

St Paul's Church Scotforth Celebrating 150 years



ST PAUL'S PARISH NEWS
26TH NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday Worship – 29th November 2026
Advent 1

8:00am - BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's Church, Scotforth Road

9:45am –Holy Communion at St Paul's Church, Scotforth Road

11:15am –Holy Communion at St Paul's, Hala

6:30pm – Celtic Advent Reflection Service at St Paul's Church, 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 - 9:15am – Holy Communion at St Paul's Church, Scotforth Road

Parish Diary:

Date & Time	**Name of Event**
Wednesday 2nd December at 2pm	Gardening with the Garden Team at St Paul's Church – all welcome
Sunday 6th December 8:00am 9:45am 11:15am	 BCP Holy Communion at St Paul's, Scotforth Holy Communion at St Paul's Church, Scotforth Holy Communion at St Paul's, Hala

0800 804 8044 DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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: Highgrove, Parsons Close, Lindbergh Avenue, Alderman Road
From our Church prayer diary: The Parochial Church Council
Those who have asked for prayers for healing: Janet Reeves, Linda Tomkinson, Richard Impey, Jennie Webster, Bill Haworth, Irene Harper, Ian Smith, Mary Smith, Mary Wilson
All who mourn: Katherine Bevington

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 29th November:
Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Readings for Sunday 29th November:
1 Corinthians 1.3–9
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of

our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13.24–end

[24] ‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25]and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. [26]Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. [27]Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. [28] ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29]So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. [30]Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. [31]Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. [32] ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33]Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. [35]Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36]or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. [37]And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Post Communion Prayer for Sunday 29th November:

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.
Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Shared from the Lectionary app. Material subject to copyright. Please visit the About this App page for further information.

Readings for next week:
2 Peter 3.8–15a; Mark 1.1–8

Collections/donations:
Your offerings for the work and ministry of this parish are gratefully received. Please place your donation in the collection plate at services, or on a plate at the back of church. Please use 'Gift Aid' if you are able to, using and completing a green envelope, these are in the pews with a pen.
We also have a contactless giving station at the back of church, or use the QR code in the pews or in this article. Many of our regular givers do this by standing order. If this is something you would be interested in there are forms for this available at the back of church or speak to Rev Catherine or Jayne.

Advanced Notice - Amended Parish Office Hours:

Due to holidays etc, the Parish Office **will be closed every Thursday morning from Monday 2nd November through to week beginning Monday 7th December.** From Monday 14th December we will return to normal opening hours, with the exception that the office will not open until 10.30am on Thursday 17th December.

Office openings over the Christmas and New Year period:

Closed from 12 noon:	Open from 9.30am:
Thursday 24th December	Tuesday 29th December
Thursday 31st December	Monday 4th January

If you have an urgent query then please do drop the office an email: office@stpauls-scotforth.org or leave a message on the answer machine: (01524) 843135 and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Thank you.

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 Real Advent Calendar: - Last Chance!!

Advent Calendars are on the shelves but none of those for sale in the shops have anything to do with the Christian season of Advent. The Real Advent Calendar (£4.95) has a line from the Christmas story behind each of the 25 windows and includes a 24 page Christmas story-activity book with a page for every day of Advent and some fun challenges along the way. It is Fairtrade, the quality milk chocolate is 30% cocoa solids, palm oil free, sealed in foil, and the box and tray are also recyclable. They will be available in church from **22nd November** after the 9:45am service (cash only) or email me at arton.medd@btinternet.com or phone 01524 64730 to reserve one.
If you wish you can order direct from www.meaningfulchocolatecompany.co.uk where you can also find reusable ones, Christmas Tree decorations, Christingle chocolate oranges and a range of other chocolate items. They also have a 'Send Chocolate Scheme' which will send the chocolate you buy to someone else with your personal message on a card.

Arton Medd

Parish Christmas Greetings:



Last chance to send in your Christmas greetings to the Parish. Donations will be in aid of the Church Funds and perhaps you could gift aid your donation. If you would like to join us please give your greeting (no more than 30 words) with a minimum donation of £5 to a sidesperson, the Church Office or to myself at 20 Newlands Rd.
If you have any queries please contact Maureen Leach on 07531 285199.

A call out to those who would like to contribute to our Hala Pantry Toy Appeal:



We can allocate a child to support, and will be provided with age, gender and preferences. We also welcome any contribution to support our appeal including wrapping paper or chocolate for the children.
The deadline to receive donations is **11th December**. Please contact Vikki Pattinson who is coordinating the appeal on: 07789 936406.

Thank you

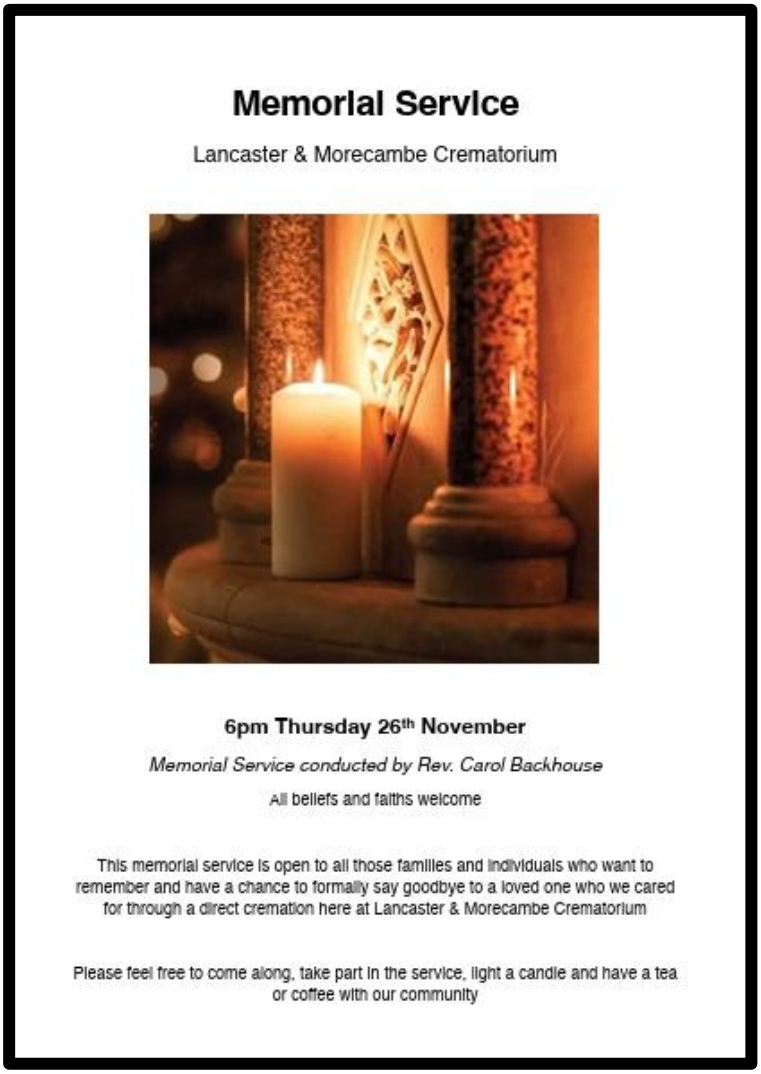
Poinsettias for Christmas - As we once again prepare to go to Bethlehem to worship the Christ-child, we invite you to consider making a gift to St Paul's for the purchase of poinsettias for the decoration of the church at Christmas.

You may wish to make your gift as a thanksgiving for the life of a departed family member or friend, or for a particular blessing in your own life.

This is the last weekend to complete a form from the back of church or the office. Once you have completed the form then please place this, with the suggested donation of £11 (which covers the cost of purchasing the poinsettias), into an envelope with Poinsettia written on it and either place it in the offertory plate, hand to a sidesperson or take to the parish office by **Sunday 29th November**.

The poinsettias will be arriving in church on Saturday 20th December.

This special memorial service organised by Lancaster and Morecambe Crematorium is this week (Thursday 26th November). We apologise for late advertising but we have only just received this.



Memorial Service

Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium

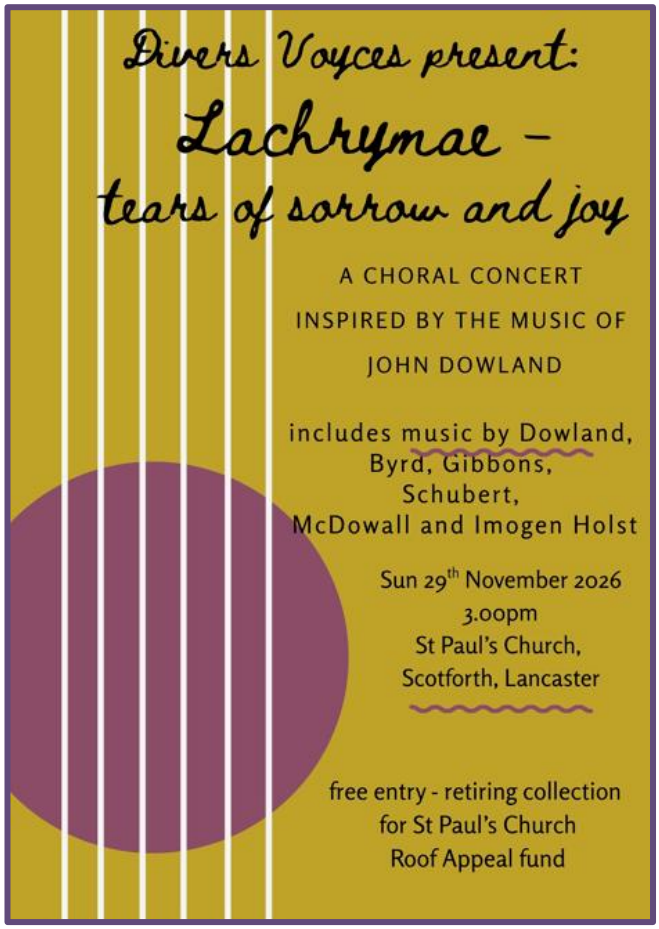
6pm Thursday 26th November

Memorial Service conducted by Rev. Carol Backhouse

All beliefs and faiths welcome

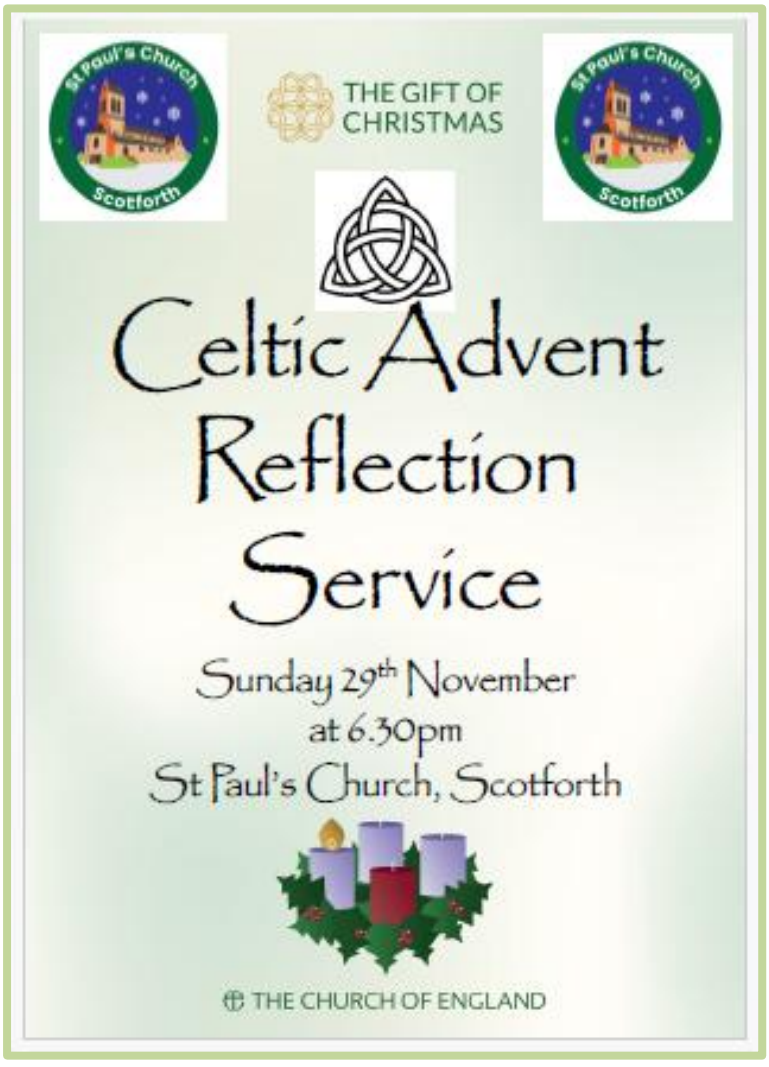
This memorial service is open to all those families and individuals who want to remember and have a chance to formally say goodbye to a loved one who we cared for through a direct cremation here at Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium

Please feel free to come along, take part in the service, light a candle and have a tea or coffee with our community



Choral concert – This Sunday 29th November at 3pm in Church:
Divers Voyces, a small choir based in the Lancaster/Lune Valley area, will be performing a programme inspired by the music of John Dowland (1562-1626). Entitled "Lachrymae - Tears of Sorrow and Joy", the programme will be varied and include pieces by Dowland and his contemporaries Byrd and Gibbons through to present day music by Cecilia MacDowall and Billy Joel.
The concert will be approximately an hour long with no interval. Admission is free, with a retiring collection in aid of the church roof fund.

Sunday 29th November at 6.30pm in Church *– please come along and join us for our Celtic Advent Reflection Service.*





A year of banners, bookmarks and now baubles - join the newly titled ***'Faith & Fabric'*** *for the final stitch of the year.*
Learn to embroider your own tree decorations, over a mince pie and good cheer.
Hala Worship Centre, Friday 11th December, 7-9pm.

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 Rest day: Friday
CHURCHWARDEN:
Mrs Jayne Weatherill:
Tel: 60597 or 07986 993007; Email: sjayneweatherill@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: 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
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 – Miss K O'Donnell – Tel: 01524 65379

This Saturday in the Parish Hall – please come along and support Scotforth School Christmas Fair – 1-4pm. Full details in the poster.





Exultate Ladies' Choir are hosting their Christmas Concert in church on Monday 14th December at 7pm.
Please do come along and support the choir, all proceeds raised will be going to St Paul's Church.
Tickets are available on the door and refreshments will be served at the end of the concert.

To All who enjoy singing carols:



Over the years several hundred pounds has been raised for the Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service (LDHAS) Christmas Appeal by carol singing in Marketgate, and we have also sung alongside the staff and patients in the wards of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary (RLI). Anyone who wishes to join us for all or any of the times below is welcome. Copies of the words will be provided.

The Marketgate singing for LDHAS is on Thursday 10 December (late night shopping) from 6.00 to 7.30pm. We expect to be outside Primark but we do not know until we arrive.

The RLI dates and times are:

Monday 14th December 6.30 – 8.00pm (approx) meeting by the Centenary building basement restaurant (Main door next to A&E)

Wednesday 16th December and Friday 18 December Meet at 10.15am for about an hour at whichever unit is decided. Please send an email if you are coming on either of these mornings so that we can let you know where to meet.

Monday 21st December from 12.15pm – 1.00pm. Men's Mental Health Ward, The Orchard, Pathfinders Drive LA1 4JJ.

Do come and enjoy yourself, raise some money for LDHAS and bring some good cheer to those in hospital!

Christine and Arton Medd Email: arton.medd@btinternet.com

Carol Singing in Scotforth and Hala:

As well as the wonderful opportunities to sing carols in Marketgate, The Orchard and the RLI (see above notice), we also have two events in the parish for all who love to sing carols.

These are joint ventures with New Life church, and great opportunities to share the good news of Christmas together:

- **Tuesday 8th December**, 7.00-8.30 pm. Carols around the Hala estate. Meet outside the Hala Centre (with a torch!) just before 7.00.
- **Thursday 17th December**, from 7.30pm. Carols at the Wobbly Cobbler, Scotforth Road. Come for a festive drink, join in with carols and help raise funds for St Paul's at the same time.

Everyone is welcome to be part of these joyful occasions; just come and sing!

Linda Currin

Advance Notice for your diary:







150th Year – End of Celebration Gala Dinner:

This special event is taking place on Friday 29th January at Lancaster House Hotel (arriving from 7pm to seat at 7.30pm). Please do come along and join us to mark this very special milestone, bring some friends and make an evening of it, everyone is welcome. A chance to socialise and have some fun and not have to do the setting up, shopping, cooking and washing up! Information on the menu choices, how to book and what to look forward to is on the posters included.

Final numbers, menu choices and payment have to be made for 30th December – so put the date in your diary and make your booking now, another task ticked off the 'to do' list!

To those who have pre-booked a place, please can you let us have your menu choices and payment please.

If you have any questions then please talk to Rev Catherine or Jayne.

