



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



24th March 2022

Sunday Worship 27th March 2022

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

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

11:15 – the next service at St Paul's Hala will be on Easter
Sunday, 17th April.

16.00 Worship@4: Celtic Worship

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:

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday when we celebrate those who mothered us and the churches that have nurtured us. Two years ago our church buildings were closed for public worship on Mothering Sunday as we entered the first national lockdown.



Everyone is invited to share in our services on Sunday; at the 9.45am Eucharist our Young Church will engage in meaningful crafts and activities and help the rest of congregation to think about growing and nurturing using sunflowers.

I want to share a poem adapted by a friend of mine which captures the mixed emotions surrounding Mothering Sunday.

To those who gave birth this year —we celebrate with you and welcome your child.

To those who buried a child this year, or any year, – we mourn with you, knowing this is a grief that never ends.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains...and worse – we appreciate you, don't give up, no matter how hard it gets.

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—we see you, and we will not turn away.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment – we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

To those who are foster mums, mentor mums, and spiritual mums – we need you, thank you for what you give.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you. To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children – we sit with you.

To those whose mother died this year – we grieve with you and walk with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your mother – we acknowledge your experience and your scars, we believe you.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood – we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – we grieve and rejoice with you.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising – we anticipate with you

This Mothering Sunday, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember each one of you and we thank God for you.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

From our Parish prayer diary: Gressingham Drive, Gressingham Walk

From our Church prayer diary: All those in Lay Ministry

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: Emma Wearing, Muriel Cresswell

Collect for 27th March 2022:

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All Amen*

Readings for 27th March 2022:

Exodus 2.1-10

Introduction to the reading:

***Moses' mother entrusts her child to Pharaoh's daughter;
Pharaoh's daughter recognises her responsibility to mother a
child in need.***

2Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was s a fine baby, she hid him for three months. ³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of the Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' ⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

John 19.25b-27

Introduction to the reading:

In pain, facing death, Jesus entrusts his mother and his friend to each other, in their desolation and bereavement, to mother each other and his disciples.

²⁵Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Prayer After Communion:

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for next Sunday:

Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

Worship@4

On Sunday at 4pm we will hold a Celtic Prayer Service using words and songs from the Iona Community.

The Celtic tradition of Christianity holds a deep reverence for the natural world and God our Creator; for humanity and Christ our Brother; for the rhythms of our daily lives and the Holy Spirit who breathes through them.

Our intention during this time is to still our hearts and be attentive to God. A pattern of words and responses, readings and silences will help to draw us into an awareness of God's presence.

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.

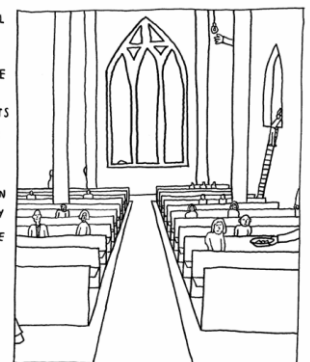
In addition, we **appoint Sidespeople** at the Annual meeting. Please could all existing sidespeople sign the lists today, or before the meeting, if you are happy to continue. *As the team is getting smaller we would also like to recruit new sidespeople; if you feel this is a role you would like to know 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?



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

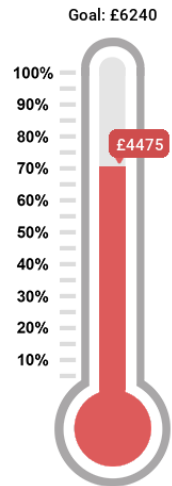


Help us to offer a warm welcome at St Paul's
 We need to raise £7000 to replace our church boiler which has stopped working. Most of our services are currently in the Parish Hall but we want our church to be a warm welcoming place for those special life events

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, 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.



The Two Mothers: *Poem supplied by Michelle Gahan*

*Long time ago, so I have been told,
 Two angels once met on streets paved with gold.
 "By the stars in your crown," said the one to the other
 "I see that on earth, you too, were a mother.*

*And by, the blue-tinted halo you wear
 "You, too, have known sorrow and deepest despair..."
 "Ah yes," she replied, "I once had a son,
 A sweet little lad, full of laughter and fun."*

*“But tell of your child.” “Oh, I knew I was blessed
From the moment I first held him close to my breast,
And my heart almost burst with the joy of that day.”
“Ah, yes,” said the other, “I felt the same way.”*

*The former continued: “The first steps he took-
So eager and breathless; the sweet startled look
Which came over his face – he trusted me so.”
“Ah, yes,” said the other, “How well do I know”*

*“But soon he had grown to a tall handsome boy,
So stalwart and kind – and it gave me so much joy
To have him just walk down the street by my side”
“Ah yes, “said the other mother,
“I felt the same pride.”*

*“How often I shielded and spared him from pain
And when he for others was so cruelly slain.
When they crucified him – and they spat in his face
How gladly would I have hung there in his place!”*

*A moment of silence – “Oh then you are she –
The mother of Christ”; and she fell on one knee.
But the Blessed one raised her up, drawing her near,
And kissed from the cheek of the woman, a tear.*

*“Tell me the name of the son you love so,
That I may share with your grief and your woe.”
She lifted her eyes, looking straight at the other,
“He was Judas Iscariot: I am his mother.”*

Author Unknown

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.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SCOTFORTH

*Everyone is welcome to join
us for crafts and activities
as we learn about the*

Easter Story

15th April 2022

2PM

ST PAUL'S PARISH HALL,
SCOTFORTH ROAD,
LANCASTER, LA1 4TS



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.

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

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.