



# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



**22nd December 2022**

**Christmas Eve – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

2:00pm – Crib Service with Christingle

7:30pm – Holy Communion

**Christmas Day – 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

8:00 am - BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

10:00 am – Holy Communion, St Paul's, Scotforth Road

Wednesday – Morning Prayer hopes to resume on 4<sup>th</sup> January

*There will be no services on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December or Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.*



**Merry Christmas from everyone at  
St Paul's Scotforth**



*Worshipping God,  
Growing in Faith,  
Serving the Community.*

### **Message from Rev Rebecca:**

Merry Christmas! This year has felt more like a 'normal' Christmas full of parish community spirit and the presence of God's Spirit among us in worship and gatherings. Our Artisan Christmas Fayre, Advent and Christmas carol services, St Paul's Hala Pantry, and approaching Christmas Eve and Day services are a source of joy as we prepare to welcome Jesus once again together.

Last year at this time Sundiya was very unwell with Covid and Anderson's father in India died unexpectedly. A year later and as a family we give thanks for my ever-improving (albeit slow) recovery from Long Covid and the fact that we can travel to India after Christmas to pay our respects. In Indian culture, the first death anniversary is as important as the funeral itself with special services and prayers. The girls and I are relieved that we can travel as a family to support Anderson and his extended family in grief and thanksgiving. This means that we will be away until the middle of January so I would like to thank the St Paul's Scotforth and Hala ministry team for giving me the freedom to go.

As we once again hear the Christmas story at our 2pm Christingle and Crib service, 7:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist and the 8am BCP and 10am Family Christmas Day Eucharists, let us search and find Jesus in the most unexpected people and places, in each one of us.

I leave you with the challenging and unsettling poem 'Refugee' by Malcolm Guite, which King Charles has asked to be read at the Royal Carol Service:

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,  
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,  
But he is with a million displaced people  
On the long road of weariness and want.  
For even as we sing our final carol  
His family is up and on that road,  
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,  
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.  
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower  
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,  
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,  
And death squads spread their curse across the world.  
But every Herod dies, and comes alone  
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

## **FOR OUR PRAYERS**

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

**From our Church prayer diary:** All Churches in Lancaster proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in our city

**Those who have asked for prayers for healing:** Mary Wilson, Eunice Parkinson, Marion Corkill, Reg Wollington, Mary Smith, Dorothy Camm, Denis and Barbara Beetham, Lee Phillips, Denis Thorpe, Joan Guenault, John Harding, Marit Impey

**All who mourn:** Frank Ellison, Peter Clarke, Malcolm Humpage, William Mark (Billy) Airey, Barbara Booth, Ivy Oversby-Davies

### **Collect for 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022:**

#### **Isaiah 9.2-7**

<sup>2</sup> \*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### **Luke 2.1-14 [15-20]**

<sup>2</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.  
<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

<sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah,\* the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,\* praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!']\* [

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

### **Post Communion Prayer for 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever.

### **Collect for 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022:**

Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
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 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022:**

### **Isaiah 52.7-10**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

### **John 1.1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life,\* and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.\*

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own,\* and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of

God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,\* full of grace and truth.

### **Post Communion Prayer for 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022:**

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in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever.

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### **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 letter box.

# St Paul's Church, Scotforth

## Crib and Christingle Service

Saturday 24th  
December  
2.00pm



Don't forget to visit the Nativity Trail in the Church grounds

### Artisan Christmas Fayre:



We would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who assisted in the planning and preparation, setting up and clearing away on the day and to everyone who attended our recent Artisan Fayre. With special thanks to Jen, Vikki and Mandi for their organisational skills. A magnificent

£1292 was raised for church funds on the day. It was wonderful to see so many people in the Parish Hall enjoying the stalls, refreshments and singing.

## St Paul's Hala Pantry Food Club

Service at Hala Pantry food club was a little different last Friday because as well as distributing food we also gave out Christmas parcels for the children and grandchildren of our club members. Our grateful thanks go out to Vikki Pattinson who organised and brought together all the gifts - which were



allocated according to each child's wishes. Very many thanks also to those who donated toys, selection boxes and wrapping paper.



It was a busy evening, and the atmosphere was lovely with all the children who visited along with their parents, grandparents and carers. The 'adopt a teddy' table was fun for all!

Thank you so much to the pupil from St Paul's Scotforth school who donated the teddies.

Two quotes from the evening. *"You don't know what this means to our family."* *"We couldn't afford to buy anything this year and were worried as it is the first year [our child] will understand Christmas. This has changed everything for them as they will be able to have presents to open."*

Special thanks to Rebecca Long, and the volunteers and drivers who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to bring Hala Pantry food club to our local community each and every Friday.

*Kate Webster*

## **Nativity Trail in St Paul's Church Garden:**

Our Nativity Trail, featuring Shalom the Star, is now in our church garden. Follow the Star Trail as Shalom retells the Christmas story. The trail has 9 stations and takes you on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and features key figures from the Nativity to meet along the way.



## Extra Christmas Greetings:

Mary Smith would like to wish the Parish Community of St Paul's a very Happy Christmas.

Michelle, David and Michael Gahan would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## John Newton's Hymn 'Amazing Grace' 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023:

John Newton was born in 1725. His mother, who died when he was seven, was a Christian; his father was a strict sea-captain. John was ill-treated at home and at school and when he was eleven his father took him to sea. As a teenager he was press ganged onto a Naval ship. He turned against his early Christian upbringing and became an ardent atheist.

After deserting from the Royal Navy he was publicly stripped and flogged, then put on a slave trading ship where he treated the slaves with brutality. In West Africa, the tables were turned and he was chained and starved in solitary confinement by some of the slaves. He later wrote, 'I chose the ways of transgressors..... led to slavery, contempt, famine and despair.'

In 1748, on the journey across the Atlantic back to England, there was a violent storm when it was feared the ship would sink. He began to pray and later wrote, 'I needed an Almighty Saviour to step in. Jesus on the Cross met my need. This was the hour I first believed.'

He was eventually ordained to preach the Gospel which he had once tried to destroy.

On New Year's day 1773, Newton preached from 1 Chronicles Chapter 17 verses 16, 17. He wrote, 'these verses lead us to a consideration of past mercies and future hopes .....when we contemplate what the Lord has done for us.' That same day he wrote the words of what is now a well-loved hymn 'Amazing grace'.

Perhaps on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, 250 years later, we could all read afresh the words of this famous hymn, contemplating our own past mercies and future hopes.

*Christine Medd*

## Office Closure:

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We will re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Emails and the phone will be monitored for urgent messages.

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• **VICAR:** Rev Dr Rebecca Aechtner –

• Tel: 749693; Email: [vicar@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:vicar@stpauls-scotforth.org)

• *Rest day is Friday – if you have an urgent enquiry then please contact a*  
• *Churchwarden.*

• **CHURCHWARDEN:**

• Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

• Tel: 60597 or 07986993007; Email: [sjayneweatherill@gmail.com](mailto:sjayneweatherill@gmail.com)

• **PARISH OFFICE:** The office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. We  
• will reopen on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

• Tel: 01524 843135; Email: [office@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:office@stpauls-scotforth.org)

• **BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS:** Booking enquiries - please contact Jayne Weatherill  
• through the parish office or Email: [lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org)

• **CHURCH WEBSITE & HOW TO HIRE OUR ROOMS:**

• <https://stpauls-scotforth.org> then visit the Hiring our Spaces area at the top of the page.

• **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](mailto:pastoral@stpauls-scotforth.org)  
• or telephoning Irene on Tel: 64701.

• **Scotforth School:** Headteacher – Mrs Katie Walsh – Tel: 01524 65379

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