



**ST PAUL'S
PARISH NEWS
16th November 2023**



**Sunday Worship – 19th November 2023
2nd Sunday Before Advent**

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

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

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

Tuesday at 7:30pm – Reflective Prayer at St Paul's, Scotforth

Wednesday at 9:00am – Morning Prayer by telephone conference.
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

Parish Diary for the coming week:

Date & Time	Name of Event
Tuesday 21 st November at 7:30pm	Reflective Prayer at St Paul's Church



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

FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

From our Parish prayer diary: Acorn Close, Spruce Avenue and The Cedars, Cherry Tree Drive

From our Church prayer diary: The Fabric Committee

Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, Dorothy Camm, John Harding, Ciarán, Ken Duckling

All who mourn: David Mason, Sylvia Nelson, Denis Thorpe, Donald Gardner

Collect for Sunday 19th November:

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Sunday 19th November:

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

5Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14-30

¹⁴ 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another

one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 19th November:

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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Readings for next Sunday:

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15-end; Matthew 25.31-end

Submissions for the Parish News: The deadline each week is **Tuesday at 11.30am**, 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. 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.

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.



Poinsettias for Christmas

As we once again prepare to go to Bethlehem to worship the Christ-child, we invite you to consider making a gift to St Paul's for the purchase of poinsettias for the decoration of the church at Christmas.

You may wish to make your gift as a thanksgiving for the life of a departed family member or friend, or for a particular blessing in your own life.

Forms to complete are available in church from Sunday 12th November and are also available from the Parish Office. Once you have completed the form please place this, with the suggested donation of £10 (which covers the cost of purchasing the poinsettias) into an envelope with Poinsettia written on it and either place it in the offertory plate, hand to a churchwarden or sides person or take to the parish office by Friday 1st December.

Let us take this opportunity to thank you in anticipation of your gift and to wish you and yours the joy and peace of the Christmas Season.

Jayne, Churchwarden

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: Tel: 07723 642973;

Email: catherine@stpauls-scotforth.org

Rest day is Tuesday – if you have an urgent enquiry then please contact Rev Rebecca or a Church warden.

CHURCHWARDEN: Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

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

PARISH OFFICE: The office is open Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am – 12 noon. Closed on Bank Holidays. 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

The Real Advent Calendar: The Real Advent Calendar has arrived and will be available in church at 9.45am this Sunday (£4.50, cash only). Included is a 24 page Christmas story-activity book with a page for every day of Advent and some fun challenges along the way. The quality milk chocolate is Fairtrade, 35% cocoa solids, palm oil free, sealed in foil, and the box and tray are also recyclable. If you want to reserve one please email arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730.

If you wish you can order a Real Advent Calendar direct from www.meaningfulchocolatecompany.co.uk and also reusable ones, Christmas tree decorations, Christingle chocolate oranges and a range of other chocolate items. They also have a 'Send Chocolate Scheme' which will send the chocolate you buy to someone else with your personal message on a card.

Arton Medd

Parish Office Closure:

Please note that the parish office will be closed on a Thursday throughout November including 16th, 23rd and 30th due to staff absence. Our usual hours return on Monday 4th December.

YOUNG 'FUN' CHURCH:



We are still missing a lot of registration forms for children attending 'Fun' Church. We need this information in case of your child having an accident, a known medical incidence e.g. asthma, allergy. We have handed out multiple copies of forms and reminder letters. **This is for the safety of YOUR child whilst in our care.** These must be returned to us by the end of November at the very latest – thank you.

Church Walk

The next church walk (3-4 miles) will be in the Garstang area on Sunday November 26th. Please meet at the back of the church gardens at 12:15pm for a picnic lunch. Transport can be shared and offered. Please message me on 07531 285199 if you will need a lift.

Maureen Leach

FESTIVAL OF NATIVITY SCENES Sunday 3rd – Thursday 7th December

I discovered when talking to people after church on Sunday, that 'Nativity scenes' didn't mean as much as 'Cribs'. So please, if you have a crib scene at home, fill in a form from the back of church and bring your crib for the festival, so that we can all enjoy looking at it

(See photos from 2019). I also heard a few saying 'I have one but it is very small'. There is the famous saying about small being beautiful – so please do include your small crib scene.



Reminder of dates: Completed forms re size etc to be returned as soon as possible. Bring your Nativity scene to church on Friday 1st Dec from 2.00-4.00pm or Saturday 2nd Dec from 10.00am-4.00pm. (problems with times? Please contact Christine).

Church open for visitors: Sunday 3rd Dec 2.00-4.00pm. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10.00am-12 noon and 2.00-4.00pm.

The church will not be open at night for viewing the festival, because the window areas are not well lit!

Stewards and helpers with refreshments are still needed – please sign the forms at the back of church.

Queries etc: Christine Medd email: arton.medd@btinternet.com Phone: 01524 64730

Summary: PCC meeting on 6th November 2023

The PCC was told about work to prevent homelessness amongst refugees locally. The PCC discussed how we have seen God in the parish; the sale of the pews removed from the north aisle; the Christmas Fair; bereavement support; parish finances; and a concert in St Paul's in December. The PCC noted that the St Paul's Hala Pantry will be two years old in December.

John Gedge

Christmas Fayre Sunday 10th December:

We are looking for any kind donations of Raffle and Tombola prizes to raise funds for church at our Artisan Fayre.

We have 2 stands left available at the fayre, £20 each if anyone knows of friends or family who are crafty and creative, and would like to exhibit.

We would love a wreath maker/ florist if anybody knows of any.

Please contact Jennifer Couchman if you would like any more information.

Contact 07929 738152 or email: jenniferpritchardbridal@gmail.com



Christmas Greetings:

Christmas is getting nearer and you have all those cards to write. A frightening thought! One way to reduce your workload would be to send just one greeting's message to everyone in the parish. This means that it will be sent out in the Parish News and displayed on the Church and Hala notice boards.

Donations will be in aid of Church Funds and perhaps you can gift aid your donation. If you would like to join us please give your greeting (no more than 30 words) with a minimum donation of £5 to a sidesperson or the Church Office or to myself at 20 Newlands Rd. The closing date will be December 3rd. Any messages arriving later than this date will possibly miss the printing deadline.

If you have any queries please contact Maureen Leach on 07531 285199.

At the All-Age service for Remembrance at St Paul's Hala, we created this 'Poppies and Peace' tree as a focus and aid to our prayers.





St Pauls Church, Scotforth

Artisan

Christmas Fayre

Sunday 10th Dec 11am-3pm
In the Parish Hall

Enjoy Festive gifts, crafts,
food & cake

Carols being sung at 1pm

£2 entry per adult Children free
including a glass of mulled wine, tea or coffee
and a slice of cake or mince pie

Come along!

General enquiries
jenniferpritchardbridal@googlemail.com





Advent Carol Service

Sunday 3rd December
at 6.30pm

St Paul's Church, Scotforth



St Paul's Church, Scotforth

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

17TH DECEMBER | AT 6.30PM



Follow The Star
Song

Blue Christmas reflection

Thursday December 21st 2023

18.30 -19.30

St Paul's Church, Scotforth

Sometimes Christmas is difficult, whether it is because of stress, loneliness, the rawness of new grief, or the lingering pain of old grief.

Come and be with us a while as we reflect on the birth of the Christ child - who was born into a broken world like ours.



Photo by Laura Hope on Unplash



Tote bags are still available to purchase at £5 each – they would make an ideal Christmas present. Available from the back of church or contact the Parish Office.



St Paul's Church, Scotforth

Christmas Eve Services

8am - BCP Holy Communion

9.45am - Crib Service with Christingle

11.15am - Holy Communion at St Paul's, Hala

9pm - Bethlehem Christmas Eve Communion Service



Christmas Day Services

8am - BCP Holy Communion

10am - Family Communion Service



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