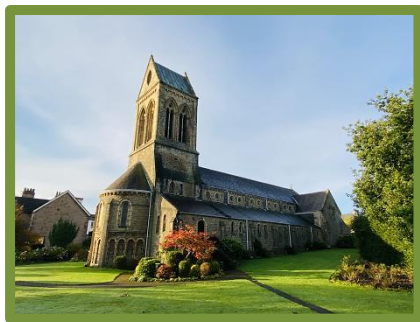




ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 20TH NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday Worship – 23rd November 2025 Christ the King

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

9:45am – All Age Service of the Word at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

11:15am – Holy Communion at St Paul's, Hala

Wednesday at 9:00am – 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 26th November from 2pm	Gardening with the Garden Team at St Paul's Church – all welcome
Sunday 30th November 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 Advent Carol Service 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: Acorn Close, Spruce Avenue and The Ceders, Cherry Tree Drive

From our Church prayer diary: the work of Hala Pantry in our community

Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, John Harding, Ian Smith, Irene Harper, Heather Richardson, Liz Field, Bill Haworth, Jennie Webster

All who mourn: Stephen Currah, Jean Mary Parker, Stephen Worrall, Christopher Simpson

Collect for Sunday 23rd November:

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

Readings for Sunday 23rd November:

Colossians 1.11-20

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he

might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Luke 23.33-43

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[
³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'
³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'
³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Post Communion prayer for Sunday 23rd November:

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Shared from the Lectionary app. Material subject to copyright. Please visit the About this App page for further information.

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 2.1–5; Romans 13.11–end; Matthew 24.36–44

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.



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.

Amended Parish Office Hours:

Due to upcoming holidays etc, the Parish Office **will be closed every Thursday morning until week beginning Monday 8th December**. If you have an urgent query then please do drop the office an email: office@stpauls-scotforth.org or leave a message on the answer machine: (01524) 843135 and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society Christmas card brochure will be at the back of church and at Hala from this coming Sunday along with a form for indicating your choice. It is a few years since we have had any cards from the Society. As I look around I see that their prices are comparable with other charity cards so I hope we can get a good order in to mark our support for this very important charity.



I have also received some new collecting boxes. Whilst these days we don't use cash so much I am hoping we can build up our army of collectors again. Again there will be a form with the boxes at the back of church and at Hala for names and addresses of anyone who would like to take one.

As always thank you for your support for the important work the Society does.

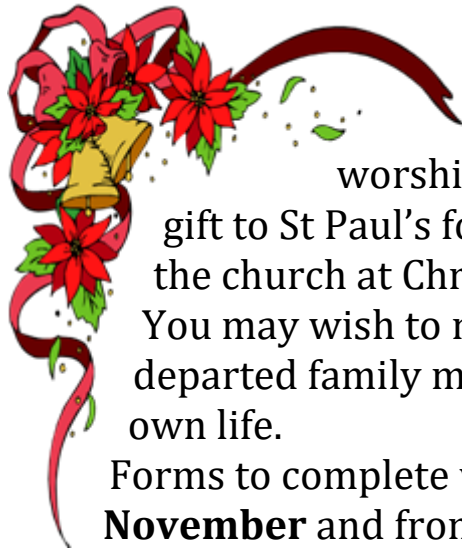
Tricia Impey

Christian Aid Quiz Night

The rain came down and the wind blew but it did not stop about fifty people enjoying themselves at Lancaster Methodist Church last Friday night (14th November). The questions weren't the usual rounds of history, geography, TV etc but were from all aspects of life over the 80 years since Christian Aid was founded. It was an ecumenical event including members from St Paul's, Lancaster Methodist Church, Lancaster Baptist Church, St Thomas's, Christ Church, and the Society of Friends (Quakers) plus a team from Lancaster Golf Club! The cakes for refreshments were delicious and the night of fun raised over £400 for Christian Aid. A big thank you to Gill Burgess the who organiser, to Helen Boothroyd who asked the questions and to all others who helped make the event happen.

Arton Medd

Poinsettias for Christmas



As we once again prepare to go to Bethlehem to worship the Christ-child, we invite you to consider making a gift to St Paul's for the purchase of poinsettias for the decoration of the church at Christmas.

You may wish to make your gift as a thanksgiving for the life of a departed family member or friend, or for a particular blessing in your own life.

Forms to complete will be available in church from **Sunday 2nd November** and from the Parish Office. Once you have completed the form then please place this, with the suggested donation of £11 (which covers the cost of purchasing the poinsettias), into an envelope with Poinsettia written on it and either place it in the offertory plate, hand to a sides person or take to the parish office by **Sunday 30th November**. The poinsettias will be arriving in church on Saturday 20th December.

Jayne and Keith, Churchwardens

Christmas Greetings

Christmas is getting nearer and there are all those cards to write. A frightening thought! One way to reduce your workload would be to send just one greetings message to everyone in the parish. This means that it will be sent out in the Parish News and displayed on the Church and Hala notice boards.



Donations will be in aid of the Church Roof and perhaps you could gift aid your donation. If you would like to join us please give your greeting (no more than 30 words) with a minimum donation of £5 to a sidesperson, the Church Office or to myself at 20 Newlands Rd. The closing date will be **November 25th**. Any messages arriving later than this date will possibly miss the printing deadline. If you have any queries please contact: **Maureen Leach on 07531 285199.**

Church 150th Anniversary:



The planning for our Church 150th Anniversary is taking shape now with a Calendar of events about once a month through 2026.

There are lots of interesting and fun things planned for all ages, celebrating our life from the four buildings (Church, Hall, School and

Hala) and the people of our church family as we celebrate our past, present and future next year, 'Following Jesus in the Footsteps of St Paul'.

One of the first things you will see is one or more, YouTube videos. With that in mind, I'll be doing some video clips of Services, activities, and conversations (just with the phone), interviews etc. If you do not wish to be in the video, please wave when you see me and I'll avoid filming you. Also, if you are involved in a parish activity I can film please invite me along. Thank you.

Are you creative with art, display, and general craft activities?

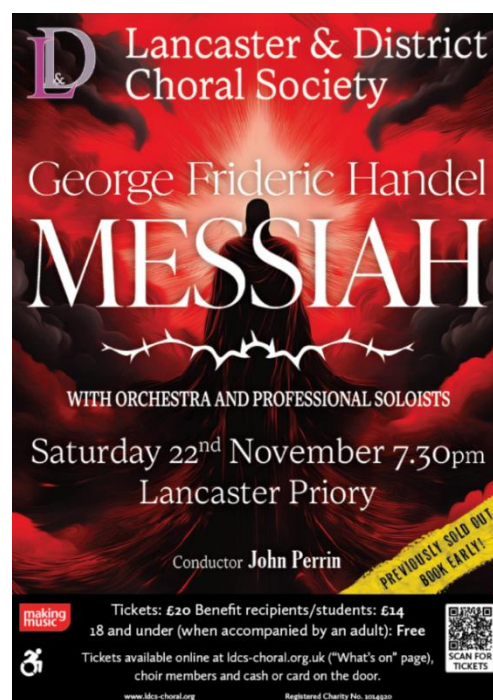
We are discussing decorating the pillars in church for our festival events.

Also, perhaps a new Altar Front, Banners and a cartoon, plus much more. We have ideas and several people interested, but we are sure that there are folk who might love to meet up and be creative, that we don't know about yet! If you are, can you email jim.currin@me.com and say that you want to know more? Thank you.

If you would like to find out more about the whole 150 Anniversary project, and be part of the prayer and planning discussion, do come and join us at the next open meeting Wednesday 26th November in the Parish Office. Also, if you would like to make a date of the planning meetings for the first part of next year they are: Wednesdays at 730pm: 7th Jan; 4th Feb; 4th March; 1st April (not an April Fool!).

As always, please pray. We are excited about the 150 proposals but conscious that this is God's church and work, and we need his guidance and Holy Spirit's guidance as we plan for our 150th Anniversary. Thank you.

Jim Currin



The Real Advent Calendar

Halloween is over so make room for the Advent Calendar on the shelves but none of those for sale in the shops have anything to do with the Christian season of Advent. The Real Advent Calendar (£5.00) has a line from the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows and includes a 24-page Christmas story-activity book with a page for every day of Advent and some fun challenges along the way. It is Fairtrade, the quality milk chocolate is 30% cocoa solids, palm oil free, sealed in foil, and the box and tray are also recyclable. Available in church after the 9:45am service (cash only) or email me at arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730 to reserve one.



If you wish you can order direct from:

www.meaningfulchocolatecompany.co.uk where you can also find reusable ones, Christmas Tree decorations, Christingle chocolate oranges and a range of other chocolate items. They also have a 'Send Chocolate Scheme' which will send the chocolate you buy to someone else with your personal message on a card.

Arton Medd

A call out to those that would like to contribute to our Hala Pantry Toy Appeal

We can allocate a child to support, and will be provided with age, gender and preferences. We also welcome any contribution to support our appeal including wrapping paper or chocolate for the children.

The deadline to receive donations is:

15th December this year and please reach out to: Vikki Pattinson who is coordinating the appeal on: 07789 936406.

Thank you



The Olive Branch - November update

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the recent Harvest Appeal by bringing tins and packets of food for The Olive Branch (Faith in Action). We currently distribute over 2,000 food items EVERY WEEK, providing food for some 150 people (including 40-50 children), so your contribution is very much needed and very much appreciated.

We are also now looking towards Christmas, and from the middle of December will be giving a bag of seasonal goodies to each guest who visits us for food or other support. Could you consider bringing in any Christmas items to make this possible? Our above advert in this Parish News gives some idea of what is most needed and when gifts need to be with us.

On behalf of all our guests - THANK YOU.

Linda Currin



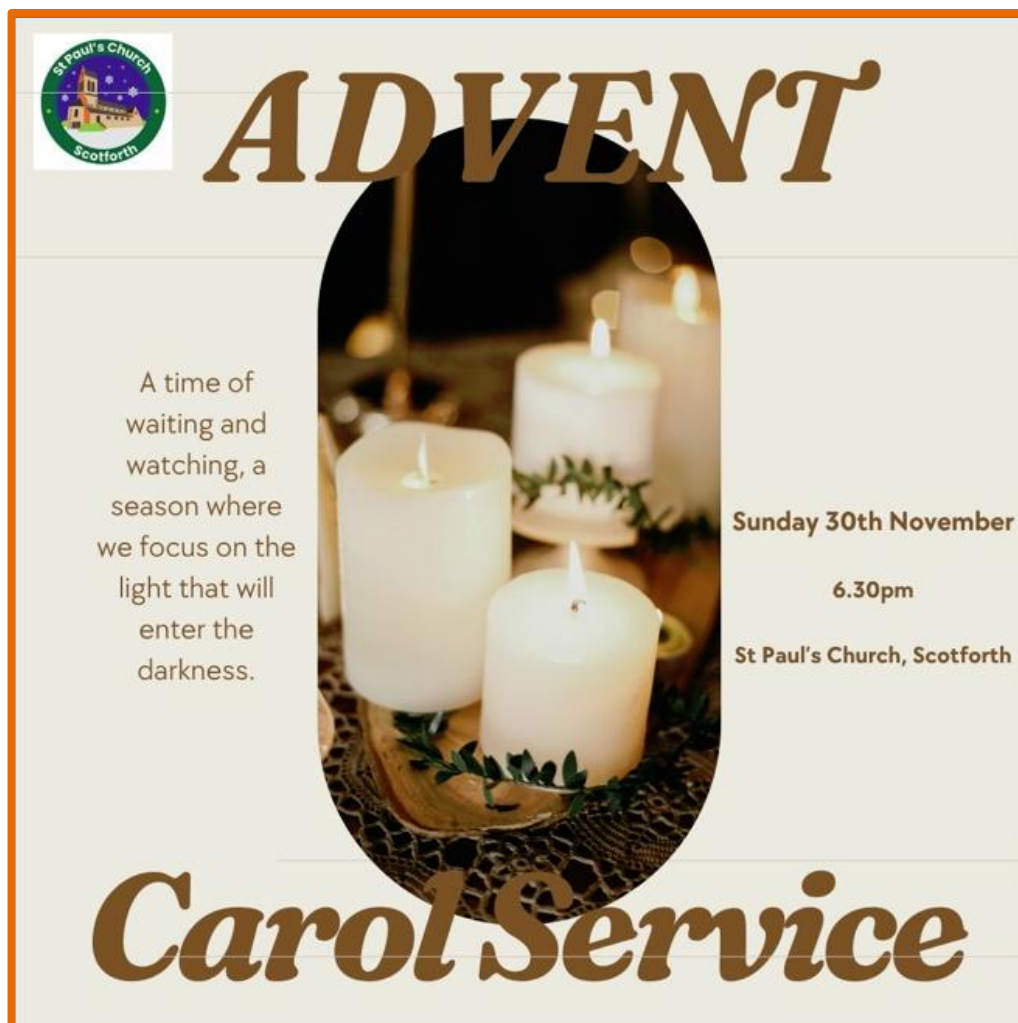
the Olive Branch
faith in action

Can you help The Olive Branch collect these items on our Christmas list, to make Christmas gift bags for each of our guests?

Christmas puddings	New toys
Christmas cake	Mince pies
Christmas crackers	Tinned meat
New toiletry gifts	Crisps
Biscuit boxes	Chocolates
Nuts	Coffee

We will be giving out gift bags between 1st and 23rd December, so the earlier items can be donated, the better - ideally by the end of November and please not after 17th December!

Unit 8-0-1, Harpers Mill, White Cross Business Park, LA1 4XQ info@the-olivebranch.org.uk 01524 555 715



St Paul's Church
Scotforth

ADVENT

A time of waiting and watching, a season where we focus on the light that will enter the darkness.

Sunday 30th November

6.30pm

St Paul's Church, Scotforth

Carol Service