

# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2026

## Sunday Worship – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Epiphany 3/Conversion of Paul

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 – Service of the Word at St Paul's, Hala

**Wednesday** at 9:00am – Morning Prayer by telephone conference

**Thursday** at 9:15am – Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Road

### Parish Diary:

Date & Time	Name of Event
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> at 10am	Lay Pastoral Team Meeting, Meeting Room at the Parish Hall
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> 8:00am 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



*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:** Chelmsford Close, Colchester Avenue, Winchester Avenue, The Potteries Evens 2-56, Odds 57-85

**From our Church prayer diary:** Our Parish Office Staff

**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:** George James Paul Darbyshire

### **Collect for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January:**

Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January:**

Acts 9.1-22

9 Meanwhile 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.' <sup>21</sup>All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' <sup>22</sup>Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## **Matthew 19.27-end**

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' <sup>28</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup>And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Centenary Prayer for Blackburn Diocese:**

Heavenly Father,  
in our Centenary year  
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.  
Send the Holy Spirit to give us  
confidence in our witness,  
generosity in our service,  
and love for our neighbours,  
that your Church may be renewed  
and many come home to you,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

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

1 Kings 17.8–16; 1 Corinthians 1.18–end; 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.

### **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.



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- **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: [sjaynewweatherill@gmail.com](mailto:sjaynewweatherill@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 to 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 Jayne on Tel: 07986993007.
  - **Scotforth School:** Headteacher – Mrs Katie Walsh – Tel: 01524 65379
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## Banner Making Workshop

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 1pm to 4pm**

in the Parish Hall to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup>

year. All welcome!

We are offering a crafting afternoon with light refreshments to create a 'Fruits of the Spirit' banner to decorate St Paul's in our special year. No experience needed as guidance will be available! Donations of fabric/thread would be welcome on the day or in advance.



There will be a sign up sheet in church and you can contact us via email [bearobic@hotmail.com](mailto:bearobic@hotmail.com) (Alison Alderson)

Come along and have fun!

***150 Artsy Things Group***

### 150 Anniversary Update:

Upcoming events:

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 1-4pm.** Craft afternoon in the Parish Hall – see above article.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 9:45am** - Launch Service (see poster later in this edition.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2pm** - Concert in the Parish Hall – further information to follow.

A booklet with all this information and more will be coming soon so keep an eye out for that and keep checking here and our website for updates!

PS our next Planning Group is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 7:30pm in the Office. PPS Keep praying

***Alice Dewar***

## Pastoral Care:

As congregations we are all part of the family of the Church and, as with any family, we care about each other. We aim to be a caring presence in our communities, and one of the ways we can do this is offering a listening ear when needed. Lots of people from our congregations do this without any prompting in many different ways, which is simply part of our Christian calling, but sometimes we worry that people 'slip through the net'.

We have an established small group of people who can offer a friendly visit to anyone who is going through a difficult time, through illness or



isolation, and who will co-ordinate with clergy regularly. If you are going through a difficult time, or are feeling alone, maybe unable to get out like you used to, and feel it might help to have someone to talk to or visit you, who has time to listen, either in a phone call or in person, then please do get in touch with us.

We can also offer Communion at home by contacting us.

Email: [pastoral@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:pastoral@stpauls-scotforth.org) or phone the parish office:

843135 and ask for Jayne.

***Jayne – Pastoral Co-ordinator***

**the Olive Branch**  
faith in action

**QUIZ**  
*Night*

**7.30 pm start (doors open 7 pm)**  
**on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**St Thomas' Church Centre, LA1 1XX**

**Tickets £20 each**  
**2 course meal included!**

**Raffle tickets (exceptional prizes), alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks to be purchased on the night.**

**Teams of 6-8 people or contact us to join a team before the night!**

**Book tickets on our website: [the-olivebranch.org.uk](http://the-olivebranch.org.uk)**

## **Changes in Church and Updates:**

Over the last twelve months there have been discussions with our musicians and Parochial Church Council about our music provision, including concern over the general condition of the organ and piano and availability of musicians both now and in the future. Bearing all of this in mind, Rev Catherine and myself went to investigate options open to us for both now and for the future.

The bottom line is that it is almost impossible to get parts for the organ and service engineers – the last few repairs have been from salvaged and patched parts, some general servicing carried out by one of our musicians. The organ has come to the end of its serviceable life is the outcome.

The piano has been maintained and tuned over the years we have had it, but on its own, doesn't meet the needs of our church for services, in particular funerals, weddings and more 'traditional' services where an organ sound is preferred.

Having spoken to other parishes in a similar position and receiving Diocesan specialist advice, we paid a visit to Promenade Music to look at digital piano's, organs etc. We came away feeling that a digital piano could meet all our needs; but we went on to call a meeting with our musicians to get their feedback and input into the proposal to be put to the PCC. We had two digital pianos brought into church for our musicians to try, listen to and give feedback and the decision reached was that the Kawai CA901 would best meet the needs of St Paul's. It can sound like an organ, a concert, jazz and everything in-between piano and had the best tone/sound that could be attached to our sound system.



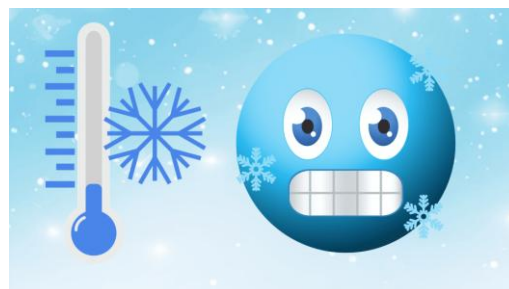
This, of course, all comes at a cost and we are fortunate enough to be able to use money given to us in a legacy from Kathleen and Lawrence Walker to pay for this. However, there were other

obstacles to look into. Did we need a faculty (church planning permission)? Yes, but it's a simple procedure to apply to remove a free-standing organ and a piano and to introduce a free-standing piano. Then, what do we do with the piano and organ?

The piano was put up for sale on several websites and we had no interest, however, we are pleased to say that we have been approached by Morecambe Parish Church and they are going to give the piano a new home. They are having the piano collected at the end of January and our new digital piano will be delivered then. The organ will stay in place whilst our musicians have some time to play and get used to the controls and practice on the new digital piano. The organ will then, following Diocesan advice, be dismantled and disposed of – unless of course anyone would like it for home?

In other news, we are going to have a move around at the back of church over the next few weeks. Moving the children's corner to across the back of church and serving refreshments from in the corner. This is for health and safety reasons with hot jugs of boiling water etc being carried some distance each week. It will also mean we can keep the tables set up and some of the equipment underneath the tables safely, so not as much lifting and carrying for our volunteers. This will also involve moving some of the noticeboards around but this should make them more accessible to everyone and more visible. The back corner, where the children's things are, is quite dimly lit and we are having some additional lighting installed here to improve the quality of light in this area. This is again being paid for from the legacy left to church by the Walker's.

Following on from the heating failing again this week we have had a visit from our plumber. The boiler has now tripped the fuse twice, once on a Sunday a couple of weeks ago and once on a Thursday morning. Unfortunately,



no obvious fault could be found when the plumber came, the boiler was purring quietly away. No matter what setting the plumber altered could he get it to misbehave – quite frustrating. So, we are going to have to continue for a while longer and, if it trips the fuse again or more regularly, not reset it until the plumber comes. Not ideal, we can monitor it if we have any special services in church, e.g. funerals, by going in a lot earlier to make sure it is working. Please bear with us.

So, some pretty big changes over the next few weeks in church but we felt that it was important to keep everyone updated on what is happening.

*Jayne*



**(Mount Fuji and Sakurajima both Volcanos)**

**'HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026' TO  
REV CATHERINE AND ALL OUR ST  
PAUL'S FAMILY  
WITH OUR LOVE  
THE GAHAN FAMILY IN JAPAN 🏔️ ❄️ JP  
' A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE'**



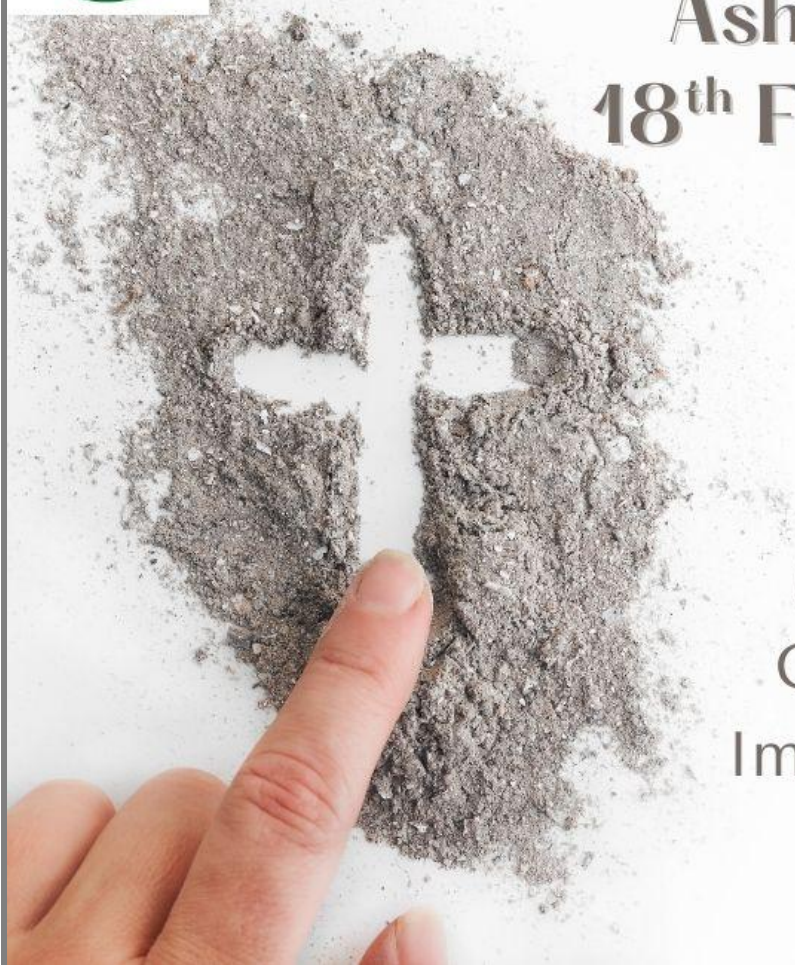


St Paul's Church, Scotforth

**Ash Wednesday**  
**18<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**7pm**

Service of Holy  
Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes



# 150



St Paul's Church  
Scotforth  
Celebrating  
150 years

## ST PAUL'S, SCOTFORTH - 150TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF CELEBRATION

Special Guest: The Rt Rev Philip North,  
Bishop of Blackburn



Everyone welcome

Refreshments, including cake, after the service

**FEBRUARY | 22 | 9:45AM**