

## St Paul's Scotforth, Lancaster PARISH PROFILE

***Our new Vicar, will you help us  
'Worship God, Grow in Faith, and Serve our Community?'***



*... teaching the Bible ... caring for the flock ... preaching Jesus ... celebrating occasions ...*

*... caring for creation ... thinking theologically ... making disciples ... living life ... receiving the Holy Spirit?*

*By ... Following Jesus ... sharing God's love ... praying with us ... making community ... welcoming strangers*



Thank you for looking at our Parish Profile and for praying for our new Vicar.
   
 We hope this information is helpful and informative as you discern your own future
   
 ministry. We are praying for you.

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### Our prayer in the parish:

Loving God, we give you thanks for our church family here at St Paul's.

Send your Holy Spirit amongst us at this time of uncertainty and change during the vacancy.

Give us wisdom as we prepare to appoint a new Vicar.

May we be faithful in prayer for this process as we seek to find the next person called to lead us.

Be with that person now preparing them for this place, that they would be able to lead us into greater knowledge and love of you.

Together may we discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow here in Scotforth and Hala.

Amen

Printed in our Parish News sheet every week  
for our prayers.

## The Diocese of Blackburn

Dear Sister or Brother,

The Diocese of Blackburn is passionate about the renewal of Parish life. Vision 2026 sets before the churches of Lancashire a profound belief in the power of the Gospel to transform lives and communities and expresses a firm commitment to maintaining clergy numbers and investing in the mission of the local church. We therefore seek clergy with a personal faith fiery enough to make new disciples for Christ, with a sincere commitment to the Parish as the heart of the church's mission and with the resilience and courage to bring growth and renewal to local churches. We don't want superheroes. Rather we are seeking authentic, prayerful priests of all traditions who share our passion for confident proclamation and generous service.

Lancashire is a wonderful place to minister, without doubt the most diverse and beautiful county in England. We can therefore offer an extraordinary range of contexts for ministry: from areas of great opulence to the most income deprived communities in the UK, from remote countryside to densely populated former industrial communities and from brightly lit coastal towns to elegant university cities.

We have the most wonderful and precious family of church schools (95% of our headteachers are practicing Christians) which offers both an evangelistic opportunity and the best possible start for clergy children.

People in Lancashire have high expectations of their priests who play a key role in the communities they serve. Ministry can therefore be hard work and so this is a Diocese which will offer all the support it can to its parish clergy. Bishops, Archdeacons and Area Deans do their best to know their clergy well, we offer supportive programmes such as our new five year Start of Ministry Course and the Parish Renewal Programme and there are close friendships and strong networks between clergy of all traditions.

Bishop Jill is delighted to be the appointing bishop for the Parish of Scotforth as well as a Patron of the parish. Over the last years, she has been a passionate advocate of extending the mission of the parish in this strategic part of Lancaster which offers fabulous opportunities and has experienced a heart-warming renewal of worshipping life, extending a diverse inclusive community of all ages.

We really hope you enjoy reading this profile and that it provides all the information you need. If this particular post does not feel quite right, please do get in touch about other parishes in the Diocese that are vacant.

Most importantly of all, please be assured of our prayers as you discern the will of God for the next stage in your ministry.



*The Bishop of Blackburn  
The Rt Revd Philip North*

*The Bishop of Lancaster  
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff*



*The Bishop of Burnley  
The Rt Revd D Joe Kennedy*



## Diocesan Vision 2026



Vision 2026 is an agenda for growth and change agreed by the Blackburn Diocesan Synod in 2015. It challenges our parishes to be healthy churches that transform their communities as we look ahead to our diocesan centenary in 2026. It also lays out four ways in which this over-arching goal can be achieved: Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Prioritising Children and Young People.

All that we do as diocese is focused on the delivery of Vision 2026. To make disciples we are raising levels of prayer, helping regular patterns of bible reading to be established and encouraging generous giving of time, talents and treasures. To be witnesses, many parishes are setting up new local congregations at different times and in different places to reach out to new groups of people as well as showing God's love in action through projects that meet a local human need. New leaders are emerging as we seek to enable and equip those God is raising up in our midst for lay and ordained ministry. And our focus on children and young people is enabling creative thinking to raise up a new generation for Jesus Christ.

Over 85% of our parishes have a 'Vision Champion'. This is usually a lay appointment and the Champions' role is to encourage and support their parish leaders in pursuing the goals of Vision 2026 in a way that is appropriate for their local community.

In the Diocese of Blackburn we are inspired by confidence in the Gospel and are ambitious in our desire to make new disciples for Jesus Christ. We are committed to mutual flourishing, to maintaining clergy numbers and to investing in training for new curates.

Through prayer we see the grace and power of God who can alone bring renewal and growth. Our Diocesan Vision Prayer is:

***"Heavenly Father, we embrace Your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses, to grow leaders and to inspire children and young people.  
Give us eyes to see Your vision, ears to hear the prompting of Your Spirit  
and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord  
and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen"***

Carolyn Barton  
Director of Vision Delivery

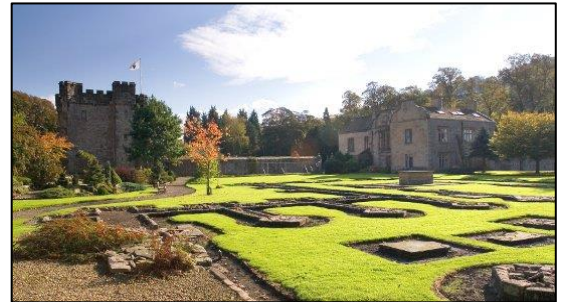


You can find out more by visiting the Vision 2026 pages on our website: [www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org)



## How Blackburn Diocese will look after you

- We have a great property department, who will do their best to ensure your house works for you and your family and is well maintained.
- All clergy are entitled to an uninterrupted rest period of 24 hours in each period of seven days and one additional rest period of 24 hours in each month, and in the remaining weeks of the month to take a rest day and a light day.
- We have a beautiful diocesan retreat house in the grounds of a ruined Cistercian abbey, where clergy are welcome to have personal reading days without charge (bring your own lunch).
- Clergy wellbeing is important to us and we offer a Clergy Assistance Programme, more information about this can be found on our [website](#)
- We encourage all parishes in vacancy to consider how they will 'pastor' and support their new priest. The diocese has an anti-bullying and anti-harassment policy.
- We offer an Annual Conversation in which every licensed priest spends 90 mins with a Bishop or Archdeacon discussing ministry and wellbeing.
- If you are looking for a spiritual director or a mentor we have an excellent Warden of Spiritual Direction and have networks of people with whom we can put you in touch.
- We are always looking for ways for clergy to mix apart from work – including reading weeks, regular hospitality, a cricket team and a clergy walking group. Further suggestions are welcome.
- We offer first incumbents a mentor and participation in our 5 year Start of Ministry Programme.



*Whalley Abbey Centre for Christian Discipleship and Retreat*

## Our Deanery

St Paul's Scotforth is a part of Lancaster and Morecambe Deanery. It offers a wonderful place to minister with a mix of urban and coastal areas and surrounded by beautiful countryside. The deanery synod is well attended by representatives of all churches and engages with a number of issues impacting the local and national church. Recent synods have explored human trafficking, church planting and parish renewal. The clergy chapter is well attended by most clergy and represents the full breadth of traditions across the Church of England. You will be well supported in your ministry in the deanery by lay and ordained colleagues alike. See <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/lancaster-and-morecambe> for further information.



## Introduction to the Parish

Thank you for reading our Parish Profile. As a church we want to grow with a new vicar who will lead us in our mission: 'Worshipping God, Growing in Faith, Serving the Community'.

St Paul's Scotforth thrives on being a parish church deeply rooted in the local community. As followers of Jesus today, we are challenged prayerfully to meet the changing spiritual and social needs of those in our area. We want to reach out across the generations, from young families to those living in later life. Can you equip us to bring God's kingdom here 'on earth as it is in heaven'??

We are well placed to 'be church' through our prominent parish church building on the main road; our wonderful worship centre on the Hala estate; our own dynamic and ever popular Church School and the large multifunctional Parish Hall and Parish Office. There is a lot going on, and members are also engaged in local community activities and groups, activities, and groups. Would you care for us?

Our church life is generally inclusive and we are a parish rather than a gathered church. We welcome a wide range of people and activities who sense 'we belong' to the community of St Paul's in Scotforth and on the Hala estate. Can you provide us with a vision to 'welcome the stranger' and reach out in mission and evangelism?

Our regular services are mainly eucharistic, and lectionary based. Whilst this is important to us, we are open to developing different forms of worship. We have a strong ministry with baptisms, weddings and funerals which provide many pastoral ministry opportunities. Could you serve as a priest among us?

Our Sunday work with children is growing with an amazing 'Fun Church' offered at the 0945 service in the Parish Hall. Our need is to build on this with the re-establishment of a youth group. Our centre on the Hala estate has a Food Club, and want to extend that ministry there too. We have other needs so will you bring pastoral gifts for people of all ages and backgrounds?

We are very thankful to God for our resources and that our work is financially well managed and self-sustaining. We want to build on this so that all our resources are beacons of Christian ministry. Could you foster this ministry and discern vocations to 'help the people be the people' of God?

So, we are looking for a vicar who will lead us as a church community to deeper personal spiritual growth so that we are better able to be Jesus' hands and heart for our community. Please pray as you read. Pray too for us and the process, that we find the person called to join us on our journey.

St Paul's Church, Scotforth Road, Lancaster LA1 4ST  
Website link - <https://stpauls-scotforth.org/>  
Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/scotforthstpaulschurch/>  
You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtJUip8QOUAnLzbhP0rxaJA>



## What We Offer

- ⇒ Our church offers an opportunity for the right person to join a growing congregation
- ⇒ of diverse ages and life stages.
- ⇒ Rooted in a flexible liturgical approach to worship
- ⇒ who seek to be outward looking in our ministries.
- ⇒ with a growing team of lay leaders, including experienced Churchwardens
- ⇒ and a strong parish office, extensive administrative support, good buildings and solid finance
- ⇒ with a hunger to learn more about how we can further God's kingdom in this place.



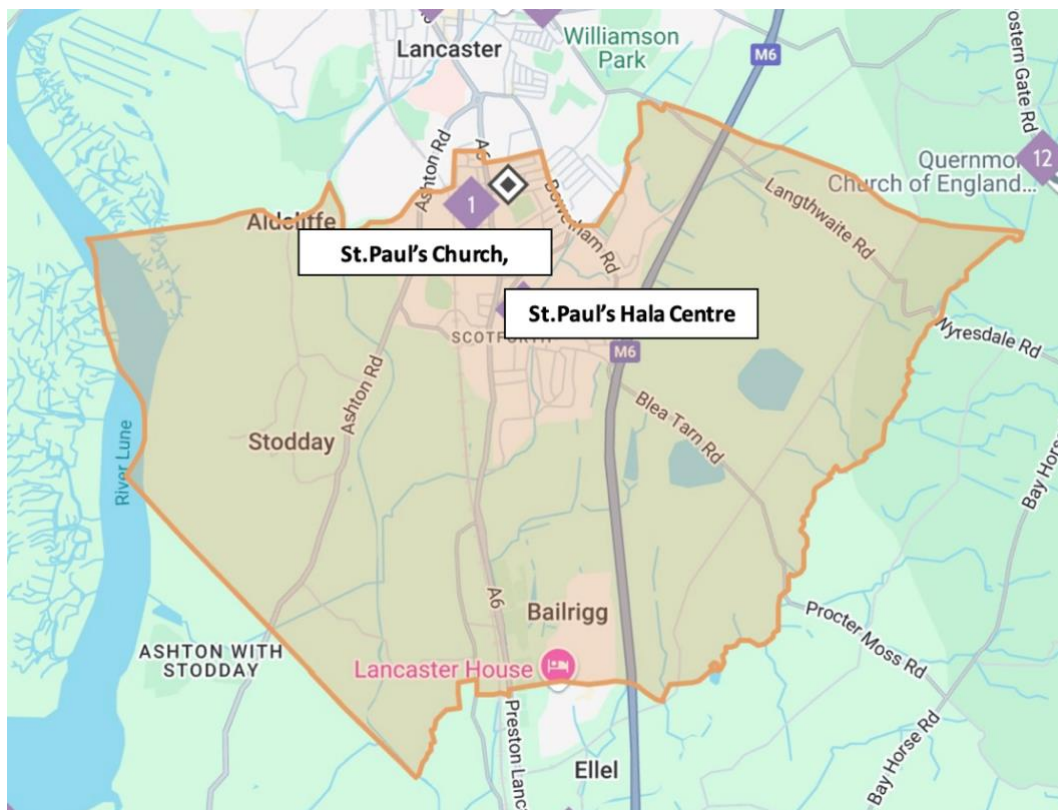
## Who is God calling?

We are looking for a parish priest who will:

- Be a follower of Jesus and spiritual leader who makes time for prayer, study and contemplation;
- Inspire and teach us all to understand and think about our faith in Christ, and encourage us to live it out daily and grow as disciples;
- Inhabit the strengths of existing patterns of worship whilst looking for opportunities to innovate, refresh and extend our welcome;
- Continue and develop our acceptance of a wide range of ages, disabilities, ethnic backgrounds and sexualities;
- Make the most of the opportunities for pastoral outreach afforded by the baptisms, weddings and funerals which take place in our church;
- Understand missional context of the parish, creating community and engaging with estate ministry;
- Support us in fostering our work with children and young families, in both Scotforth and Hala, within the context of Sunday worship, local schools and especially our own Church School;
- Strengthen our ministry with older people and those who need pastoral care;
- Build on the strength of existing groups, continue to develop a systematic adult Christian nurture programme;
- Be a team player, willing to work effectively with, lead, and develop skills within the existing teams;
- Inspire and nurture new leaders to explore and exercise new ministries and vocations;
- Have a keen sense of humour!

## The Parish and Wider Community

Scotforth is a suburb of the city of Lancaster, on the river Lune in Lancashire. Our postcode is LA1 4ST. A mixture of suburban housing and rural landscape, with new housing developments in progress, the parish population comes from a range of economic backgrounds. Large local employers are the universities, the local health service and the nearby Heysham Power station.



*The map of the parish is courtesy of Google maps.*

The city has outstanding educational facilities with primary schools; secondary schools (inc the local and popular Ripley St Thomas Academy CofE School); a Further Education College and two universities. Lancaster University is just within the parish and the University of Cumbria is just outside. The two universities bring students and international staff to the city broadening our age range and ethnic diversity.

Being situated to the south of the city, Scotforth has excellent transport links with the M6, buses and the West Coast mainline railway station. The city offers both access to cultural events in its two theatres, and annual festivals (eg. [Light up Lancaster](#)) as well as easy access to inspiring countryside and the coast. The Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and Forest of Bowland are all within easy reach, as are the larger cities of Manchester and Liverpool.



## The Church Community

St Paul's Scotforth and St Paul's Hala Worship Centre offer a visible presence in the parish, on the main A6 road into Lancaster and on the edge of the Hala estate. As well as the suburban context and estate ministry, a sizeable part of the parish is rural and there is continual pressure for new housing estates.

Just as Lancaster is a dedicated "City of Sanctuary", so the congregation has an open and inclusive approach to Church community; welcoming everyone regardless of their past or present and helping them to build a future filled with God's love.

We aim to be a diverse congregation with respect to age, ethnicity, disability, and social background.

We say 'Everyone Welcome' on the noticeboard, as we believe that God's love is for all. Transgender and same sex couples are welcome and the PCC is open to the use of the prayers 'Living in Love and Faith'. We will continue with the discussion on this topic, within the church community and Church of England.



Currently, there are 5 patrons, 2 Churchwardens (pictured) and 12 PCC members.

There are also sub-committees made up of PCC members and other parishioners that deal with specific issues including the Fabric Committee; Pastoral Visiting Team; Standing Committee. Our Senior Church Warden also undertakes the roles of Safeguarding Officer, Health and Safety Officer, Data Protection Officer and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.



Currently, there is an Associate Priest, until a new Vicar is in post, and three active retired clergy within the parish who take communion services. There are three Authorised Lay Ministers, and one retired Church Army Evangelist focused at St Paul's Hala.

Over 20 people who undertake roles as sides-people, leading intercessions and reading. Lay involvement in leading services is an important part of our church life and we would like to foster ministry and vocations.

Robes (Albs and Stoles) are usually worn by the clergy.



## Our Vision

Our current working mission statement is: 'Worshipping God; Growing in Faith; Serving the Community'. With our new Vicar we want to build on these elements of God's kingdom in a new chapter of our life together.

Worshipping God. We do this in different ways on Sundays and midweek, chiefly in the Parish Church, Church School and at the Hala Centre. Our vision is to draw a lot more people in to our worship, of all ages.

Growing in Faith. Our main teaching occurs in Sunday worship, supported by 3 home groups for adults, and Fun Church for children. Our vision is to become more knowledgeable and equipped as disciples of Jesus.

Serving the Community. Our members have many opportunities to meet people's needs beyond the church family, especially through the Halls, School and Hala Pantry. Our vision, especially for 150th anniversary in 2026, is to refresh this vision to serve our church and wider community better.

## Worshipping God

### Our Church Services

We offer a variety of worship formats from BCP to informal styles of worship in school and at two worship centres, at Paul's on the Scotforth Road, and St Paul's on the Hala estate. Sundays and midweek and monthly communion at a local residential care home. It is exciting that we attract families to the 8am BCP (averaging 50 people per week). The main 9.45am offers young 'Fun Church' that meets in the Parish Hall.

Throughout the year we also offer other services marking different seasons and aimed at specific groups: eg at All Souls, Blue Christmas, Advent Carols, Nine Lessons and Carols, a family focused Christmas Eve service, Songs of Praise, and a Quiet Space on Mothering Sunday. Here is the usual pattern.

<b>St Paul's Church, Scotforth Sunday Services</b>	8.00 am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.45 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer BCP (2nd Sunday of Month)

<b>St Paul's Church Hala Centre, Sunday Services</b>	11.15 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday of Month) Service of the Word (All other Sundays)
<b>St Paul's Church, Midweek Services</b>	9.15 am	Morning prayer (Wednesday by telephone) Holy Communion (Thursday)
	7.30pm	Reflective Prayer (3rd Tuesday of Month)
<b>Chirnside House Residential Care Home</b>	2pm	Communion Service (2nd Monday of the month)

### Fun Church

Fun church is aimed at children from Reception to Year 6 and meets in the Parish Hall. The sessions are run by a small team which we need to grow in terms of numbers and leadership. Numbers attending are between 5-25 children.



A recent consultation with 13 Fun Church members indicated they valued practical creative activities and expressed a desire for more of these both inside and outside, along with more dynamic engagement with bible stories. Older children expressed a need for a separate group more suited to their age. There have been conversations about the possibility of different groups for older children. A key area of development is the leadership of Fun Church as we are struggling for leaders.

Hala. At St Paul's Hala, children are present in the inter-generational service. Current numbers are between 3-5 children.

### Music

This is provided by a variety of musicians and is continuing to develop. For the 9.45am Service at St Paul's, since 2023, there has been a mix of organ, piano, an acoustic group and a small guitar-led band (pictured).

At St Paul's Hala the music is usually led by guitar and once a month on piano.



We use a combination of hymns and songs from different traditions. In addition, a local semi-professional choir have asked to use St Paul's as a base for their seasonal offerings at Easter and Christmas.

### Ecumenism

Members of the church are active members of two ecumenical groups: South Lancaster Churches Together (which includes the local United Reformed Church, Methodist Church and Roman Catholic Church), as well as Churches Together in Lancaster. This involves shared worship (eg. Easter Sunday dawn service, prayer walks) and service (e.g. Christian Aid collections).



Picture at the Hala Centre of Churches Together in South Lancaster after the prayer walk.

## Growing in Faith

### Home groups

Three home groups support people's growth in faith with different approaches to engaging with the bible; home groups meet in the day and evening. There is a lot of potential for further growth and exploration of how to support people's faith for people with busy lives, and explore together what it means to be a follower of Jesus and reflect on the teaching from Sunday.

We have used the Diocesan courses for Lent and Advent, had occasional Confirmation Groups, study courses, discussion groups and meetings for enquirers, but we know there is untapped potential to develop what it means to be a disciple today.





### Pastoral Care

We have a small team of volunteers who provide pastoral and spiritual care to people no longer able to join us in church, or in periods of illness. This is through in-person visits, telephone calls and the provision of Home Communion. Meetings are held four times a year for the team to meet, share and pray. We pray for each street in the Parish once a year. We have a Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator and a Pastoral Care Team Leader, but there is potential to expand this ministry.

The Pastoral Care Co-ordinator undertakes the co-ordination and administration of all Baptism, Wedding and Funerals working closely with the Incumbent. She also undertakes the administration of Home Communion visits and is a pastoral point of call for families and schools.

Informal opportunities for the development of faith does occur through the groups associated with the church where fellowship is shared around common interests and activities including the Gardening Team, Women's Fellowship, Tea@2, and the activities we undertake to serve the community.

## Serving the Community

### Scotforth St Paul's CE Primary and Nursery School

As a parish we feel very privileged to have a wonderful school, that is popular, life transforming, and with a strong Christian ethos. It is an important part of the ministry for our Vicar. The school have provided the following paragraphs for you.

#### Learning, growing and caring as part of God's family

These two texts from the Bible are important to us:

Jesus (the gardener) nourishes and tends us as we **learn** and **grow**, so that we can all flourish. As a vine, we are one, but all unique and special to Him. We **care** for each other, as God cares for us.

I am the vine and you are the branches. If any remain in me and I remain in them, they produce much fruit.  
John 15:5

At Scotforth St Paul's CE Primary and Nursery School, we work very closely with Scotforth St Paul's Church to deepen the children's understanding of Christianity and their spirituality. Our school has been described



*A recent Spirituality Session with Y1/2*

by parents as a family where everyone knows and helps each other. We pride ourselves in developing the whole child and giving them a variety of opportunities to gain confidence and become the best that they can be.

The most recent SIAMS inspection said,

*"The school's Christian vision nourishes and permeates all aspects of school life. Passionate and dedicated leaders, including governors, have a deeply theological understanding of the vision which shapes every decision they make. This results in a vibrant and loving community where pupils and adults flourish as part of God's family."*



*The Worship Team at the Diversity Conference*

The vicar is seen regularly in school and at organised events, as well as leading Worship once a week based on the focused value for each half term. They also work closely with the Worship Team, helping them to plan, lead and reflect on Worship. We would hope that this would continue with the new appointment.

We visit church at the end of each term and for other special services throughout the year. Classes also visit St Paul's as part of their RE lessons and the vicar takes part in lessons within school.

We take the opportunity to join training sessions provided by Blackburn Diocese and other conferences in order to learn and grow.

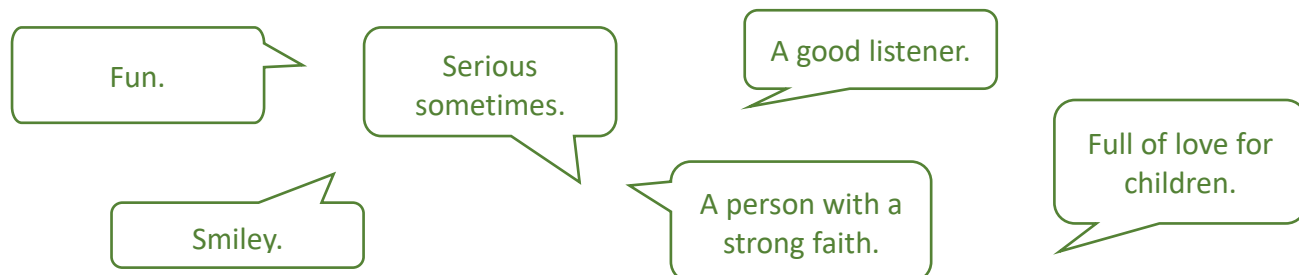
Our school celebrates diversity and we are fortunate to have families from across the globe within our school community to share their cultures and beliefs with us all. We learn from each other and understand that everyone is special to us and to God.

Our recent OFSTED report states,

*"Pupils have a strong understanding of what it means to be fair and to treat everyone with respect. For instance, pupil buddies within school are keen to support younger children. The school ensures that pupils are aware of, and respectful towards, people from cultures that may be different to their own."*

We would love the new vicar to become an integral part of our school family by being part of what we do on a day to day basis. Our blog gives some great examples of what life is like at our school - [Blog | Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School \(scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk\)](https://scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk/blog)

Our children would like our new vicar to be:



Our strong links with the school is demonstrated by the fact that currently 4 PCC members serve on the Governing Body as PCC/Diocesan/Ripley Trust nominated positions with 2 other members of the congregation. The Vicar is an Ex-officio member of the Governing Body – in the Vacancy this post is being filled by the Senior Warden and included in the 4 PCC members. At present the other Warden is the Chair of Governors.

## Our links into the Wider Community

### Schools

Alongside our own outstanding (SIAMS, 2022) parish CofE Primary and Nursery school there are two schools in the parish: Moorside Primary and St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary.

There are also connections with the local Church of England Academy, Ripley St. Thomas, which is rated Outstanding by OFSTED (February 2023). Ripley has excellent academic results and a strong Christian ethos. Along with other Lancaster churches, St. Paul's assists in the provision of seasonal and end-of-year services for Ripley. The Vicar of St. Paul's is an ex officio Trustee of Lancaster, Ripley CofE Educational Trust, which provides grants for our Church Primary and other CofE schools.

Both Ripley and Scotforth St. Paul's schools have Church commitment as part of their admission criteria and the Vicar, supported by the Churchwardens, signs supplementary admission forms to verify Church attendance.

Following the post-Covid opening up, a number of initiatives have begun that address practical, psychological and social needs within the community, for example:

### Hala Pantry

Hala Pantry was established in December 2022 and has become an important part of the parish ministry. The Pantry is a weekly food club run from the Hala Centre. We are staffed by volunteers from the church and local community.

For a weekly fee (£3) people buy food that is either near the Use by Date or after its Best Before date. It offers a way to assist households struggling financially to obtain food and also reduces food waste. With a membership list of 50, we typically serve between 45 and 60 households a week, and some members come to church at the Hala Centre on a Sunday.



See: <https://www.facebook.com/HalaPantry/>



### The Bereavement Journey

We have just run our first course of The Bereavement Journey (February to April 2024) providing bereavement support to people bereaved at any time who wish to engage with the challenges this still brings them. Run by a small team we plan to offer the course again expanding our invitation to people beyond the church community.

### Tea@2

Tea@2 offers a monthly social space for people to come together for company and refreshments. It is attended by between 10 and 15 people each month. Although this is primarily a social setting, there may be potential to develop the focus and scope of what is offered whilst retaining a social focus.

### Eco-congregation

From 2012 to 2018 we held an Eco-congregation award and this was followed in 2019 by a bronze Eco-church award. The Social Responsibility Group which oversaw this initiative has been on hold since COVID and needs a new refreshed start to continue building on these successes. We are a Blackburn Diocese Fairtrade church.



### Uniformed Groups

The Parish has strong links with both Guiding and Scouting groups who meet in the Parish and their flags are prominent in Church. The Parish Hall is home to the 4<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Rainbows, 9<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Brownies, and 9<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Guides on a Monday evening and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Upper Lancaster Rainbows on a Wednesday evening. The 16<sup>th</sup> Lancaster (St. Paul's) Scouts have their own Scout Hut on Dorrington Road and have meetings for Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.



The Uniformed Groups are welcomed into Church, most recently 16<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Scouts as part of our Harvest Service where they trooped their flags and brought harvest gifts. At present there are 3-4 services per year where the Uniformed groups parade, but there is opportunity for parade services to be increased.

## Our Church Buildings

### St Paul's Scotforth.

St Paul's Scotforth will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026. We see this as an opportunity for mission and outreach, and hope that our new Vicar will help us share the good news of Jesus afresh.

The main church building is set back from the main southern route into Lancaster city centre, the A6. It has a current seating capacity of around 275. In addition to pew seating, it has an area with tables and chairs, and a corner for young children.

The main Church is a Grade II listed building with two notable architectural features. One is the use of terracotta for stonework and the other is that it does not have a central aisle. The Church has step free access into the building, two wheelchair positions at the front of Church and accessible toilet facilities in a kitchen area.



Recent work has included repairs to a leaking church roof and internal netting of the ceiling. In the past few months the church has been electrically rewired. A Hearing Loop System is fitted in a new bespoke speaker system and plans are in place for a new video screen system for which funding is available and a Faculty has been applied for<sup>1</sup>.

In the Church grounds there is an area of consecrated ground for the interment of ashes. The gardens surrounding the church are maintained by an active Gardening Team.

The last Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken on 7th July 2022 and the Executive Summary states:

'The building and Churchyard are cared for by St Paul's PCC, Scotforth, and these Church groups and community maintain the building incredibly, engaging with the QIR process with the utmost care. The building is in dilapidated condition with no Category 1 issues but there are significant issues on the horizon,



<sup>1</sup> The Faculty was granted and the video screen system has now been installed

with ongoing monitoring of the Tower, following emergency works completed on the 15th of November 2021.

As reported in the last three Quinquennials, the slate roof is in the later stages of its expected service life and needs replacing in the next 10 years. Although works to repairing the Tower seem to have reduced the acceleration of its decline, the roof still remains a significant problem. A number of these items are listed as a Category 5 – this is not to downplay the need for repair but merely highlight that these issues need to be addressed once the roof is fixed.'

In 2024 the Nave and North Aisle ceilings have been netted to prevent debris falling. Future work on the roof is being taken forward with strong support from the Diocese to plan and obtain external grant funding<sup>2</sup>. We have a reserve budget and ongoing fund raising (see 'Finances').

### St Paul's Hala Worship Centre

The St. Paul's Hala Worship Centre is a second worship and community centre, half a mile south east of the Church and in a prime position on the Hala estate. St. Paul's Hala was opened in 1984 and is a collaborative project with the City Council, which owns the building. The Centre is adjacent and connected to a sheltered housing complex, Beck View. The Centre is on a long-term lease to the Church which is responsible for its internal upkeep. The Centre is an open and flexible space with a capacity of 60, and is currently used for worship on Sundays and the Hala Pantry on a Friday. At other times it is available for use by Church groups and hire for community activities and projects. A recent bequest and grant funding has enabled the heating and lighting equipment to be updated, along with the introduction of internet access.

### The Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is across the A6 road from the church and comprises a large main hall which is licensed for use for up to 160 people. This room has access and facilities for those with disabilities, a stage, PC projector and drop-down projecting screen. Also downstairs, there is a sound proofed meeting room, a catering-standard kitchen and the Parish Office. Upstairs is a smaller hall with its own toilet and utility area. The hall is widely used both by Church and the local community.

Besides Church affiliated groups (Guides, Brownies, Rainbows) the hall has other regular users including Yoga groups, Martial Arts groups, Slimming World and various fitness, health/wellbeing and recreational groups. The hall also attracts one-off hires such as birthday parties, wedding receptions, funeral teas etc. The hall has been designated as a Level 1



<sup>2</sup> The plan has started and the PCC have agreed to pay a fundraiser for this purpose.

Emergency Rest Centre in case of local problems such as power/utility disruption, this is working with Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council.

In the last year a number of social activities have been undertaken including a Christmas Fayre, Ceilidh, Tulip Extravaganza and a Nativity Crib Festival. The success of these suggests there is potential to grow these more.

Continued development of the facilities provided in the hall has increased lettings to a point where, to date, the cost of development and upkeep is more than covered by hire income. Over the last three years we have replaced the roof, installed a new heating system downstairs, replaced the main hall ceiling and other work; all funded by grant funding.

### Parish Office

We have a Parish Office and this is situated in the Parish Hall. It is open and staffed (two part-time members of staff) on Monday to Friday mornings (9.30-12noon). The Pastoral Care Co-ordinator undertakes the co-ordination and administration of all Baptism, Wedding and Funerals working closely with the Incumbent. She also undertakes the administration of Home Communion visits and is a pastoral point of call for families working closely with the Incumbent. She also attends Pastoral Team meetings and chairs in the absence of the Team Leader.

### The Vicarage

The Vicarage is a large well-maintained family home, built in 1887. Adjacent to the Church, it is surrounded by gardens, and includes a garage.

There are five large bedrooms over the first and second floors with a family bathroom on the second floor. On the ground floor are two reception rooms, a large kitchen/diner, pantry and utility room for family living, as well as an office area adjacent to the front entrance with a toilet: both separated by an additional door from the family residence.



Despite its age, the building is in a good state of repair and decoration. The bathroom and kitchen have been modernised.

## Our Church Finances

The finances are sound - in 2023 the unrestricted reserves decreased by £14.92 to £70,536.93 and the total reserves increased by £12,567.58 to £349,362.71 held in Unrestricted, Restricted and Endowment funds. We hold regular, although not frequent, stewardship campaigns, the last starting a year ago. These are organised and run by a dedicated team although the vicar is expected to provide support when needed. A new campaign is still required.



Other money is raised from grants, special events and letting the Parish Hall and Hala Centre. Currently we are continuing to raise money to replace the church roof. A separate group of individuals had taken responsibility for organising the fund-raising – 16.5% of the restricted funds required for the church roof (total about £1,000,000) has so far been raised.

Currently, the PCC pays the vicar's council tax, the water rates and for essential mileage. Other items, such as necessary publications, are reimbursed as approved.

The Diocese agreed a figure of £65,000.00 for the Parish Share in 2023 and, as usual, this was paid in full before the year end. We expect the 2024 accounts to demonstrate a similar financial performance.

Please see Appendix 3 for Finance Returns.

## Safeguarding

In all of the above activities we follow and implement the diocesan safeguarding advice and practice and have a designated Parish Safeguarding Officer. Safeguarding is important to us as it reflects our inclusive theology that we are all equal in the eyes of God and everyone is welcome in our church.





## Appendix 1 Statistics from the Parish

Patrons		
Rt Rev Dr Jill Duff, Mr John Gedge, Mr Gary Rycroft Mrs Jayne Weatherill, Rev Canon Chris Newlands.		
Electoral Roll 2023		
Number	154	
Age Profile of the Church		
0-17	72	
18-69	127	
70+	25	
Occasional Offices, Celebrations etc.		
Baptisms	29	
Weddings	6	
Confirmation	Adult candidates	0
	Under 16 candidates	0
Funerals	in church	20
	at Crematorium	3
	Interment of Ashes	2
Normal weekly attendance	adult	120
	under 16	38
Festivals		
Easter	Communicants	144
	Attendance	179
Christmas	Communicants	147
	Attendance	432

## Appendix 2

### Statistics for Mission

Parish Demographics		
Population		13,103
No. of Households		4,515
Age Spread (years)	0-4	4%
	5-19	26.6%
	20 - 69	57.5%
	70+	12.0%
Ethnic Mix	White ethnicity	86.7%
	Asian ethnicity	7.8%
Faith Mix	Christian	47.8%
	Muslim	4.4%
	Other religions	2.1%
	No religion or not stated	45.7%
Deprivation Index	IMD Score	13.0
Parish IMD rank	Rank (1=most deprived out of 12,239 parishes)	8,052
Education background of population	No formal qualifications post-school	25%
	Level 4/Degree level or above	36%
Employment	Not classified (full time students or not classifiable for other reasons)	30%
	Never worked and long-term unemployed	5%
	Small employers and own account workers	7%
	Managerial, administrative and professional occupations	31%
	Other occupations	28%
Housing Mix	Owner occupied	71%
	Social rented housing	10%
Major Employers	NHS, Lancaster University, University of Cumbria, local shops, schools.	

## Appendix 3 Finance Returns

Finance Returns	
Year	2023
Parish Income	£165,325.43
Tax Efficient Planned Giving	£55,177.86,
Amount per person per week	£11.41
Parish Expenditure	£152,757.85.
Parish Share Assessed	Yes
Parish Share Paid	£65,000

