



# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024



## Sunday Worship – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Trinity 9

8:00am - BCP Holy Communion at **St Paul's Parish Hall**

9:45am – Holy Communion at **St Paul's Parish Hall**

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

**Wednesday** at 9:00am – 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 Parish Hall**

### Parish Diary:

Date & Time	Name of Event
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> August at 2:00pm	Gardening with the Gardening Team at St Paul's Church
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August</b> 8:00am 9:45am 11:15am	BCP Holy Communion - <i>In the Parish Hall</i> Holy Communion - <i>In the Parish Hall</i> Service of the Word at St Paul's Hala Centre



*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:** Palatine Avenue, Kenilworth Place, York Road

**From our Church prayer diary:** 9<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Guides

**Those who have asked for prayers for healing:** Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, John Harding, Jonathan Easton, Brenda Alexander, Ian Smith, Kathleen Walker, Muriel Ellison, Martin Pearson, Marit Impey

**All who mourn:** Leonard Walker, Katie Beth Beattie

### A message from Revd

#### Rebecca:

Thank you. Thank you for blessing my family along our way last Sunday. The service and celebrations were full of love, worship, and thanksgiving.

During my curacy in 2018, I was sent to St Paul's Scotforth for a two week



placement with the secret mission of checking out the parish. The bishop wanted me to see if we were a 'match' and if I felt called to be your vicar. It felt like speed dating. At first, it did not feel like a fit; I was inexperienced, unprepared, afraid of the roof project looming overhead, and unsure of whether my family would flourish. On the second Sunday, during communion, I felt the Holy Spirit say to me: "Rebecca, love these people, welcome my people, *here* - around Christ's table - and I'll do the rest."

Over the last 5 years, that's what I've tried to do - not perfectly, but in my own way. Together, we have grown, changed, and worshipped. As a community we have become more inclusive, diverse, and, I pray, more joyful. Thank you for making me a Vicar. The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

**Revd Rebecca's last service:**  
A big thank you to everyone who helped Rebecca's last service as our Vicar go so well last Sunday. The rain stayed away, the BBQ and refreshments were amazing and everyone had a good time.



### **What happens next?**

This period of time, before we have a new Vicar, is called a 'vacancy' – the old name some of you may be familiar with is an interregnum.

During a vacancy, the Churchwardens and Area Dean (Revd Craig Abbot) become 'sequestrators', which means that they are responsible for the maintenance of services, care for the vicarage and preparation for the arrival of the new vicar. The sequestrators are also responsible for the money.

The life of the parish will go on: services will take place, there will be enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals, the PCC will continue to meet, and pastoral needs will arise.

That seems like quite an overwhelming list of responsibilities. However, we already have put in some planning and preparation, it should be quite possible to ensure that everything runs smoothly. And the prize at the end of this will be the gift of a new incumbent!

In a vacancy, normally, the Churchwardens and Area Dean are jointly responsible for ensuring that regular services of worship take place and other aspects of our parish ministry are kept up, where possible maintaining our regular service pattern. We are indeed fortunate that during this vacancy we have Revd Catherine as our Associate Priest. Catherine, working with Jayne, will be responsible for the provision of worship and parish ministry.

The Archdeacon of Lancaster came along to speak to the PCC recently and he emphasised to them that Catherine is not our 'Vicar', she does not automatically take on that role and nor should she be expected to. He also said that this reminder needs to be communicated to the parish on a regular basis so that you can understand Catherine's role.

It is also important to remember that this is not the time to make radical changes, although we may need some flexibility. Most especially as we face issues with the church roof and the need for us to remain adaptable throughout whatever decisions are made about how we move forward with this.

All of this is quite a lot to take on board. We will keep you informed of progress on where we are with the recruitment process and where we are with the church roof in the Parish News, Facebook etc as developments arise. We would ask that you include in your prayers all those involved with the recruitment process, those involved with work on the roof and those people behind the scenes who are ensuring that, where possible, everything keeps 'running'. Also, that if the call for 'help' goes out, please consider coming forward.

*Jayne and Keith - Churchwardens*

**Church Roof Update:** As this Parish News goes to print we are having to temporarily close the Church building, this is at the recommendation of our architect and the Diocesan architect. The



proposed work is to put a white netting up down the central nave and the north aisle (the side where the music corner is) which will catch any further falls and should see us through the roof replacement time; with some church's having this in place for more than 5 years.

We are currently working with our architect to have the church put on to the Heritage at Risk register which will then allow us to 'tap' into grant funding pots of money. The applying for funds takes a considerable amount of time and has to be undertaken in conjunction with fundraising.

At the moment, our priority is to get this temporary work undertaken and get our building re-opened. Rev Catherine, Keith and I are working with families who have life events booked with us over the coming weeks with alternative provision – not ideal but we had already planned for this eventuality over the last week.

In the meantime, our Thursday morning service and the 8am and 9.45am services will be held in the parish hall. Setting up for the services on a Thursday will have to take place on the day. If anyone would like to volunteer to help set up on a Saturday then please speak to either Keith or myself. We are, until we have more information later this week, looking at planning for setting up for August.

*Jayne*

**Collect for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July:**

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Readings for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

### **Ephesians 3.14-end**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **John 6.1-21**

<sup>6</sup>After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>

Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup> 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.' <sup>15</sup> When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The

lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

### **Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July:**

Holy Father,  
who gathered us here around the table of your Son  
to share this meal with the whole household of God:  
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace,  
gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a; Ephesians 4.1-16; John 6.24-35

**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

### **Last chance to give a donation for a pew:**

#### **Last 2 remaining**

After we removed the pews from the north aisle last year they have been in secure storage and then were recently moved to the vicarage garage. Some work has been undertaken on them to ensure they sit flat on the floor and we still have 2 beautiful pews available for sale. They are 6 foot long approximately.

The PCC have asked for donations. If you have any other questions, would like to view them or would like to purchase one then please talk to a Churchwarden.



