



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



3rd March 2022
Sunday Worship 6th March 2022
First 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: Holy Communion

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:

These words are traditionally spoken while the sign of a cross is made from ashes on Ash Wednesday. These words have new resonance this week, as we watch the invasion of Ukraine unfolding to our shock and horror.

Dust is the essence of matter. Dust was there at our beginning: 'the Lord form man from the dust of the ground' Genesis tells us. And dust will be at our ending.

After a global pandemic and a new war, both of which seemed unfathomable years ago, we need no reminder of the frailty of our bodies and the frailty of peace. Right now, more than ever, we need Ash Wednesday and the 40-day journey of Lent to reflect and to pray. Lent is a time to say sorry for our sins and to lament the world's sin. Watching the images from Ukraine, hearing stories of food poverty, inflation, and soaring energy costs may cause us to despair. But this Lent, I challenge us to remember that Christ *has* come and Christ *will* come again. All the power of the world, all the weapons of war, and all the egos of warmongers, will one day fall to dust.

Rather than feeling hopeless and helpless at the violence and need around us, or even in ourselves, this Lent I urge us to take action through prayer and acts of service. You may have noticed the prayer weave hanging in church. Everyone is invited to write prayers from home or use the paper provided so that we can be a community praying for one another, ourselves, and the world. These prayers will be collected and used in some of our Thursday 9.15am Communion Services. Our Sunday evening Worship@4 services are also a good time to be quiet and to reflect this Lent. We have a wide range of service styles including Taize, Evening Prayer (both BCP and Common Worship), Celtic, Iona and Eucharists. Everyone is welcome to come and be still in the

St Paul's Church,
Scotforth



**Please pray
for:**

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.

presence of God and each other. This Sunday we will have an Iona style communion service at 4pm.

During Lent, I also want to focus on the food poverty and those who go without. We can collect items for the Olive Branch (see list below), so that as part of Easter celebrations we can ensure that people in our city have the dignity which comes with having enough food to eat. We're also looking for new volunteers for the St Paul's Hala Pantry, a food club that runs every Friday, reaching out to our local community by sharing surplus food that otherwise would go to waste.

As we enter Lent, may we walk towards the cross and the joy of Easter. Let us encourage one another in prayer and in serving each other.

'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.'

Amen.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

From our Parish prayer diary: Bentham Road, Bay Horse Drive

From our Church prayer diary: All who contribute to the life of the Parish Hall

We pray for the parents, godparents and family of: Maisey Jayne and Lawrence Scott who are to be baptised this week

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

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

Collect for 6th March 2022:

Almighty God,

whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:

give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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 6th March 2022:

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High •
 and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my stronghold, •
 my God, in whom I put my trust.’
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge •
 and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, •
 neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, •
 to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, •
 lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; •
 the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me,
 therefore will I deliver them; •
 I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; •
 I am with them in trouble,
 I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them •
 and show them my salvation.

Romans 10.8b-13

⁸But what does it say?

‘The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart'
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because* if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Post Communion Prayer for 6th March:

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your
mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-end

Worship@4:

When we started our new Sunday afternoon services there was no heating in church - so we shivered. Now we can offer warm worship! So please do come along and try out the different styles of worship on offer. The services last between 30 and 40 minutes and are an opportunity for quiet and peaceful worship. This Sunday will be an Iona Communion service and next Sunday a Taizé service.



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

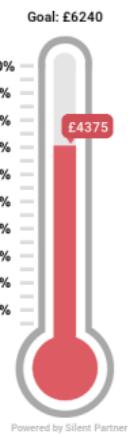
We need to raise £7000 to replace our church boiler which has stopped working. Most of our services are currently in the Parish Hall but we want our church to be a warm welcoming place for those special life events.

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 –



Powered by Silent Partner

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.

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.



Fairtrade Easter Eggs – last chance to order:

Meaningful Milk Chocolate Real Easter Eggs are the only ones in the UK 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 this Sunday 7 March.

While on the subject of chocolate, please don't give it up for Lent and thereby deprive the cocoa farmers of six weeks (almost 12%) of their annual income. You could make sure in Lent that it is all Fairtrade – and then keep up the habit!

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday 4th March:

The theme for this year is “I know the plans I have for you” and there are two services being held locally:

Torrisholme Methodist Church at 1.30pm and
Galgate Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

Alternatively you can find information about online streamed services at <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Vision 2026 Discussion at the PCC by Jim Currin:

The February meeting of the church council included an extended discussion about the Vision 2026 process from the Diocese of Blackburn, of which we are part. Across Lancashire churches are considering how to be ‘Healthy Churches Transforming Communities’.

Our own discussion was based on a new video from the Archdeacon Mark Ireland, who likened a healthy church to a healthy tree. You can find the video on the Vision 2026 area of the website for ‘Diocese of Blackburn’ and see that he posed various questions for local churches like ours.

The main question was, 'In what ways does a healthy tree help us to think about a healthy church?' followed by 6 suggestions and further questions:

- 1) Deep roots. How deep are our roots? Our own discussion included lots of comments about the long history of the church in the Scotforth community, especially with the schools, and also regarding our personal relationship with God. We asked, 'how can we deepen our roots of faith with prayer, worship, study etc as we follow Jesus?'
- 2) Growing. Trees change with the seasons and mature to keep alive. In our church we have seen new people attending worship, especially families and young people, as well as change in the form of worship when it had to be in church hall. There has also been a significant change in the pattern of evening services. Growth is about understanding as well as numbers.
- 3) Good fruit. A good tree produces good fruit, and our church has just started a Food Club on Hala, while one member of the congregation is writing a Lent resource of the spiritual 'Fruits of the Spirit'. We discussed how we can encourage each other in Christian discipleship and learning, perhaps in groups, to produce more fruit for God's kingdom.
- 4) Good for the environment. As well as being a church with a concern for the natural environment, we also serve our local environment of the Scotforth community, through our worship, activities in the halls, and especially our school which has a direct influence on hundreds of children. We discussed how we might strengthen these links.
- 5) Needs pruning. Jesus speaks of this in John 15 about the Vine and the Branches. We discussed how pruning is disturbing but necessary, and some has been forced on us as a church because of the pandemic when some activities have closed. We are growing again though, especially through young people, our variety of worship services, Hala Food Club, and inspirational fundraising for the church boiler!
- 6) New saplings. Archdeacon Mark asked, 'when was the last time your church started new work?' As well as the examples already

quoted above, we discussed how the Christmas Church Trail in the church yard went well and how a new men's discussion group is being planned. It is also soon hoped to have new space created in church for meeting socially, small group activities, including refreshments.

Rev Rebecca encouraged further reflection on how healthy is our church and how we aim to transform our local community, concluding that we need ourselves to be rooted in Christ and the church rooted in the community.

On the video, Archdeacon Mark leads us in prayer: *Lord Jesus, you used trees to teach us about growth in your kingdom. We thank you for our local church. We bless you for those who planted it and all those who have come to know you through its witness. We ask you to help it grow in the years ahead. Like a healthy tree, may our parish church be deeply rooted, grow steadily, bear good fruit, breath life in to its surroundings, and produce saplings that will carry your love to future generations. Amen.*

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: 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.



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.



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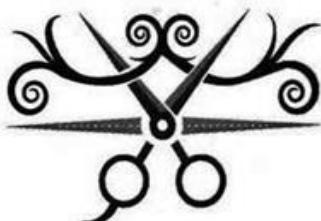
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Blessed are the
Peacemakers
for they will be called
children of God. **Matthew 5:9**

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.