!), are palm-oil free and no plastic is used in the packaging. Cost £4.50. There are also white and dark chocolate eggs at £5.00. Contact me by email arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730, or sign up on the order form at the back of church by Sunday 7 March.

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.



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.

Winter Gardens by Maureen Leach:



The gardens are looking particularly good at the moment. There are several clusters of orange crocus dotted around, the snowdrops seem to have multiplied considerably, the miniature daffodils and primulas are just starting to come into flower and some of the Daphne are starting to flower along with the Witch Hazel and Elephant Ears (Bergenia). All of which makes quite an interesting winter garden to wander through.

It is also surprising how much work has been going on behind the scenes during these long cold winter months. Winnie has been successful in procuring a small grant from Making Spaces through the City Council. She has been put in touch with a retired landscape gardener who is helping to get more bulbs for the front of the church, some more roses for the rose garden as quite a few of them are past their sell by date as well as some feed of which we get through quite a lot.

Thanks to everyone's generosity 2000 bulbs have been planted and the crocus memorial garden is just about to come in to bloom. A plaque has been erected in memory of all those who have been affected by the pandemic. We still have another 1,000 to plant but that will have to be a job for later this year.

There is also a small plaque by the community herb garden on your right as you come out of the kitchen and you are welcome to help yourself to small amounts of fresh herbs.

The gardening team will be resuming work in April and to make their life easier we would like to put in a request for donations towards the green compost bins. We do now have 2 compost heaps but you would be surprised how quickly they can be filled and not everything we pull up is suitable for composting. All donations of any amount will be gratefully received and can be handed in at church, left at the Parish Hall Office or in the letter box in the porch entrance to the hall. Please mark your envelope 'compost bin'.

So why not call round and have a stroll through the gardens and see for yourselves what is growing.





If the CAP's fit wear both of them! by Arton Medd:

Did you see the films 'I, Daniel Blake' and 'Sorry we missed you'? The first film shows the problems of a man trying to apply for jobs and live on benefits, and the second is of a couple on minimum wage, one a delivery firm driver, the other a carer. Both films were directed by Ken Loach whose drama documentaries show up inequality and injustice in our society and challenge the government to change the rules. Do they have much to do with us?

The Food Club, which St Paul's runs from the Hala Centre on Friday nights, has some forty to fifty members using it each week. These are households living within a mile of the centre and their members cannot afford to feed themselves paying normal shop prices. It is a St Paul's response to an immediate need which provides some relief to those in poverty.

Food, most of which would otherwise go to waste, is provided for a nominal sum to help members make ends meet. Another frequent problem associated with poverty is debt and a high percentage of Christians Against Poverty clients in Lancaster live in the Hala area.

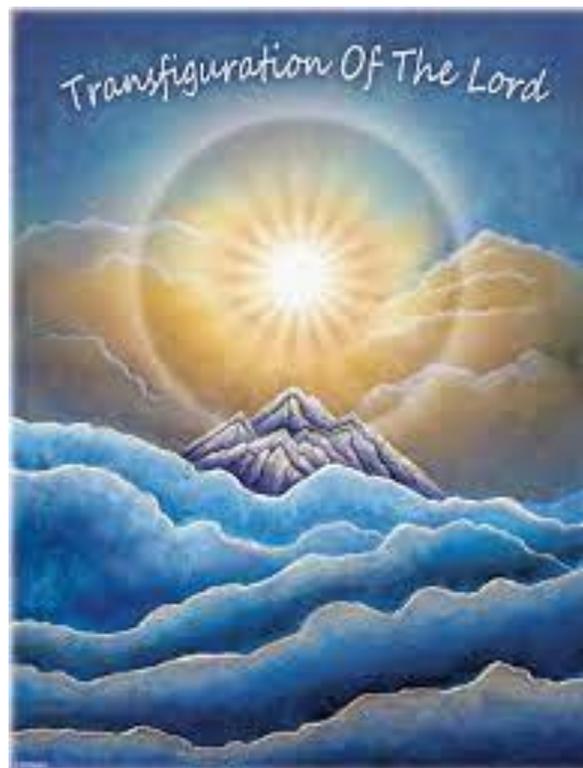
This CAP was set up by John Kirby in Bradford in 1996 and was prompted by his seeing people crippled by debt; parents who couldn't feed their children, families facing eviction and desperate people living in fear and without hope. CAP offers a lifeline to those trapped in debt.

It has spread across the country and its free services, run by local churches, provide individual, practical, and emotional support and show people that there is always hope.

Church Action on Poverty began in 1982 in Manchester and provides food clubs and immediate help for people in need, but it also aims to build a movement tackle the root causes of poverty in the UK. It campaigns in parliament and organises sessions from which films and publications are produced in which the people suffering from poverty tell their stories. These are designed to combat the popular media stories about 'benefits scroungers' and to bring dignity to people's lives. This CAP states, 'Everything we do aims to make UK society more just and compassionate, not just now but for the long term. It is right and vital that society helps those who are in great need now, but that alone is not enough. Our projects get to the underlying causes.

We campaign for change, amplify the voices of people who have experience of poverty, and work directly alongside communities.

Do you want to join in? You can get more information from Church Action on Poverty by phoning 0161 872 9294 or online www.church-poverty.org.uk. For Christian Against Poverty phone 01274 760720 or online www.capuk.org.



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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 to 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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