



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS
5th MARCH 2026

Sunday Worship – 8th March 2026
Lent 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

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
Monday 9 th March at 2:00pm	Women's Fellowship at the Parish Hall
Sunday 15th March 8:00am 9:45am 11:15am	BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth All Age Service of the Word with Parade 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

From our Parish prayer diary: Bentham Road, Bay Horse Drive

From our Church prayer diary: All who contribute to the life of the Parish Hall

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 8th March:

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings for Sunday 8th March:

Romans 5.1-11

⁵Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4.5-42

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks

such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³²But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' ³³So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' ³⁴Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 8th March:

Merciful Lord,

grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil,

and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for next week:

1 Samuel 16.1–13; Ephesians 5.8–14; John 9

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

Green Bins



If you appreciate all the hard work the gardening team do to keep on top of the gardens and regret that you aren't able to help. Here is your chance. Once again it is time to pay the council £46 (over £200 for 5) to have a green bin emptied. On average we can fill 4 bins a session so they are vital to our work. A donation of any amount would be much appreciated so that we can continue to keep on top of the gardening. I hasten to add that we do have 2 compost heaps as well.

Donations can be handed in to the Parish Office or Church.

Don't forget to have a look at the crocus memorial garden, as the crocus are now in full bloom.

The Gardening Team

Women's Fellowship:

Women's fellowship will be meeting on **Monday 9th March** at 2pm in the parish hall when Margaret Ives will be telling us about visiting the sites of St. Paul. All visitors are very welcome.

Jean Mount

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 please talk to either Jayne, Keith or Rev Catherine or pick up a nomination form from the back of church or at Hala.

St Paul's 150 Celebration Concert

The concert last Saturday afternoon (28th February) included items from the Fun Church, Women's Fellowship, Jubilate Singers, St Paul's Gardening Team, Tea@2, the Hala Centre, and Hala Pantry. Thank you to all the organisations and individuals who took part, who were part of the audience, or who helped in any way to make the concert a happy and joyous occasion.



Christine Medd

Fairtrade Easter Eggs



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. Contact me by email

arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730, or sign up on the order form at the back of church by Sunday 15th March.

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

150th Gala Dinner:

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. 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.

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● **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.

● **CHURCHWARDENS:**

● Mrs Jayne Weatherill:

● Tel: 60597 or 07986 993007; Email: sjayneweatherill@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:**

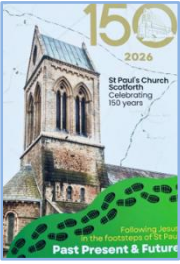
● <https://stpauls-scotforth.org> then visit the Hiring our Spaces area at the top of the page.

● **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

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150 Booklet:

Our 150 booklet is out!

With grateful thanks to our supporters, we are pleased to share our Anniversary booklet as an invitation to all the people of the parish – free! We have an ample supply to be distributed free to friends and neighbours. What we need is everyone please to think about who might like one and take a bundle from the baskets at the back of St Paul's, Parish Hall and the Hala Centre.

Jim Currin



News Flash!

For our Exhibition launch on **Saturday 14th March in St Paul's Church at 10:30am** we shall be having 2 items from Lancaster Museum - just for the morning in a special loan. A member of the Museum staff is bringing the little Roman oil lamp that has the Christian Chi Rho symbol on it. Dug up in the Priory grounds in 1910, the 4th/5th century lamp is one of the museums 100 items on special display.

Though most likely a souvenir from the Grand Tour rather than an actual oil lamp carried by a Roman soldier from Rome, it is still a reminder of the earliest Christian presence in Lancaster and a distant link to the early church that St Paul wrote to. Come and see it!

Accompanying the Lamp is a second, mystery item from the museum. It is a piece of Scotforth history around the time our church was built and relates to faith and sadness - in a moving story we will share at the launch.

Come for some singing, cake and a reflection as we launch our 150 Exhibition. Everyone welcome.

Jim Currin

'Thank you' and a request for help during the Exhibition:

Thank you for all your wonderful cakes and biscuits for our Celebration service but there are many events planned and cakes always bring a smile!

Contributions of cakes and biscuits are now requested for use during the exhibition from **Saturday 14th March to Wednesday 18th March.**

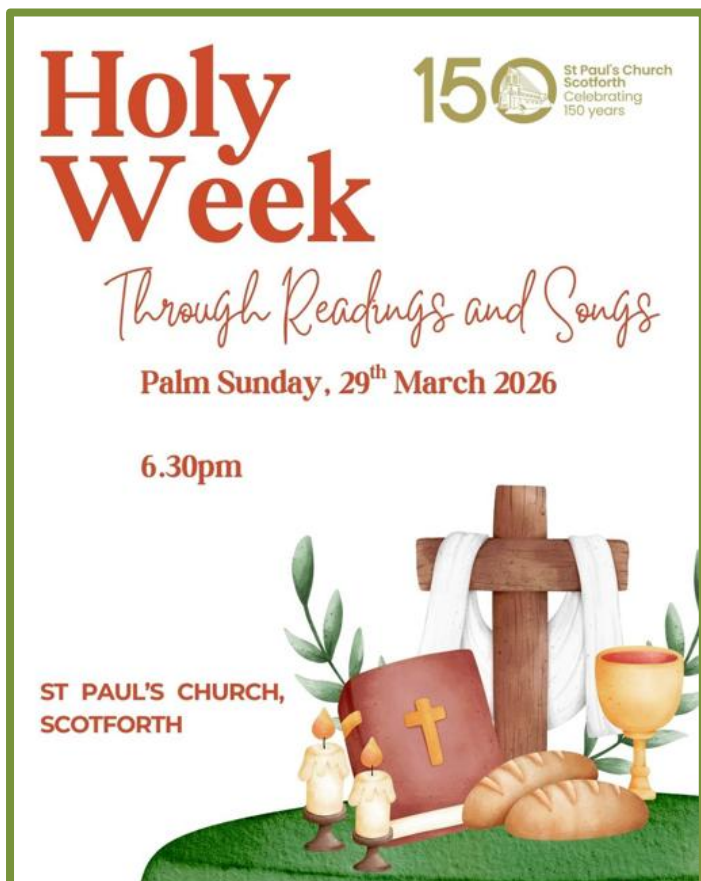
Please drop your contributions into church at any time the exhibition is open

or before the church services on **Sunday 15th March**. A table will be available to leave your items on.

There is also a rota for helping to serve refreshments during the exhibition. It is more fun to serve with a friend - Jesus sent us out in twos! Please sign up in church or contact me by email.

Alison Alderson

bearobic@hotmail.com



Advance Notice of Services for Palm Sunday and Holy Week:

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



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