



**ST PAUL'S  
PARISH NEWS  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



**Sunday Worship – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Advent 3**

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

6:30pm – Nine Lessons and Carols at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

**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  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** at 6.30pm – Blue Christmas Reflection at  
St Paul's, Scotforth Road

**Parish Diary for the coming week:**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Name of Event</b>
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Crafty Christmas Nativity – 2-4pm in the Parish Hall. Come and join us for a time of crafty Christmas activities, refreshments and a short time of worship.
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

**From our Parish prayer diary:** Stodday

**From our Church prayer diary:** All those who volunteer in Community Groups

**Those who have asked for prayers for healing:** Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, Dorothy Camm, John Harding, Ciarán, Jim Outram

**All who mourn:** Diane Coward, Pauline Coward

### Collect for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December:

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December:

#### Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end

61 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

## **John 1.6-8, 19-28**

<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>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

<sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup>He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup>John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## **Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December:**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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### **Readings for next Sunday:**

**2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16; Romans 16.25-end; Luke 1.26-38**

**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.



## Exultate Ladies Choir - Christmas Carols in Church on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at

**7.30pm.** Tickets will be available to purchase from Jayne in church on Sunday and in the Parish Office. You can also pay at the door on the evening. Exultate Ladies Choir are donating 50% of the proceeds from this performance to St Paul's Church so it would be wonderful if we could support their concert and sit back and enjoy an evening of wonderful carol singing.

Exultate Ladies Choir  
*Christmas Carols*  
St Paul's Church,  
Scotforth, Lancaster  
LA1 4TS  
*Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December,*  
*7:30pm*  
*Tickets £10 (£7.50 concessions)*  
*inc. festive refreshments*

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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.*

**ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Rev Catherine Haydon: Tel: 07723 642973;

Email: [catherine@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](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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## Christian Aid's Charity Gifts:

For someone who would appreciate it why not give a present on their behalf to someone who has very little? There are a few red leaflets at the back of church but for a full list you need to look up [www.caid.org.uk/shop](http://www.caid.org.uk/shop),. You can choose cards and presents from £10 for antibiotic medicines which can be life-saving for children in conflict zones, fruit tree saplings for £15, £ 30 for a clean water pump and so on. You choose the gifts and Christian Aid sends the cards. The money given will help Christian Aid's partners in some of the world's poorest countries and, unlike some presents that surreptitiously appear in the next raffle, all will be greatly appreciated.

Arton Medd

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the blessing of joy abide within you; May the blessing of peace rest upon you;  
 May the blessing of love flow out through you;  
 May all the blessings of the Lord be yours this Advent and Christmas season.  
**Love from Amali, Sundiya, Anderson and Rebecca**

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the gladness of Christmas  
 which is Hope, and the Heart of Christmas which is Love.  
**Jayne, Keith and Emily**

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful  
 and healthy New Year. **Maureen and Stuart**

Love, peace and every happiness to everyone at St Paul's  
 over Christmas and throughout 2024. **Margaret Ives**

Wishing everyone at St Paul's Church and Hala Centre  
 peace and joy at Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2024.  
 Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.  
**Anne Quainoo**

To all my friends at St Paul's. Wishing you a vey happy and holy  
 Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.  
**Jean Mount**

Wishing you and your family the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of  
 God's love at Christmas and always. Merry Christmas and happy New Year.  
**Michelle, David and Michael Gahan**

Wishing everyone at St Paul's a happy Christmas. From **Iris**

Wishing all the members of our churches a Christmas of hope and thanksgiving.  
 With love from **Judith Frost**

Christmas Greetings to all,  
 as we celebrate Light in a dark world.  
 From **Jim and Linda Currin**

Happy Jesus' Birthday to my lovely St Paul's family!  
 With love and prayers for a happy and holy Christmas  
 and best wishes for the New Year.  
**Rev Catherine (and Stanley)**





Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone at St Paul's, Scotforth and Hala.  
**Ken and Beryl Fawcett**

A happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year is wished to all my friends.  
With love from **Gwen**

Christmas Wishes to Rebecca and Catherine and everyone who comes to St Paul's. Happy Christmas to you all.  
With love from **Jean Nicholson**

Wishing everyone a truly joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Richard and Tricia Impey**

All good wishes for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyful New Year. **Jean J**

To everyone at St Paul's we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.  
**Phillip and Yvonne Simpson**

Dear St Paul's friends, may you find peace and joy in the message of the new-born Christ and throughout the year.  
With my love **Joan G**

Wishing a happy and peaceful Christmas to everyone at St Paul's.  
**Arton and Christine**

**Ian and Sandra** from Hala, wish everyone at St Paul's and the Hala Centre a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Mervyn and Vivienne Bonnett** Wish all their friends at St Paul's a happy and peaceful Christmas and good health in the New Year.

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.  
**Brian and Judith Threlfall**





*Tote bags are still available to purchase at £5 each – they would make an ideal Christmas present.*

## Crafty Christmas Nativity

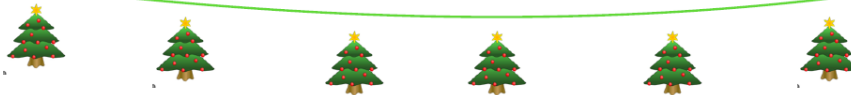
Saturday December 16th 2023  
14.00 - 16.00  
St Paul's Parish Hall



Come and join us for a time of crafty Christmas activities, refreshments and a short time of worship.

ALL AGES welcome - children to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Any queries contact Katherine Froggatt  
on [kaf@phonecoop.coop](mailto:kaf@phonecoop.coop)



## 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 Hogg on Unsplash





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*



### **Advent 'thank you':**

Thank you to all who so willingly took part in the Advent Carol service, either as readers, musicians or members of the congregation. The service appears to have been much appreciated – so again, thank you!

The Festival of Nativity scenes has brought a wide variety of nativity sets into St Paul's, from around the world; different shapes, sizes, materials, colours; all beautifully and lovingly made. They have given great pleasure to those who have walked round and carefully viewed them all. We hope they will help to bring the light of Christ into your own home over the Christmas period.

A really big thank you to all who displayed a Nativity set, paintings, postcards, angels and especially perhaps to Val for the amazing collage on the wall by the children's corner, and to Kay for the beautiful display on the old font.

Last but not least, thank you to those who acted as stewards or who helped with refreshments.

Donations raised a total of £142 for Christian Aid's work with children suffering in the Israel, West Bank and Gaza conflict zones.

We trust that you all have a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

*Arton and Christine*

**Message from Alf Coward:** Alf Coward and Family would like to thank the church for their prayers and support for the passing of Pauline and also to Rebecca and Catherine for officiating at the service to celebrate Pauline's life.

### **Christmas Fayre:**

A massive 'thank you' to Jen, Vicki, Mandi and all the team who worked so hard to make the Fayre last Sunday such a huge success. The total raised is currently standing at £1383.65 but there is still some money to come in. A revised total will be given when known.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who came along and supported the event and we hope that you enjoyed yourself, the goods you purchased and the hospitality offered. We will hopefully see you again at the next one!



# Carol Service



St Paul's Church, Scotforth  
**Saturday 23rd December, 2023**  
6.30pm

Vox Consort  
Director: Don Gillthorpe  
Organist: Alex Peters

All your favourite carols, plus choral music by:

**Herbert Howells**  
**Peter Warlock**  
**Will Todd**  
**Katy Lavinia Cooper**  
**Oliver Tarney**

**VOX**  
consort

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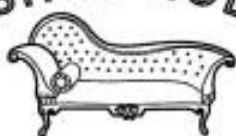
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