



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 28th December 2023



Sunday Worship – 31st December 2023 1st Sunday of Christmas

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

9:45am – Service of the Word 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 27th December or 3rd January – it will restart on Wednesday 10th January.*

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

Parish Diary for the coming week:

Date & Time	Name of Event
5 th January at 11am	Funeral of Jim Outram



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

Message from Revd Rebecca:

Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! This Advent season has been a wonderful holy whirlwind: 4 carol services, 2 end of year school services, Blue Christmas, the shortest 4th Sunday of Advent possible, Jayne dressed as an elf for Christingle, a Christingle Communion at St Paul's Hala, our amazing Artisan Christmas Fayre and all the ministry and joy in between.

It has been a bittersweet time for my family. On the 20th December Anderson was announced as the next Bishop of Edmonton in the Diocese of London. On the one hand we delight in where God is calling our family, and on the other, we are saddened at the very thought of leaving everyone in our beloved parish. More will be said later, but for now, please know that as we prayed for God's leading in our family, we also pray for God's leading in the family of St Paul's.

Anderson will be consecrated at the end of April in St Paul's Cathedral. He will acclimatise himself to his new episcopal ministry from May 2024. Our plan at the moment is for us to stay at St Paul's until the end of July and then move to London as a family in August. Please keep us in your prayers as I discern my future ministry and the girls navigate schooling and friendships. Until then, you won't be getting rid of me just yet and I look forward to seeing you all the in New Year.

New Bishop for North London and for Racial Justice:



The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah, Associate Dean (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and People) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Lancaster University, and Associate Priest at St Paul's Scotforth, in the Diocese of Blackburn, has been announced as the Diocese of London's next Bishop of Edmonton, covering the London Boroughs of Camden, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

The official announcement came from Downing Street while the Bishop-designate visited Wren Academy Finchley, a leading school co-sponsored by the London Diocesan Board of Schools (LDBS). As part of today's introduction to the Edmonton Area, the Bishop-designate will visit a number of churches spanning the breadth of the Anglican tradition, including St Barnabas Finchley, St Francis at the Engine Room, St Aldhelm and Old St Pancras Church, one of the oldest sites of Christian worship in the Capital.

Anderson grew up in Tamil Nadu, the southernmost state in India, as a Dalit Christian. He is the first Dalit, and the first clergyperson ordained in the Church of Southern India (CSI), to be appointed Bishop in the Church of England. He has lived across five Anglican provinces and served across rural to urban contexts and amongst deprived and affluent communities.

He has drawn on his experience of exclusion and discrimination in international academic research, for which he has been widely

published, and in the advisory positions he has held in the Church of England. This included being asked by the Archbishops of York and Canterbury to play a role in the Anti-Racism Taskforce, which preceded the Racial Justice Unit, as well as being the first Bishop's Adviser for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Affairs in the Diocese of Blackburn, which now has a number of priests from the South Asian community, including representation on the Bishop's Council. He will take responsibility for the racial justice portfolio in the London College of Bishops.

Anderson will formally take up his post in spring 2024 and will join the College of Bishops in the Diocese of London. He succeeds the Rt Revd Rob Wickham as Bishop of Edmonton, who stepped down in August to become Chief Executive of the Church Urban Fund.

The Revd Canon Dr Anderson Jeremiah, the next Bishop of Edmonton, said:

"I am humbled to be called to be the next Bishop of Edmonton. I look forward to ministering alongside the people of God in the Edmonton area to share the inclusive mission of God's love and justice.

"I am particularly excited to take responsibility for racial justice as a portfolio amongst the bishops in London. My personal experiences of exclusion and discrimination have formed my life, research, and ministry, and inspires me to embody the expansive hospitality of God. The Edmonton Area is blessed by being a thriving diverse mixture of communities, whom I look forward to serving and shepherding. As an international family, we look forward to finding a home in the London diocesan family."

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, said:

"Today's announcement is a blessing for the Church in North London, which I am sure will thrive under Anderson's leadership and ministry. He brings a combination of experience – pastoral, academic, theological and strategic – which is a great gift to the

Diocese of London as a whole. The perspectives he has gained through living and working in a breadth of cultures and roles will enrich the senior staff team and the life of the church in this city. My congratulations go to him and to his family, with whom it was a pleasure to celebrate today.”

“London’s Diocesan 2030 Vision sets out our ambition for racial justice: how we plan to move forward to truly representing the body of Christ in all its richness – and grow healthily. To reach every Londoner we need to be active in combatting racism and racial injustice. The contributions made by the Racial Justice Priority Group have been invaluable, and I’m in no doubt that Anderson will help lead this transformative work as we continue to tackle the evil of racism here in London.”

Taken from: <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/new-bishop-for-north-london-and-for-racial-justice/>

FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, John Harding, Ciarán,

All who mourn: Jim Outram, Meleta Moore

Collect for Sunday 31st December:

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Readings for Sunday 31st December:

Galatians 4.4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷

So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Luke 2.15-21

¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 31st December:

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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**Readings for next Sunday:
Genesis 1.1-5; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.4-11**

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.



Parish Office Closure: Please note that the parish office will be closed until Tuesday 2nd January The telephone and email will be monitored for any urgent messages.

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.

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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: 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
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