



# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023



## Sunday Worship – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Advent 4/Christmas Eve

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

9:45am – Christingle and Crib Service at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

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

9.00pm – Bethlehem Holy Communion Service at St Paul's,  
Scotforth Road

## 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 - Christmas

8.00am – BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

10.00am – Family Communion Service 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. Please note there will be no Morning Prayer on 27<sup>th</sup> December or 3<sup>rd</sup> January – it will restart on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.*

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

### Parish Diary for the coming week:

Date & Time	Name of Event
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December @ 6.30pm	Blue Christmas Reflection Service in Church
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December at 6:30pm	Vox Consort Carol Service in 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 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, Mary Smith, John Harding, Ciarán,

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

### **Collect for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 8am:**

Almighty God,  
as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Readings for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve at 8am**

#### **Luke 1.46-55**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

#### **Luke 1.26-38**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no

end.’ <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.’ <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

### **Collect for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 9pm:**

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night  
you sent your world’s darkness  
with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### **Readings for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve at 9pm**

#### **Hebrews 1.1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

#### **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 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December:**

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 forever.

### **Collect for Christmas Day**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven  
touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God.

### **Readings for Christmas Day**

#### **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.

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

**Isaiah 61.10-62.3, 16; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21**

**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.



# 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**

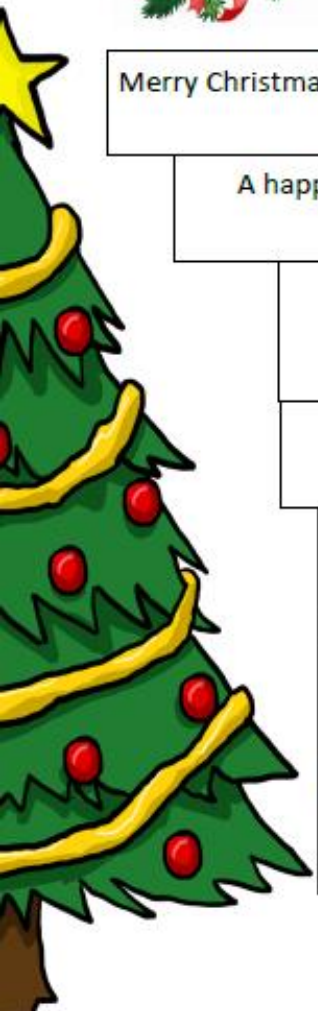
Wishing all the members of our churches a Christmas of hope and thanksgiving.  
With love from **Judith Frost**



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**



**Parish Office Closure:** Please note that the parish office will be closed between Christmas and the New Year. The telephone and email will be monitored for any urgent messages. Sarah, Kate and all the Parish Hall staff would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



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**VICAR:** Rev Dr Rebecca Aehtner: **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](https://www.facebook.com/scotforthstpaulschurch)

**INSTAGRAM:** [@scotforthstpauls](https://www.instagram.com/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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**Christmas Raffle Prize Draw:** Could Meryl Tordoff and Sharon Thomas please contact the parish office to arrange to collect the prizes they won in the raffle held at our recent Christmas Fayre. Thank you.

## Reflections on the Christmas Tree

Disappointing was my first response to seeing the Christmas Tree at the front of church. From the front all looks fine, but go round the back and you will see stunted sparse branches giving a somewhat imbalanced, imperfect appearance. However, on reflecting on my reaction to what I saw I have



come round and now welcome this tree as it performs its role of bringing light, colour and sparkle into church. Yes, it might not be the balanced bushy tree I had in my mind, but like myself its imperfections are a part of what it is. So, together in our messy, flawed state we will welcome the Christ child this Christmas.

***Katherine Froggatt***

### **St Paul's Hala Pantry**

Upon what was a busy evening last Friday at the Pantry, we also distributed Christmas gifts to club members.

We give special thanks to Vikki Pattinson who organised the collection, and we send our overwhelming gratitude to parishioners who donated the wonderful array of bespoke gifts.



## **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.



**On Saturday 23rd December, we are being joined for an additional service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Vox Consort in their first ever performance. This mixed-voice chamber choir, directed by Don Gillthorpe from Ripley St Thomas CE Academy, is made up singers who grew up in the Lancaster area and now sing all over the country in prestigious institutions. Many of you will have heard Vox Boys' Choir performing in the city in the past; this is your opportunity to hear and sing alongside the newest choir in the Vox family and is an event not to be missed!**

# 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



## **Carol Singing**

On three occasions last week groups of carol singers went round the wards in RLI, guided by the Chaplain Rev Ian Dewar. Three wards in particular were memorable – a dad proudly showing us his tiny baby in intensive care; the children's ward where we sang songs like Jingle Bells and Little Donkey to the wonderful drumming on a metal box by one of the staff; and the ward for elderly ladies, some of whom had dementia but who joined in singing all the carols. We had taken a bag full of the knitted angels from

the 2019 Nativity Scenes festival and we left these in the children's ward, where they were wonderfully received. To those singers from St Paul's who joined us on any of the occasions, thank you so much, and a very appreciative thankyou from Rev Ian on behalf of the hospital staff, who enjoyed our visits and our carols.

On Saturday morning a group mostly from Lancaster Churches Together, sang carols in Marketgate, to raise money for the Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service. We were, as usual, well cared for by the Marketgate staff and we thank them for putting us in a prime position, from where we were able to raise **£ 208.10p** from the generosity of the shoppers. Many thanks to the St Paul's members who sang with us.

*Christine and Arton*

**Church Christmas Cards:** For those of you who are last minute shoppers or those who are preparing for next year (?) we have some of the beautiful St Paul's Christmas Cards available. They are £1 each, or 5 for £4 or 10 for £8 - these are available from the back of church.



**Nativity Scene:** Once again, our Nativity scene is lighting our grounds each evening. However, if you have children (or even if you don't) and you want to walk around the Nativity Trail in the church gardens this is now open.





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*

