



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS 19th MARCH 2026

Sunday Worship – 22nd March 2026 Lent 5

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
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
Sunday 29th March 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 Holy Week through Readings and Songs 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

From our Parish prayer diary: Dunkenshaw Crescent, Shireshead Crescent, Winmarleigh Road

From our Church prayer diary: Maclean Cub Pack (16th Lancaster)

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

All who mourn: Pete Campbell, Brenda Stewart

Our 150 Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for 150 years of worship here at St Paul's, Scotforth. We give thanks for all who have gone before us, whose faith and devotion built this community. As we celebrate the past, guide us into the future. Renew us with your Spirit, that this church may continue to be a place of hope, welcome and love. Walk with us as we follow Jesus in the footsteps of St Paul, now and in the years to come. Amen.

Collect for Sunday 22nd March:

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Sunday 22nd March:

Ezekiel 37.1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
²He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
³He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.'
⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and

cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

John 11.1-45

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 22nd March:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

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Readings for next week:

Matthew 21.1–11; Psalm 118.1–2, 19–end [or 118.19–24]

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.

The Electoral Roll Annual Update 2026

The electoral roll records those who are entitled to vote at the Annual Parish Meeting [APM] which selects the Parochial Church Council [PCC]. Candidates for election to the PCC must have been on the roll for at least 6 months before the APM at which they offer themselves for election to the PCC. If you are baptized, at least 16 years old, and regard yourself as a member of our worshipping community, joining the electoral roll is a good way to record that membership. The process is simple: just complete a form. **There is no membership fee.** There should be forms available in church and the Hala Centre, just ask a warden or sidesperson. If you have any difficulty getting a form, you can email me on jdennyg41@gmail.com

John Gedge, Electoral Roll Officer

Confirmation Service:

We have arranged for a Confirmation Service to take place on **Wednesday 23rd September at 5pm** which will be led by Bishop Jill. If you are interested in being confirmed (adult or child) then please pick up a registration pack from either the back of church, at Hala or the Parish Office and return it to Jayne no later than **Friday 31st July**.



Classes for children, in Year 6 or above, will be held on Wednesday 2nd, 9th and 23rd September at 4.00pm until 5.30pm in Church. The rehearsal for the service will be on Sunday 20th September after the 9.45am service in church. You must be able to attend **all** the classes and the rehearsal in order to be put forward as a candidate for confirmation.

Group sessions for adults will be arranged when we know what the numbers are.

If you have any questions at all then please talk to Rev Catherine, Jayne or Keith.

Sidesperson (Welcome Team): The welcome received at the front door to church is the first impression that all visitors to our church receive. We need more people to join our team. Please talk to either Jayne or Keith if you would be interested in joining this team before the Annual Meeting. Please can all current sidespeople sign the list at the back of church to say that you are happy to stay on the team for another year. Thank you.



The **Annual meeting (APCM)** is a major event in the parish calendar. This year we are going to continue the tradition of incorporating our Annual Meeting within our 9.45am service on Sunday 26th April at St Paul's Church – there will be no service at St Paul's Hala. Copies of the Agenda, last year's minutes, Annual Report for 2025 and the Church

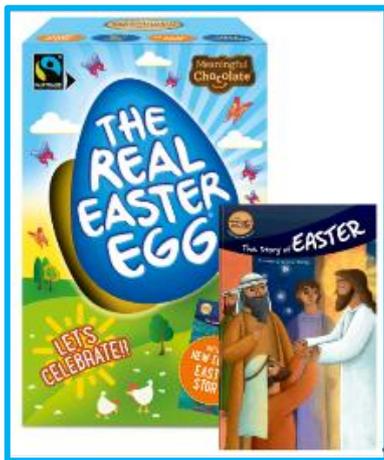
Accounts will be available on the website very soon:

<https://stpauls-scotforth.org/pcc/>

We would encourage you to view them electronically where possible to reduce photocopying and to be more eco-friendly. Hard copies are available, if required.

The Annual meeting elects Churchwardens for the coming year. We also elect the Parochial Church Council (PCC). On the Church Council we have a number of vacancies for both a 3-year period and a 2-year period so if you are interested in learning more about the work of the PCC and only want to give it a trial then maybe the 2-year period would be of interest to you. We will also have a number of vacancies on Deanery Synod which gives membership of the PCC automatically.

If you would like to learn about being a member of the Church Council or feel called to represent St Paul's at Deanery Synod level then then please talk to either Jayne, Keith or Rev Catherine or pick up a nomination form from the back of church or at Hala.



Fairtrade Easter Eggs have arrived!

Meaningful Milk Chocolate Real Easter Eggs are the only ones in the UK with an Easter story booklet for children. They are Fairtrade, have 30% cocoa (check that against the 20% - 25% of usual brands!), are palm-oil free and no plastic is used in the packaging. Cost £5.50.(cash only) They will be on sale after the 9:45am service on Sunday (15th March) or contact me by email arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730, or sign up on the order form at the

back of church to reserve one..

While on the subject of chocolate, please don't give it up for Lent and thereby deprive the cocoa farmers of six weeks (almost 12%) of their annual income. You could make sure in Lent that it is all Fairtrade – and then keep up the habit!

Arton Medd

Our Church School Needs Your Help:

Our Parish has an exceptional primary school at its heart. Its links with Church are very strong, but it needs help to keep and grow these links. The



School Governing Body is made up of parents, school staff, Local Authority and Governors nominated by the Church. It is this last group of Governors that the School needs a number of, and you could be one of them.

The main role of the Governing Body is to ensure:

- that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined
- that the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school
- the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

So, as a governor, you'll:

- help set the school's vision and direction
- hold leaders to account for performance and progress
- oversee budgets and ensure resources are used wisely

You do not need educational expertise but you do need to be committed to the school, willing to ask questions and act as a critical friend.

Realistically, as a School Governor, you will need to attend one full Governing Body meeting each term. You will also be asked to serve on at least one committee which will probably meet once or occasionally twice a term. So that is about three meetings per term. You will need to read the documents and information to prepare for the meetings.

Further information on the role of School Governor can be found on the Lancashire Government website at [Become a school governor - Lancashire County Council](#) and Blackburn Diocese Board of Education website at <https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/The-Role-of-a-Governor.docx>

There are posts for 16 Governors at Scotforth St. Paul's School with 9 being nominated by the Church (these include the Vicar). To get first-hand information on being a Governor, please talk to myself, Rev. Catherine or any of the other members of the Governing Body who you may see in Church (Alison Alderson, Jennifer Couchman, Mark Hammond and Rachael Rigby). Currently there are 2 vacancies, with a number of other positions possibly becoming vacant in the next few months. Please consider whether this rewarding and vital way of giving back to the community is something you could do.

In any event, please hold the school in your prayers at this time, as the Governing Body undertakes one of its most important roles, that of seeking a new Headteacher.

Keith Weatherill, Chair of Governors

VICAR: Rev Catherine Haydon: Tel: 07723 642973;

Email: catherine@stpauls-scotforth.org

Rest day is Friday – if you have an urgent enquiry then please contact a Churchwarden.

ASSOCIATE PRIEST: Rev Clare Shepherd: Tel: 07483 376211;

Email: clare.shepherd@cumbria.ac.uk Normal working day: Sunday

CHURCHWARDENS:

Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

Tel: 60597 or 07986 993007; Email: sjaynewweatherill@gmail.com

Mr Keith Weatherill:

Tel: 60597 or 07986 993005; Email: keith.weatherill@gmail.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

Tel: 07986 993007; Email: 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

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: Booking enquiries - please contact Jayne Weatherill through the parish office or Email: 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 or telephoning Jayne on Tel: 07986993007.

Scotforth School: Headteacher – Mrs Katie Walsh – Tel: 01524 65379

Holy Week 150 St Paul's Church Scotforth Celebrating 150 years

Through Readings and Songs

Palm Sunday, 29th March 2026

6.30pm

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
SCOTFORTH**

Gala Dinner – Friday 29th January 2027

For the end of our 150th
Anniversary Year we have
arranged a Gala Dinner at

Lancaster House. Whilst it seems a long way in the distance we do need to gauge interest for this event. The menu and cost are all outlined in the posters which are in church, St Paul's Hala and the Parish Hall, the cost will not change. **If you would like to come along then please do either contact the office to express your interest or Jayne and Keith – we have been asked to give a rough idea of numbers as soon as possible.** There is no need to make menu choices or pay at this time. Although if you would like to pay during the year then it will be like having a 'free' meal next January! All payments and menu choices must be made before 31st December 2026. If you would like any additional information then please do talk to Jayne or Catherine.



150th Wooden Plaque – available to purchase:



Local charity, Lancaster Men's Hub, have offered to hand craft for us a plaque of the church to mark our 150th Anniversary. These are made to order and are £15 each. They can either be hung on a wall or, if you purchase a stand, be freestanding. There is a picture with this article, but the actual plaque is in church if you would like to see it 'in real life'. There is an order

sheet in church or you can email me on lifeyvents@stpauls-scotforth.org to order one.

Jayne W

Reflections on St Paul:

The next of 'Reflections on Saint Paul' explores Paul's contribution to modern faith and human rights. Copies are available on the notice table or downloadable from the Church website (see 150 celebrations).

Aidan Dewar

Crown Jewels!

At the launch of our 150 Exhibition the Bishop of Lancaster quoted from St Paul about the church being 'Crown Jewels'. She said she was opening the 'Crown Jewels Exhibition'! Bishop Jill wrote afterwards: 'I was SO impressed

with the exhibition on Saturday. Deservedly the Crown Jewels. Thank you for making it so missional while drawing on deep treasure – right back to the 4th century! There was such a richness in this. I have tried to capture this in the tight word count of the Lancaster Guardian’.

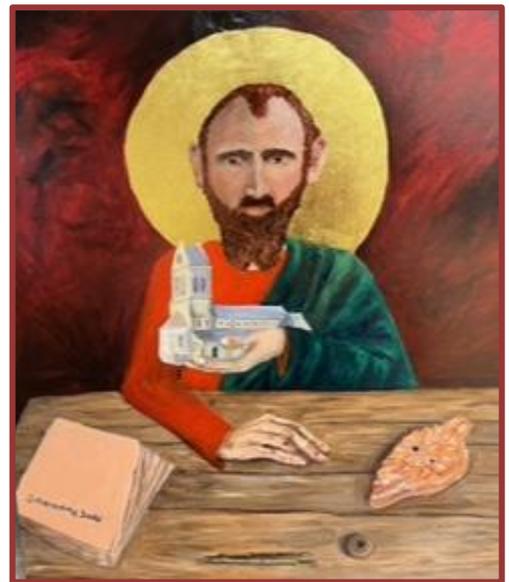
We will look forward to her Guardian piece, with the 4th century referring to the Roman oil lamp. You can hear the museum podcast

here: <https://onehundredyearsonehundredobjects.podbean.com/e/43-chi-rho-lamp/>

Bishop Jill unveiled a new piece of 150 artwork: a conversation with St Paul over a table painted by Val Gedge, and we sang the new 150 hymn and 150 song. Children’s art from our school was on display from all classes, together with an array of historical artefacts, maps, photographs, wedding dress (1965!) videos and displays. Don’t worry if you missed the exhibition this time - it will be back with a Garden Party and Colour Wheel Art display July 11th and 12th!

Therefore my brothers and sister who I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way. Phil 4:1

Jim Currin



**REMEMBER: HE DIED
AND ROSE
FOR US!**

150



St Paul's Church
Scotforth
Celebrating
150 years

Services during Holy Week:

Mon 30th March-Wed 1st April - 7.30pm - Compline

Maundy Thursday - 7pm - Service of Holy Communion

Good Friday - 12-3pm: 12-1 - Walk of Witness (City Centre)

1-2pm - Church open for quiet prayer

2-3pm - At the foot of the cross: a reflective service

Holy Saturday - 5pm - Service of Waiting

Easter Sunday - 8am - BCP Holy Communion

9.45am - Holy Communion

11.15am - Holy Communion at St Paul's Hala Worship Centre