



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 2ND JANUARY 2025

Sunday Worship – 5th January 2025 Epiphany

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 with renewal of baptism vows at St Paul's, Hala

Wednesday at 9:15am – 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:

Date & Time	Name of Event
Monday 6 th January	Tea@2 is meeting at a different time this month – it is still in the Parish Hall at 1pm .
Wednesday 8 th January	If you have some spare time between 10am and 12 noon we are having a quick clean in the vicarage. If you have a vacuum, cloths and bucket you could bring that would also be very useful.
Thursday 9 th January	Interviews for our next Vicar – please see article later in the news about prayer for the day.
Sunday 12 th January 8am 9.45am 11.15am	BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Service of the Word at St Paul's, Hala Worship 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: All who worship at St Paul's but do not live in the parish

From our Church prayer diary: The Parochial Church Council

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

All who mourn: Sonia Alexander, Duncan Turner

Prayer for the Vacancy:

Loving God, we give you thanks for our church family here at St Paul's. Send your Holy Spirit amongst us at this time of uncertainty and change during the vacancy. Give us wisdom as we prepare to appoint a new vicar. May we be faithful in prayer for this process as we seek to find the next person called to lead us. Be with that person now preparing them for this place, that they would be able to lead us into greater knowledge and love of you, so that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow here in Scotforth and Hala. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 5th January:

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Sunday 12th January:

Isaiah 60.1-6;

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory

will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2.1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ' ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 12th January:

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

A message from Rev Catherine:

Happy New Year!



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas however you celebrated, and that 2025 has begun well for you. I had a busy few days with family and then a restful few days to recover from that!

I wonder if any of you have set yourself any New Year's resolutions? I've decided I really do need to cut back on the amount of cake and crisps I eat, and I'm aiming to read 100 books over the course of the year (I managed 65 this year).

Last year I had just 1 resolution - to survive the vacancy! And here we all are, just about! Thank you to you all for your support and encouragement as we have navigated these last few months together, you've certainly made a daunting task much easier. Please do continue to pray for the process of finding a new vicar, especially on January 9th which is the interview day.

As we start the new year and as we prepare for the arrival of a new vicar, the wardens and I thought it might be a good opportunity to have a Feedback Sunday. On Sunday 5th January we will be asking you to prayerful consider how we worship and share life together here at St Paul's. What are we doing well? What could we do even better? These comments can be anonymous if you'd like, but please tell us which service you attend. If you're unable to attend on 5th then please feel free to get in touch via the parish office with any feedback you may have.

The Diocese of Blackburn has set aside 2025 as a year of prayer as we head towards the completion of Vision 2026, and think about where God is calling us as a diocese heading forward. There are a number of resources available to help with this which we will highlight throughout the year, including the Fruitful app which is a great tool for prayer using technology. Also, available at the back of church are some bookmarks which give pointers and a prayer. These are just a couple for now to get started, more available as the year goes on.

Thanks again for all that you do to contribute to the life of St Paul's, it truly is a joy and privilege to serve God alongside you.

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.

Women's Fellowship:

A reminder to all those who are coming to the lunch on Monday the 13th January that we are meeting at 12noon for 12.30. *Jean Mount*

The Vicarage – volunteers needed:

As we will be showing around candidates for interview on Thursday 9th January we would like to give the vicarage a dust, vacuum and mop to make it look its best – in addition to turning the heat up. If you are able to give us a hand on Wednesday 8th January between 10am and 12 noon it would be very much appreciated. If you have a vacuum, cloths and bucket you could bring that would also be very useful. *Jayne and Keith*



Contactless Giving in Church is available: Our machine is at the back of church so that on your way out, rather than giving a cash donation, you could consider giving by card.

Day of Prayer and Prayer Resource: Praying for our new Vicar on January 9th:

With the encouragement of our Bishop and Archdeacon, the Church Council discussed how we might all focus our prayers for God's guidance on the day of interviews for our new Vicar. The interviews are being held on 9th January.

Being a Thursday, a first natural focus for prayer will be the Holy Communion service at 9.15am. From then, we'd like to encourage everyone to pray in their own way, and in their own place, for a period of time.

We would love to plan for prayer to be offered continuously throughout the day, eg in half hour periods from 10am till 6pm. If this sounds a long time in prayer, or if prayer like this is new to you, we will be preparing some simple ideas for praying which you will be able to collect on Sunday.

A Prayer Resource is available at the back of St Paul's Scotforth, and the Hala Worship Centre, to help you pray for our new vicar on the day of interviews. It has been produced by a small group in the parish.

There should be enough copies for everyone who wants one - and you'll find it in a clear plastic box that has a rota printed on the front. Do tick or sign up to the rota if you wish to (pen in the box) - but you don't have to sign the rota to pray!

To help everyone pray, here is a small section of the above Prayer Resource:

A framework for your prayer

Step 1: Remember God has been working already - in our local community, in St Paul's, in the Hala Worship Centre as well as in the hearts of potential applicants for the role of vicar. As we turn to prayer we come wanting to be linked with God and his work.

Step 2: Let your awareness focus on our situation: the local area, people connected with St Paul's, smaller groups attached to the Parish Hall, Hala Worship Centre, St Paul's School and other organisations, Hala Pantry, local not connected to church. Spend time to become aware of different aspects of church here that you are aware of. Also, of aspects of our local area and local community. Aware of needs, feelings - and of your own feelings.

Step 3: Be in God's presence - with your awareness - letting go, letting God. Seek to be attuned to God and praying that God's love may flow into the appointment as it flows into us as we open ourselves to him.

Specific topics for your prayers could include:

The candidates being interviewed, that they hear God's call.

The interview panel, including Patrons and PCC representatives, to God's choice.

The process, from applications and shortlisting, to the days program and follow up.

Agreement, as the interviews are a process of discernment. Acts 15:28. Gal 5:25. The parish, both wider community and those who worship, to hear and follow Jesus.

Be encouraged: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Jim Currin

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• **VICAR:** We are currently in a period of vacancy – please contact a Churchwarden.
• **ASSOCIATE PRIEST:** *Rev Catherine Haydon: Tel: 07723 642973;*
• *Email: catherine@stpauls-scotforth.org*
• *Rest day is Friday – if you have an urgent enquiry then please contact a Churchwarden.*
• **CHURCHWARDENS:**
• Mrs Jayne Weatherill:
• Tel: 60597 or 07986 993007; Email: sjayneweatherill@gmail.com
• Mr Keith Weatherill:
• Tel: 60597 or 07986 993005; Email: keith.weatherill@gmail.com
• **PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:** Mrs Jayne Weatherill:
• Tel: 07986 993007; Email: safeguarding@stpauls-scotforth.org
• **PARISH OFFICE:** Office hours are Monday - Friday from 9.30am –12 noon. We are closed
• on weekends and 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
• **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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