



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



17th March 2022

Sunday Worship 20th March 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

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

09:45 Altogether All Age Service of the Word at St Paul's,
Scotforth Road

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

16.00 Worship@4: Evening Prayer

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 Young Church:

Last week, Young Church looked at the Archbishops' Prayer for Ukraine and talked about the key ideas in it. The children had an amazing understanding about what is going on and great compassion for all the people caught in the war on both sides. One insight that came from many of them was that when everyone is arguing, we stop listening to each other, and then nothing can be solved.

We re-wrote the Prayer as a Prayer for Peace. The words are the children's own.

Young Church's Prayer for Peace

God our Father, we ask you to watch over what is happening in Ukraine and Russia.

We ask you to stop the fighting and arguing, and help people to listen to each other.

Please give everyone shelter and food.

Please help everyone who is scared.

Amen.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

From our Parish prayer diary: Dunkenshaw Crescent; Shireshead Crescent; Winmarleigh Road

From our Church prayer diary: Maclean Cub Pack (16th Lancaster)

We pray for the parents, godparents and family of: Elizabeth Rose, Thomas Robert and George William

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

All who mourn: Eric Timlin, Emma Wearing, Muriel Cresswell

Collect for 20th March 2022:

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

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.

Readings for 20th March 2022:

Isaiah 55.1-9

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13.1-9

13 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" ⁸ He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

Post Communion Prayer for 20th March:

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world,
the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for next Sunday:

Joshua 5.9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5.16-end; Luke 15.1-3, 11b-end

A message from Reverend Claire:

As you know, I have been here as an interim minister alongside Rev Rebecca in an exploratory post. With exploratory things, there is always the possibility that we may discover there is another way forward that is different to the one we envisioned at the start. This is one of those situations.

Here is a note from Archdeacon David Picken:

You will be aware that the Revd Claire Cooke has been serving as interim minister in the parish since January 2021. Claire has had a particular responsibility for ministry in Hala and we are grateful for what God has done through that ministry in the challenging time of pandemic. Claire will end her time in this role in the coming weeks. Your prayers for discernment as to how we develop ministry in the parish for the future would be valued.

We thank Claire and Jim for all they have given to the parish and assure them of our prayers as they move on to a new venture in due course.

As my time at St Paul's and in Hala is coming to a close, I would like to say thank you to Rev Rebecca, the wardens, the PCC and those who gather in Hala on Sundays for being open to trying new things. I am thrilled Hala Pantry is something that has been given a good start in this time and, with the support of Rev Rebecca, the wardens and the PCC, there is no reason that could not continue to flourish. I am committed to helping Rebecca Long, Rev Rebecca, the wardens and the PCC to put Hala Pantry in as sustainable a position as possible before I step fully away from that aspect of this role and responsibilities.

With regards to the worshipping community who gather at St Paul's Hala, Rev Rebecca and the wardens have been prayerfully considering what the next few steps forward are for that group.

I continue to pray for all at St Paul's and your witness of the faithfulness of Jesus in this parish. May God bless you as you continue in all you do.

Rev Claire

Services at Hala:

Sunday 20th March will be Rev Claire's last service at St Paul's Hala and we would all like to send her, Jim and the girls our very best wishes for the future. We would like to thank her for everything that she has done; especially in working alongside Rebecca Long in setting up Hala Pantry. This will be the last service at Hala for a few weeks until Easter Sunday when we celebrate with great joy the new life that comes through Jesus' resurrection.

We will be holding a Mothering Sunday service at St Paul's, Scotforth Road at 9.45am on 27th March which everyone is very welcome to attend.

On Easter Sunday, as we celebrate our new life through Jesus Christ, we will restart worship at St Paul's Hala at 11.15am. We are committed to St Paul's Hala and need to take a few weeks to regroup and plan worship provision.

Please hold Claire and her family in your thoughts and prayers in the coming weeks as they go through this period of change. We are also looking for new volunteers for Hala Pantry, so please pray about how you can help serve our local community.

Changes to the north-west corner in Church:

Over the last few weeks as arrangements in church have returned to more 'normal' we have made some minor changes around church. The introduction of the Prayer Weave in the North West Corner – previously known as the Children's Corner – has been welcomed and used.

We want to make some further changes in this area to continue providing an area for our Under 5's – putting down some wipeable mats, providing some

quiet, soft, washable toys in addition to the colouring table. It's important that children feel comfortable to be themselves and to find church a fun place to be.

With the approval of the PCC we have applied for a temporary faculty, (permission from the diocese), to remove up to 10 rows of pews down this side (organ side) for 12 months. Whilst the area would still be slightly raised, we could utilise it for many purposes, not least giving an area to put chairs and tables to offer refreshments after services when we reintroduce this. It could also be used as a small meeting area, extended play area or small worship area.

We have obtained costs to carry out this work which come to £4,000 and we have already received a generous anonymous donation of £1,000 towards the cost of the work and an offer to fund the storage of the pews should we wish to return them at the end of the temporary faculty – if the area isn't working for us. These costs also include replacing all the very worn red carpet tiles across the back of the church. We hope this will offer people a better first impression of our church and a warmer welcome. We will try out the new area for one year and make sure that all the work can be replaced if necessary.

Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions as to how we can best use the space. We are tasking Young Church to come up with a name for the area.

The PCC will be making their final decisions the first week in April so please talk to the Vicar or Wardens before this time if you have any comments or ideas.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING – Sunday 24th April at 4.45pm:

The **Annual meeting** is on Sunday 24th April at **4.45pm** at St Paul's Church – this will follow on from the Worship@4 service which you are very welcome to attend. Copies of the Annual Report and accounts will be available at the meeting, afterwards and on the Church website.



The Annual meeting **elects Churchwardens** for the coming year. We also **elect the Church Council**. We have four vacancies for a 3-year period and 2 for a 1-year period so if you are interested about the work of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and only want to give it a trial then maybe the 1-year period would be of interest to you. Please note that you have to be registered on the Electoral Roll for at least six months prior to the AGM to be eligible for election. If you are unsure whether you are on the Roll or would like to go on the Roll then please talk to a Warden.

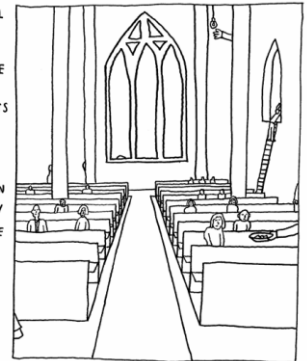
In addition, we **appoint Sidespeople** at the Annual meeting. Please could all existing sidespeople sign the lists today, or before the meeting, if you are happy to continue. *As the team is getting smaller we would also like to recruit new sidespeople; if you feel this is a role you would like to know more about please talk to the Wardens and ask for an application pack.*

SIDESPERSIONS

THESE ARE A SPECIAL CLASS OF PEOPLE WHO LURK UNSEEN DURING THE SERVICE BUT THEN SPRING FORTH AT MOMENTS OF LITURGICAL OR PRACTICAL NEED

SIDESPERSIONS OFTEN GO UNDETECTED BY THE UNTRAINED EYE

HOW MANY CAN YOU SPOT IN THIS PICTURE?



Worship@4:

This Sunday afternoon's Worship@4 will be a service of Evening Prayer. From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world. By the fourth century, if not earlier, morning and evening had emerged as the pre-eminent hours for the offering of this sacrifice of praise. Come along and take part in this privilege and duty which belongs to all God's people.

The World Day of Prayer by Pat Illingworth:

The World Day of Prayer, formerly The Women's Day of Prayer, was held on March 4th and Margaret and I represented St Paul's at the service in the comfortable surroundings of the Torrisholme Methodist Church. Normally set in faraway places this year the focus was on England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There is always background information on the chosen area. In our case the influence on our history of being islands so that our early colonisation was by sea and in turn we set out to explore and colonise other parts of the world. This accounts for our very mixed

culture and population, especially in the seaports of Britain. The service began with a passage from the Prophet Jeremiah in which he encourages the exiled in Babylon to settle and multiply. It moved on to confess the many mistakes we had made in our colonial past for which we should ask God's forgiveness, and urged us to make present day immigrants welcome.

I don't know how many churches took part in this service, but it was led by the Methodist minister and a member of the Salvation Army. I recognised other readers from the Morecambe U.R.C.

Congregations and St Mary's Catholic Church. All were clear and well-rehearsed so the service went smoothly, with an accomplished pianist and a group of three singers who helped lead the unfamiliar musical sections. Margaret and I both enjoyed the service. Next year the focus will be on Taiwan.



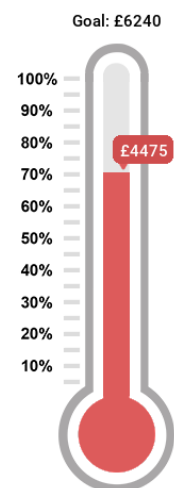
Help us to offer a warm welcome at St Paul's

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.

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 make your cheque payable to 'St Paul's Church, PCC' and 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.

Local Photograph Greetings Cards by Stephen Parkinson:

As you know St Paul's have been working to pay for the replacement of the boiler and the church community have been working together to raise funds. I was racking my brains as to how I

could help and thought of an idea to get involved. I enjoy photography, especially of our local area and have recently started selling some of my work, most recently at Lancaster Christmas Market. I have a selection of greeting cards which capture some of my favourite images of Lancaster and Morecambe which will be available to buy at the back of church. All funds raised will go towards the boiler fund.

Book News from Margaret Ives:

It was good to see Julian Frost's poem about the crocuses in last week's Newsletter. Julian sadly died in 2018 while still working on a new collection of poems about the parables of Jesus. Although originally intended as a Lent book for a small house group, these poems and reflections can be read at any time in the church year and are now available under the title HE TAUGHT IN PARABLES, obtainable from me (price £3.50) . I will bring some copies along for sale after the 9.45am service on Sundays in aid of church funds.

Praying for our Planet:

Our Hope In Our Hands group are holding a short prayer service on Thursday 24th March at 14.30 in church. We will be praying for those affected by climate change and for action by those who have the means to make the necessary changes to protect our planet. Please join us to pray.

Parish Walk:

The next walk be another flower walk with hopefully a few surprises on **Sunday March 20**. It will be about 4 miles in length but please bring your bus pass. We will meet at the back of church at 12.15 for a picnic lunch Contact Maureen Leach on 07531285199 for further info.

Appeal for donations towards the cost of Green

Waste Recycling Bins: The gardening team will be resuming work in April and to make their life easier we would like to ask you to consider making a donation towards the cost of 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.



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.

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: lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org

CHURCH WEBSITE:

<https://stpauls-scotforth.org>

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

INSTAGRAM: @scotforthstpauls

PASTORAL CARE TEAM: Our Clergy and Pastoral Care Team are here to listen and to pray. You can contact them by either emailing pastoral@stpauls-scotforth.org or telephoning Irene on 64701.



God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those
who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those
with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that
you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.