



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



2nd March 2023

Sunday Worship – 5th March 2023
Second Sunday of Lent

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

9:45am – Holy Communion, St Paul's, Scotforth Road

11:15am – Service of the Word at St Paul's, Hala

Wednesday at 9:15am – Morning Prayer

Please contact Margaret Ives if you would like to join the telephone conference

Thursday at 9:15am - Holy Communion at St Paul's,
Scotforth Road



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

Message from Reverend Rebecca:

Giving Sunday

'Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all[...] For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.' (1 Chronicles 10. 11, 14b)

I believe that Christian giving should be understood as gift-giving, modelled after the generous gifts of love, grace, and salvation we receive from God. Generosity is a foundation of Christian living because God calls us to be generous with our talents, time, and our money.

This Lent we are invited to examine how we treat our resources, whether we see them as our own possessions to do with what we will, or whether we share what we have with others because of our faith. When we give generously, we profess our belief that everything in heaven and earth belongs to God as quoted in 1 Chronicles.

Over the next few weeks, we will be launching a Regular Giving Campaign, asking people to support financially the ministry and mission of St Paul's Church in Scotforth and Hala. Regular, committed giving allows us to budget and plan for the good work that God is doing in our parish.

In giving to St Paul's, we share in the responsibility of being the living Body of Christ in our parish. Committed, generous giving enables us all to share the love of God through our buildings, beautiful grounds, worship, and acts of service.

This year we face a substantial financial deficit compounded by the current economic climate and uncertainty about the future. Unfortunately, this situation cannot go on indefinitely and requires a time of serious consideration, prayer and giving from all of us.

I am asking everyone who views St Paul's as 'their' church to spend time in prayer and then to give generously to the work of the church.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Finance Group, comprised of Mervyn Bonnett, Brian Threlfall, Jayne Weatherill, Arton Medd, Jennifer Couchman and Jon Humfrey, who took a good hard look at our dwindling church finances and came up with an ambitious plan to lead us into financial stability.

This is a critical time for us as a parish as we seek to move forward in these matters, being faithful to what God has entrusted to us and working together to maintain a Christian presence in our communities now and in the future.

You may notice that we have turned off the spotlights illuminating our church during Lent. What happens if we are no longer able to sustain our ministry and be a beacon of God's love in our parish? What would happen if we could not serve our local community? Would we be missed?

Everyone is invited to come to church for Giving Sunday when we will give thanks for past giving and pray for God's further provision through you. It will also be an opportunity for you to meet our new Assistant Priest, Rev Catherine, and to stay for refreshments after the 9.45am service at Scotforth and 11.15am service at Hala.

Yours in Christ,
Reverend Rebecca

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

Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Mary Wilson, Eunice Parkinson, Reg Wollington, Mary Smith, Dorothy Camm, Lee Phillips, Denis Thorpe, Joan Guenault, John Harding

All who mourn: Marian Corkill, Jennifer Mary Clucas Kilshaw.

Parish Diary for the coming week:

Date & Time	Name of Event
Mondays during Lent. Lent Discussion Groups:	11am at the Hala Centre – group led by Jim Currin 7.15pm at 22 Hala Grove – group led by Richard and Tricia Impey – tel: 36617 7.30pm meeting on Zoom – contact Hugh Kidd at hugh@phoncoop.coop
Tuesdays during Lent. Lent Discussion Group	10am at 65 Winchester Avenue – group led by Christine and Arton Medd – tel: 64730
Monday 6 th March at 2pm	Tea@2 in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 7 th March at 7pm	PCC Meeting in the Parish Hall

Collect for 5th March 2023:

Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Pour into our hearts the spirit of your own abundant generosity, that we may be glad to share with others what we ourselves have so richly received to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Readings for 5th March 2023:

1 Chronicles 29.10-19

¹⁰ Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: 'Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, for ever and ever. ¹¹Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ¹²Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴ 'But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷I know, my God, that you search the heart, and take pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. ¹⁸O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep for ever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts towards you. ¹⁹Grant to my son Solomon that with single mind he may keep your commandments, your decrees, and your statutes, performing all of them, and that he may build the temple for which I have made provision.'

Luke 14.27-33

²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, "This

fellow began to build and was not able to finish.”³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Post Communion Prayer for 5th March 2023

Almighty God,

you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:

keep us both outwardly in our bodies,

and inwardly in our souls;

that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body,

and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42



Tea@2 – Monday 6th March at 2pm

Please come along and join us for good company, refreshments, dominoes, jigsaws, scrabble. We look forward to welcoming you to the Parish Hall.

CAP Money Budgeting Course Starting 2nd March, Lancaster:

The FREE CAP Money budgeting course is for ANYONE who would like to have more control over their finances.

Three friendly, informal sessions include pointers for setting your budget and making it balance, tips to save money £££, and provides a fantastic free online tool that does all the adding up for you, empowering you to stay in

control, and out of debt for a secure financial future. This course will run alongside the WARM SPACE Café at Kings Community Church.

VENUE: [King's Community Church](#)

Phoenix Street, Lancaster, LA1 1DD (behind Currys PC World)

Session 1: Thursday March 2nd, 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Session 2: Thursday March 9th, 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Session 3: Thursday March 16th, 1.30pm - 3.00pm **

** we note that schools will be closed for a strike on the 16th, so we may postpone until the following week.

SIGN UP ONLINE NOW:

<https://capmoney.org/.../joinaco.../63ea744936cec4f34c0cda02>

OR EMAIL our office: lmdebtcentre@gmail.com

(MORE DATES ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR DIARY:

Do send our administrator, Amanda an email if you have any queries)

Women's Fellowship:

Women's Fellowship will meet on the 13th March when Mike Winstanley will be telling us about - Markets to Supermarkets - and beyond, 200years of shopping in Lancaster. All are welcome.

Jean Mount

The Olive Branch – update:

We're in the process of moving foodbank stock to our new premises on the White Cross Estate and will be **closed on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March.**

From Wednesday 8th we would love to see you at White Cross when you deliver donations!

Please call **01524 555715** before coming, so that we can expect you and direct you to the right place on White Cross.

Thank you for your continued support through prayer and giving, as we start this wonderful new part of our journey.

Linda Currin



Lent reading: how is it going?

To accompany the booklet, 'That you may know the truth', I thought I'd presume to write a regular piece each week in Lent and ask, 'how is it going?'

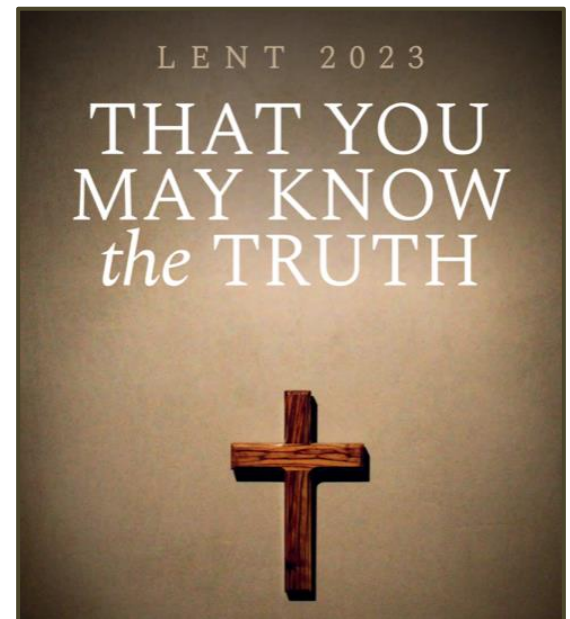
Lots of you have accepted the invitation to take the free resource, and read a portion of Luke's Gospel and a reflection each day for 6 weeks. Great!

We are journeying with Jesus, and have begun in the first week with the events around his birth. We have been reading about the amazing encounters ordinary people had with God. Simeon, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, Anna, John etc. They had life changing experiences, often dramatic, unexpected, and in unusual places. Amazing. So far it has all been preparation for Jesus and his public ministry, so all his teaching and miracles are yet to come. Certainly, there is a lot to read and take in. How has it been for you? What have you learnt? Have you seen something fresh? If you have not got your copy of the booklet, there are still spares at the back of St Paul's and Hala - you don't have to start from the beginning.

The parish groups have begun, and there is an open invitation each week for anyone to attend - come on the days you can manage. Finally, the diocese has a PDF version and daily emails if you prefer to read online - search 'Diocese of Blackburn/Seasonal Resources' to find out more.

May you have your own encounter with God as you read the Gospel of Luke, and the daily reflections in the book.

Jim Currin (Jim.currin@me.com)



This week I was visiting a catholic church near Lancaster to look at their crocus and snowdrop display when I came across this interesting notice in the porch:



“Before Mass talk to God
During Mass listen to God
After Mass talk to other people”

Maureen Leach

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.



A promotional poster for an 'Afternoon Fair' organized by St Paul's Church Women's Fellowship. The poster features a blue diagonal banner at the top with the text 'ST PAUL'S CHURCH WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP'. Below this is an illustration of a white coffee cup with a latte and a biscuit on a saucer. The main title 'Afternoon Fair' is in large blue letters, followed by the date 'SAT 18th MARCH 2023' in red. The time '2pm to 4pm' is in blue, and the location 'In the Parish Hall' is in red. An illustration of a tiered stand with several cakes is on the left. Below this, it says 'Various stalls—Raffle—Cakes etc.' in blue. At the bottom, it states 'Price £1.00 including drinks and a biscuit'. The Galloways logo is at the bottom left and right, with a central box saying 'All proceeds to'.

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.

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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.*

• **ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Rev Catherine Haydon: contact information to follow

• *Rest day is Tuesday*

• **CHURCHWARDEN:**

• Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

• Tel: 60597 or 07986993007; Email: sjayneweatherill@gmail.com

• **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 Jayne Weatherill through the parish office or Email: 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 or telephoning Irene on Tel: 64701.

• **Scotforth School:** Headteacher – Mrs Katie Walsh – Tel: 01524 65379
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Green Bins and news from the Crocus Memorial Garden:

If you appreciate all the hard work the gardening team do to keep on top of the gardens and regret that you aren't able to help. Here is your chance. Once again it is time to pay the council £41 (over £200 for 5) to have a green bin emptied. On average we can fill 4 bins a session so they are vital to our work. A donation of any amount would be much appreciated so that we can continue to keep on top of the gardening. I hasten to add that we do have 2 compost heaps as well.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for our crocus memorial garden, they should be coming into flower in the next few weeks. This year we planted another 1000 bulbs!
The Gardening Team



St Paul's, Hala Centre

Volunteers Needed!

Have you got a couple of hours to spare on a Friday to go on our rota?

We need drivers, meet and greet, setting up help, clearing away help.



St Paul's, Hala Centre - Hala Square, Lancaster, LA1 4RW

Friday's - times vary according to volunteer role



St Paul's Hala Pantry is a food club which runs every Friday at St Paul's Hala. It sources food that would otherwise have gone to landfill. Members of Hala Pantry can help reduce food waste whilst topping up their weekly shop.

For more information, contact halapantry@stpauls-scotforth.org

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