



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 9TH JANUARY 2025

Sunday Worship – 12th January 2025 Epiphany 1 / Baptism of Christ

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

9:45am – Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

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

6:30pm – Evening Prayer

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 13 th January at 12 noon	Women's Fellowship Lunch at the Parish Hall
Sunday 19 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: The isolated homes within the Parish. Aldcliffe Mews, Inverlune and the Residences of the University

From our Church prayer diary: All staff and governors at Scotforth St Paul's School

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

All who mourn: 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.

Update from Bishop Jill on the appointment process of a new Vicar at St Paul's:

We had just one credible application by the deadline for applications on Thursday. Therefore, we took the decision as a panel to re-advertise as soon as possible in order to build a bigger field. I have spoken to the applicant to assure them we would shortlist their application a second time round, and I believe they are keen to re-apply.

I appreciate this is disappointing news for everyone at St Paul's. But this is an important hinge moment in the life of St Paul's, so worth the

investment of time and care. Please be assured of my prayers and commitment to work with you for the best outcome at this time.

One of my favourite Epiphany hymns includes the line: "Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness of thy poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine..." The work of God is always fragile, but it is also unstoppable. I am confident that His heart is for all the people of St Paul's parish and I pray with faith for the ongoing dawning of His kingdom in Scotforth and beyond.

+Jill Lancaster

Collect for Sunday 12th January:

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Readings for Sunday 12th January:

Isaiah 43.1-7

43 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 12th January:

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next week:

Isaiah 62.1–5; Psalm 36.5–10; 1 Corinthians 12.1–11; John 2.1–11

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.

Women's Fellowship:

A reminder to all those who are coming to the lunch on Monday the 13th January that we are meeting at 12 noon for 12:30pm.

If you are suffering with a cough or cold please don't come to the parish hall. Give me a ring (01524 62020) and the meal that you ordered will be delivered to you.

Jean Mount

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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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Confirmation Service:

We have arranged for a Confirmation Service to take place on **Sunday 27th April at 4pm** which will be led by Bishop Jill. If you are interested in being

confirmed (adult or child) then please pick up a registration pack from either the back of church, at Hala or the Parish Office and return it to Jayne no later than **Friday 14th February**.

Classes for children, in Year 6 or above, will be held on Thursday 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March and 3rd April at 3.30pm until 5.00pm in the Parish Hall. The rehearsal for the service will be on Saturday 26th April at 10am in church. You must be able to attend **all** the classes and the rehearsal in order to be put forward as a candidate for confirmation.

Group sessions for adults will be arranged when we know what the numbers are.

If you have any questions at all then please talk to Rev Catherine, Jayne or 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.



Tea@2 Epiphany Lunch:

The Tea@2 meeting this month was at a slightly earlier time of 1pm and 19 of us shared an Epiphany Lunch. Good food and good company –

an enjoyable afternoon together. We meet monthly on the first Monday of each month in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in – time for a chat, dominoes, cards, jigsaws and in a relaxed social setting. There are always hot drinks and cakes/biscuits available.

Jayne W

New Year Renewal of Baptism Promises

On the first Sunday of the New Year, Rev Catherine led the service of Holy Communion at the Hala Centre. The sermon was about new starts, resolutions, and the promises we make as Christians to follow Jesus. There was then great rejoicing when Gwen, a new member of the congregation, renewed her Baptism Promises. This, Gwen said, was to make real for herself the words spoken when she was 10 days old.

This Renewal of Baptism Promises came after many recent weeks of discussing the Christian faith, exploring Bible passages and prayer.

After the Renewal, Gwen received

Communion for the first time, and after the service said, 'I wanted to make these promises myself, here at Hala, with all of you as my new church family'.

Rev Catherine said, 'What better way to start the new year than by Renewing our Baptism Vows and receiving God's love as we follow Jesus?!' *Jim Currin*



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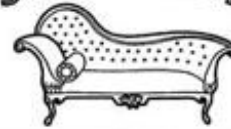
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