

# ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

## Sunday Worship – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 Epiphany 4/Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

**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>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Please note that the Parish Office is closed today. 2.00pm – Tea@2 in the Parish Hall – everyone is very welcome to come along and join us. 7.30pm - PCC Meeting at the Parish Hall, Scotforth.
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> 8:00am 9:45am 11:15am 6:30pm	BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Holy Communion at St Paul's, Hala Evening Prayer 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:** Newlands Road, Farmdale Road, Chequers Avenue

**From our Church prayer diary:** Rowallan Cub Pack  
(16<sup>th</sup> Lancaster)

**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:** Glenys Webster

### **Collect for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February:**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you  
with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ 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 1<sup>st</sup> February:**

#### **Malachi 3.1-5**

<sup>3</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present

offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

## **Luke 2.22-40**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband

for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

### **Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February:**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus  
when he comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

Genesis 1.1—2.3 Romans 8.18–25; Matthew 6.25–end



### **Parish Office Closure:**

**Please note the Parish Office will be closed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February for staff training.**

**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: [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: [lifeyevents@stpauls-scotforth.org](mailto:lifeyevents@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

Refreshments request for cakes or biscuits for after the 9.45am 150 Celebration Service on Sunday 22nd February. Please bring to church before the start of the service.

There are a number of events planned throughout the year and I would like to build up a team of people willing to help with making or serving refreshments.

Please contact me and/or tick your name on the sign-up sheet that will be available at the back of both churches. Looking forward to a wonderful variety of events!

**Alison Alderson**

[bearobic@hotmail.com](mailto:bearobic@hotmail.com)



## 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)



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**