



# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS

## 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

### Sunday Worship – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Advent 3

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 at St Paul's, Hala

6:30pm – Evening Prayer at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

**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
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</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 9 Lessons/Carols at St Paul's, Scotforth

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Our mission Partners:** For Stephen and Marit Impey's work with Wycliffe Bible Translators International.

**From our Parish prayer diary:** Pinewood Close

**From our Church prayer diary:** All those who volunteer in Community Groups

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

**All who mourn:** Christopher Simpson

### Collect for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:

#### Isaiah 35.1-10

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of

jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **Matthew 11.2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December:**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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### **Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 7.10–16; Romans 1.1–7; Matthew 1.18–end

**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.



- **VICAR:** *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, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am –12 noon, we are closed on a Thursday until week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> December. 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: [lifeevents@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:lifeevents@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](https://www.facebook.com/@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 Jayne on Tel: 07986993007.
- **Scotforth School:** Headteacher – Mrs Katie Walsh – Tel: 01524 65379

## Christmas Greetings

Many thanks to all who sent in their Christmas Greetings' messages. Nearly £200 has been raised through your kind donations for the Church Roof. Also a big thank you to Judith Threlfall for doing all the hard work. Best wishes to you all.

***Maureen Leach***

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Happy Jesus' Birthday to my lovely St Paul's family!  
With love and prayers for a happy and holy Christmas,  
and best wishes for the New Year.  
**Rev Catherine (and Stanley) x**

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the gladness of Christmas which is Hope, and the Heart of Christmas which is Love.

**Jayne, Keith and Emily**

Wishing everyone a joy-full Christmas season and a good start to 2026.

**Richard and Tricia Impey**

To wish you all a very Happy Christmas,  
and wishes for a Peaceful and Healthy New Year and 2026. **Jean J**

Wishing a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all.

**Arton and Christine Medd**

Happy Christmas to you all  
and best wishes for 2026.

**Maureen and Stuart Leach**

With every blessing for Christmas  
and good health and happiness in 2026.

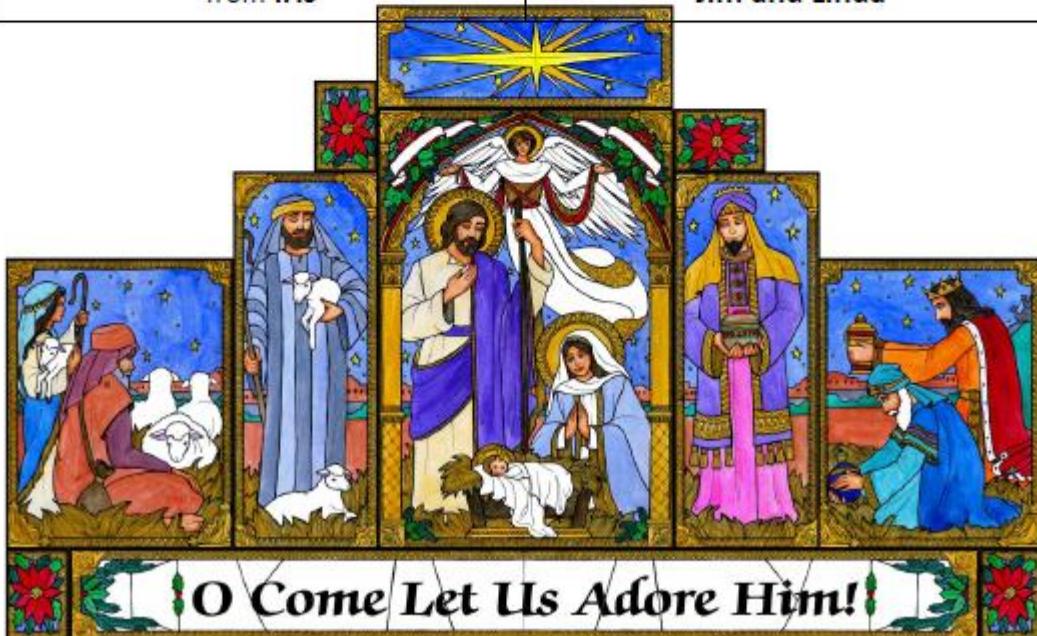
**Margaret Ives**

Wishing everyone at St Paul's  
a happy and healthy Christmas.

from Iris

Love and blessings this Christmas  
to all at St Paul's Scotforth and Hala.

**Jim and Linda**



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May God's love bring you and your family peace and joy over the festive season.

**Phillip and Yvonne Simpson**

Wishing Rev. Catherine and all at St. Paul's a Joyous and Blessed Christmas and a Healthy, Peaceful and Prosperous 2026.

NADOLIG LLAWEN. **Anne Quainoo**

Wishing everyone peace, hope and joy at Christmas and in the year ahead.

With love from **Gwen**

To all my friends at St Paul's, wishing you a happy, holy Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

**Jean Mount**

To all my friends at St Paul's Scotforth and Hala, wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and health and happiness throughout 2026.

With love in Christ **Joan G**

**Mervyn and Vivienne**

wish all their friends at St Paul's a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Merry Christmas Everyone!  
from **Sammy and Emily**

Wishing a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone at St Paul's Scotforth and Hala. **Ken and Beryl Fawcett**

May this holiday season fill your hearts with love, joy and countless precious memories. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

With our love, **Michelle, David, Sachiyo and Michael Gahan**

Wishing everybody at St Paul's Church and the Hala Centre a very happy Christmas and a healthy 2026

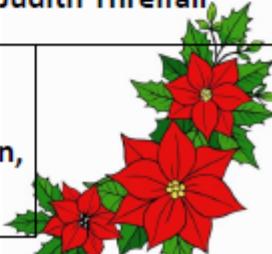
**Sandra and Ian**

With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Brian and Judith Threlfall**

Happy Christmas to Rev Catherine and everyone at St Paul's Church.

With love and best wishes from **the Dewars - Diane and Ian, Aidan, Alice and Tay, Rory and Jem**



## A message from Rev Rebecca:

In late November, I was part of an Interfaith Leaders group invited by the British Ambassador to the Vatican for an audience with Pope Leo XIV. We sat on the dais at the top of St Peter's Square and were later honoured to meet the Pope in person. I was surprised by how deeply moved I felt standing among thousands of people praying in the square



and then being greeted by him. He was warm, friendly, and took time to speak with everyone.

Our group included Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and we all walked away from the experience feeling touched and united by our shared values. It felt like a holy experience. My photo with the Pope is definitely my favourite souvenir.

The Aechtner Jeremias are thriving in London. Sundiya is in Year 9 and Amali is in Year 5, and both girls have settled well into their new schools. Anderson is enjoying his role as the Bishop of Edmonton, supporting his clergy and parishes. The work brings its share of challenges and joys, while offering new and wonderful opportunities to share the love of God. For example, on All Saints' Day he baptised 17 people and confirmed 125 at St Paul's Cathedral — he came home both tired and deeply enthused.



It took me a while to discern where God was calling me after leaving my beloved St Paul's Scotforth Parish. I am now the Area Director of Ministry for the Two Cities (Westminster and London), working for Bishop Sarah. In this role, I encourage and support those discerning a call to lay or ordained ministry, as well as curates and clergy at every stage — from the beginnings of ministry through to life after retirement. While I oversee ministry in my episcopal area, I also collaborate across the larger diocese.

I rejoice in +Sarah's appointment as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, though I am also saddened to lose such an inspiring, clear-sighted, and pastoral bishop to work under. As a family, we miss St Paul's and the sense of being rooted in a single community and parish. We think and talk about you often. You have shaped us a family and me as a priest. We wish you a blessed Advent season as we wait together for the coming of Christ.

***Rebecca, Anderson, Sundiya and Amali***

## **CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING**

**Marketgate, Lancaster**

**Sunday 14 December from**

**2.00 – 3.30pm.** probably by Primark. The purpose is to raise money for Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service Christmas Support. Non-singers also needed (spouses, partners, family, friends) to hold the collecting buckets and tins.

## **Lancaster Royal Infirmary (RLI)**

By arrangement with the chaplain, Rev Ian Dewar, we move to different wards and sing for the patients and staff.



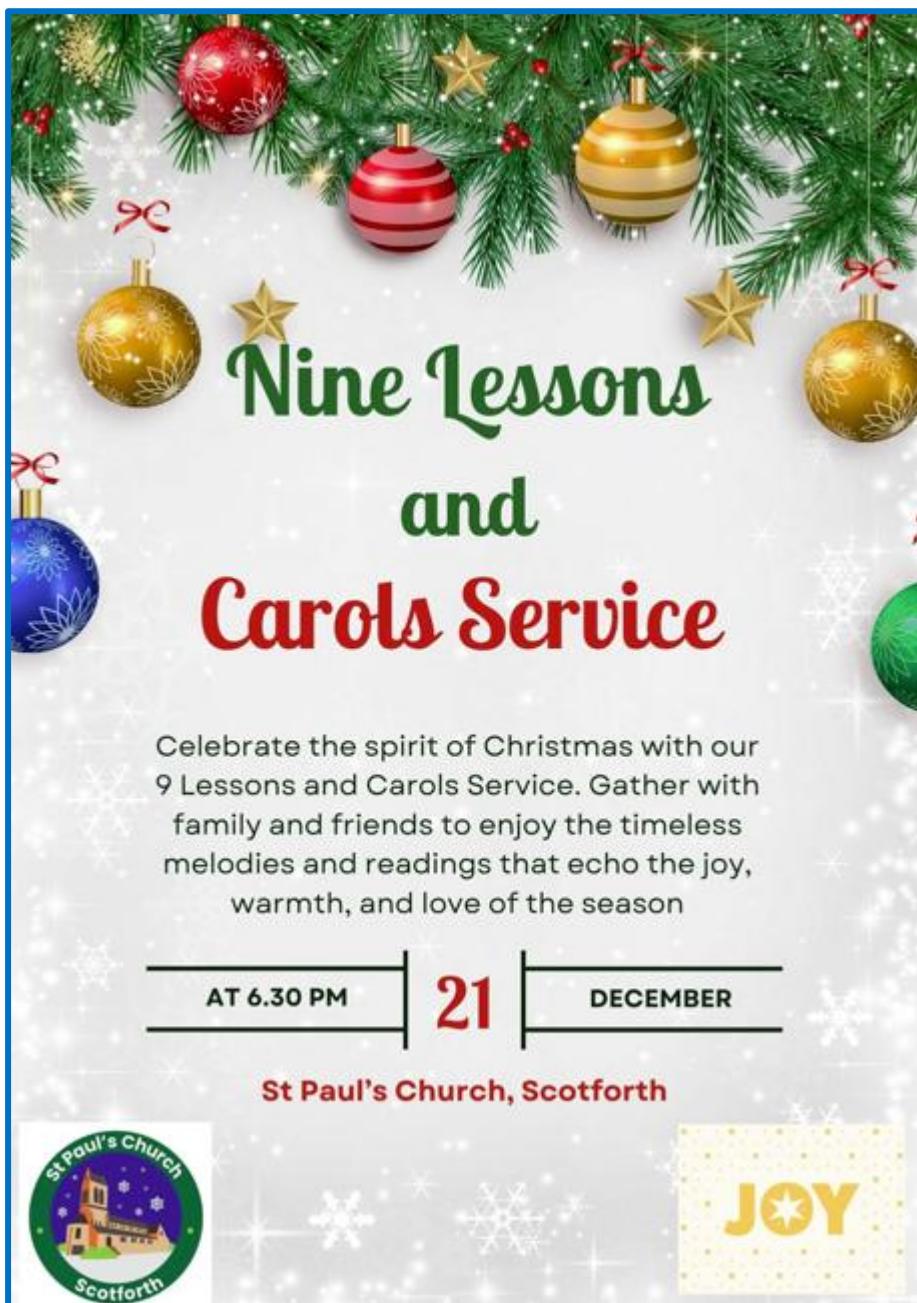
**Monday 15 Dec from 6.30 – 8.30pm.(approx)** Meet in the restaurant in the basement of the Centenary Building

**Wednesday 17 Dec from 10.15 am** Meet on the second floor of Medical Unit 2

**Friday 19 Dec from 10.15 am** meeting as above MU2

All welcome at any or all of the sessions. Carol Sheets will be provided.

*Christine and Arton Medd*



Exultate Ladies Choir

# Christmas Carols

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
7.00pm

St Paul's Church, Scotforth  
Lancaster, LA1 4TS

Tickets £10 (£7.50 concessions)  
Including festive refreshments

## **Exultate Ladies Choir Concert:**

Tickets are for sale at the back of church. Please see a Churchwarden or welcome team member. Tickets are also available to buy at the Parish Office.

50% of the monies raised from this concert are going to church funds.

If you came along on previous years you will know what a wonderful evening of music and singing it was.

***Jayne***

## Ready, Steady .... 2026!

150

St Paul's Church  
Scotforth  
Celebrating  
150 years

A planning group has done a great job offering loads of ideas and advice for the whole year, so we now have a full programme of events passed by the Church Council. Hooray! Our launch event is with Bishop Philip and other very special guests at 9:45am on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We have a Concert at 2pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> sharing talent from various groups in the church. An exhibition follows 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March, opened by Bishop Jill on 14<sup>th</sup> – which (we hope) may include a very special mystery item as well as refreshments and cake. As well as these initial dates to book, there will be lots for everyone to do. The first is some craft work. We want to make a big banner for church using the words of St Paul, 'Love, Joy, Peace' etc. It will be fun! 2-5pm on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January in the Parish Hall. The second will be a team of volunteers for the events throughout the year. Washing up, making tea and cakes, moving chairs and being on hand to chat with guests. We will need different teams on different occasions, so do think about what you would like to do. Third is further practical help. Woodwork for exhibition space, being a steward at events, perhaps even helping with transport – and jobs we haven't thought about yet ... For all the above, make a date and look out for more information in the New Year. A full programme *150 Booklet and Guide* will be available in February but if you would like more information or to register a particular interest, do please email [jim.currin@me.com](mailto:jim.currin@me.com).

Finally, a word about finance. We plan to raise money for the upkeep of the church, and give away 50% shared between The Olive Branch, Scot4All (at our church school) and St John's Hospice. We are trying hard not to ask the Church Council for initial funding (eg £120 for a roadside banner; £560 for printing; £100 for wood etc) and have sadly failed in two grant applications. So, if anyone would like to help by making a donation then do please contact me, Rev Catherine or a Churchwarden. Thank you. Oh, and finally, finally, pray for all of the above and your guests we hope to see in 2026 - and in the meantime have a Happy Christmas!

**Jim Currin**

*All-age*  
**Carols at Hala**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**11.15 am**

**St Paul's Hala Centre**

*with mulled wine  
and mince pies*



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SCOTFORTH

THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER - BLUE CHRISTMAS  
REFLECTION AT 6.30PM

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER - 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS  
SERVICE AT 6.30PM

CHRISTMAS EVE - CRIB SERVICE WITH CHRISTINGLE AT  
3.00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE - BETHLEHEM COMMUNION SERVICE AT  
9PM

CHRISTMAS DAY - HOLY COMMUNION AT 9AM

SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER - SERVICE OF THE WORD AT  
9.45AM

JOY

# BLUE CHRISTMAS REFLECTION



**Thursday 18th December**

**6.30PM**

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SCOTFORTH**

Sometimes Christmas is difficult, whether it is because of stress, loneliness, the rawness of new grief or the lingering pain of old grief.

Come and be with us a while as we reflect on the birth of the Christ child - who was born into a broken world like ours.





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It's good to be *home*.



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Contact Nicola 07738406319

Email: [nicola.buccelli@diddidance.com](mailto:nicola.buccelli@diddidance.com)

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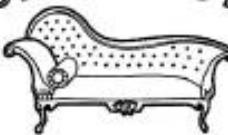
Yoga, music, massage, baby sign, sensory play, bubbles and more!

Halton  
Slyne  
Lancaster

To see schedule,  
scan QR code or  
visit our website!



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