



# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025



## Sunday Worship – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Easter 3

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

12:30pm – Baptisms at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

**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
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May from 2pm	Gardening with the Garden Team at St Paul's Church – <b>all welcome</b>
<b>Sunday 11th May</b> 8:00am 9:45am 11:15am 6:30pm	BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Service of the Word at St Paul's, Hala Evening Prayer at St Paul's, Scotforth



*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:** Claughton Drive, Hala Road, Cockersands Drive

**From our Church prayer diary:** Our Wedding Vergers

**We pray for** Rachel and Tim as they are married this week.

**We pray for the parents, godparents and family of** Finley David and Jackson Gavin who are to be baptised this week.

**Those who have asked for prayers for healing:** Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, John Harding, Ian Smith, Gwen Danskin, Audrey Butcher, Phil Simpson

**All who mourn:** Eleanor Hewitt

### **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.

### **Statement from Bishop Jill:**

The Panel met, as planned, on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, to reflect on the process of seeking a Vicar for St Paul's. Following a fruitful discussion, we have decided that the post will be re-advertised for an interview date of 24<sup>th</sup> June. We will welcome all participants.

## **Collect for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May:**

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Readings for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May:**

### **Acts 9.1-6 [7-20]**

9Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' <sup>5</sup> He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' <sup>7</sup> The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.']

## **John 21.1-19**

21After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' 6He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. 7That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. 8But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. 9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 10Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' 11So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. 12Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. 13Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' 16A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' 17He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. 18Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' 19 (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

## **Post Communion prayer for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May:**

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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## **Readings for next week:**

Acts 9.36–end†; Psalm 23; John 10.22–30

**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 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.

## **Christian Aid Week 11 – 18 May 2025**

There are still a number of streets without envelope deliverers so, if you could count your paces/vary your walk for one day for Christian Aid, it could improve the health of the people in the poor world as well as your as well as your own. Christian Aid's partners need regular funding from donors, much of which is raised during Christian Aid Week. You only make one delivery round - you do not have to collect them back as the envelopes have instructions on where to return them. We have heard in the past couple of weeks of all that the late Pope Francis did for the poor of the world. We do not have his power of influence, but we can do our bit. A big thank you to all those who have volunteered so far, and if you want to help please see me at the 9.45 service on Sunday, or contact me by email [arton.medd@btinternet.com](mailto:arton.medd@btinternet.com) or phone 01524 64730.



**Arton Medd**



- **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](mailto: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](mailto:sjayneweatherill@gmail.com)
- Mr Keith Weatherill:
- Tel: 60597 or 07986 993005; Email: [keith.weatherill@gmail.com](mailto:keith.weatherill@gmail.com)
- **PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:** Mrs Jayne Weatherill:
- Tel: 07986 993007; Email: [safeguarding@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto: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](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
- **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

## Memories of VE Day

This week will see many activities around the country celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, which was the beginning of the end of World War Two. Some of our older members of St Paul's congregation and some who sadly are no longer with us, have kindly written about their memories of that special day, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, and they have been put together for us all to read and enjoy.



These stories are about living history from people who experienced these times. We are honoured to be able to read of their life during the War and their relief that there was at last peace in Europe.

You will be able to read their stories alongside the Parish News online from 1<sup>st</sup> May, or you can pick up a printed copy in church at any service during the week. If you have any problems in obtaining a copy please let me know.

*Christine Medd*

## Women's Fellowship.

We shall be meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May for our usual monthly meeting. Steve Williams will be our Speaker and the title for his talk is **Coastal Lines**. Anyone who would like to join us is most welcome. We meet in the Parish Hall at 2pm.

*Jean Mount*

## **Parish and Wider Community Questionnaire:**

If you were at the Annual Meeting last Sunday you will have taken part in a questionnaire. However, if you were not then we would like to encourage you to feedback your thoughts. This can be by completing this online link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAmFEL-tFzCYt3JHxuEvIUQOat-4qhhk9z3AIRUA2x7IU6oQ/viewform?usp=header>

or by emailing your response to [lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org) or posting into the parish office letterbox in an envelope addressed 'Questionnaire'.

There is only one question – please imagine that we have a new roof, a new kitchen and toilet area, the windows are all repaired and the walls have all received a much-needed coat of paint.

*What activities would you like to see taking place in your church building? This is in addition to regular service and life events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. E.g. film nights, community coffee morning, knit and knatter.*

The deadline for answering this question is 31<sup>st</sup> May. All the responses will be collated and will be used to help support our application for Heritage Lottery Funding to replace the church roof and carry out other additional work.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your time in answering this question.

*Jayne Weatherill*

## **South Lancaster Churches Together:**

The group was originally started in 1998 as part of an ecumenical movement to facilitate co-operation between Christian churches in Scotforth, Bowerham and Hala. These churches were St. Paul's, Scotforth with Hala, Greaves Methodist Church, Trinity United Reformed Church at Bowerham and St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic church. In September 2023 a special "Songs of Praise" service was held at St. Bernadette's to celebrate 25 years of our working together. However, over the years several changes have taken place. Greaves Methodist Church has become Lancaster Methodist Church and also runs the Cornerstone in the city centre, while the URC and Roman Catholic clergy now also have responsibility for churches at Forton and Thurnham. At a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March it was therefore decided that the time had come for SLTC to merge with Lancaster Churches Together to contribute to ecumenical work in the wider area, while at the same time continuing to organise specific events in South Lancaster such as our Annual Prayer Walk in July, a Songs of Praise service in the Autumn and our prayers for each other during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

*WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENTS.*

*Margaret Ives*

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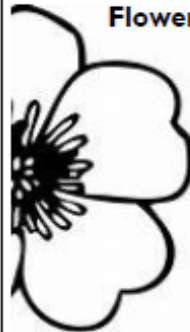
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