

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Who's running with you?

HEBREWS 11.29 – 12.2

The writer to the Hebrews continues to highlight acts of faith by God's people, recounting miraculous deliverance and steadfastness in trials. The author urges believers to persevere in the face of difficulties and opposition, focusing on Jesus – the ultimate example of faith and the source of salvation.

At times we need encouragement to persevere in our Christian faith. Who better to encourage us than those, from the past and the present, who know what it is like to be people of faith? Today's readings do not pretend it will be easy, but there is support and encouragement from those who run alongside us.

'God's Baptist people are in good heart'

The outgoing 'Baptists Together' President Steve Finamore is feeling encouraged, as he looks across the Baptist networks

Reflecting at the recent end to his presidential year, he spoke of the emerging pattern of church growth he has witnessed across his church visits – growth now supported by both Baptist statistics in the annual returns, and wider studies such as Bible Society's Quiet Revival.

He said: "God is on the move. People are joining our congregations. In some places, they're older people. In others, they're younger people. Sometimes they're both."

Steve spoke of a church in Somerset where the church had been praying for people in their 20s to join. Now they have a group of around 20 younger people, who have formed a home group and established a new midweek children's club.

SUNDAY 17TH
AUGUST 2025
TRINITY 9

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 23.23-29

PSALM

PSALM 82

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 11.29 – 12.2

GOSPEL

LUKE 12.32-40

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

RITA JAGGER

PSALM

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

DARELL & JENNIFER INGALL

Collect Trinity 9

Gracious Father,
revive your Church
in our day, and
make her holy,
strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our
Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

There is a
Redeemer

Gradual

Father, hear the
prayer we offer

Offertory

In Christ there is no
east or west

Communion

All heaven declares
Faithful one so
unchanging
Jesus, name above
all names

Recessional

I, the Lord of sea
and sky

Reflecting Faith: Saying 'farewell'

Last month we considered how we are welcomed at the beginning of a church service, as we come together to enter into the real presence of God.

This month let's consider how we say 'goodbye' at the end of the service.

For the leader of the service doesn't just say something like, "Thanks for coming, lovely to see you – have a great week." Rather, there's a promise and a blessing for each of us as we take what we have 'received' from the service into the world.

So the crunch question is: what do you get out of coming to a church service?

The ideal is: You have been met with a friendly welcome followed by music you love, played at the perfect speed with no squeaky singers in the congregation. Then, an inspiring sermon which gives you something to think about for the coming week. After that, prayers that speak of what is on your heart and what you have heard on the news that week. Finally, good fellowship and a cuppa after the service, where you can feel part of 'them', rather than ignored because you are only visiting.

Following all that good stuff, you go out of the church with a spring in your step! Of course, in the real world not all those boxes get ticked.

But still we can go to church with hope, and ideally, we leave it in peace. The time that we spend together is the 'easy' bit. The real challenge begins when we go out the door and back into the daily round of home life and work. But we can be sure that we do not leave God at the church door.

He always comes home with us, and He is there to help us throughout the coming week. That is why we can indeed 'go in peace'.

This month

When you next go to a church service take note of the leader's closing words and your expected responses to them. How heartily can you agree with them? How do they make you feel?

Being bored is good

This will cheer you up this summer when your children mope around the house saying that they are bored: apparently a bit of boredom is good for them.

So says a senior educationalist, Julia Robinson, who has encouraged parents NOT to force their children into too many activities. Instead, they must be allowed to become bored, so that they can have time to be reflective and calm. Too many pursuits such as music lessons, sport and online learning could result in a generation of manic, anxiety-ridden adults, she warns. Writing in an education magazine, she has pointed out that happiness does not come from a "regime of unrealistic multitasking, running oneself ragged with an exhausting programme of endless...activities."

In your prayers this week....

Anne and her family; Anthony; Jean Angell; Lesley; Denise Edge; Piper Fletcher; Alyson Healey; Peter Jeffery; Terry Marsden; Michael Parker; Maralyn Pawson; Ruben; Carol Sharp; Karen Spencer; Vanessa Starsmore; Christopher, Stella and Will Streidling; Victor Smyth; Kelly Swift; Christine Russell; Lisa White; Peter Wilkins.



This weeks flowers are in memory of David Miller.

If you would like flowers in church either in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day please speak to Angela W



The hard core fans were at the back, playing air-organ

From the Parish Prayer list:

For all on our prayers needed list; The NHS and our local GP's and nursing teams; Emergency Services; Oak Avenue; Oak Place; Oak Street; Old Cawsey; Old Marsh; Oliver Close; Orion Place; Overdale Mount



Get a water-efficient shower head
Replace your old shower head with a water efficient version and you could save around 40 litres a day.

Use the eco setting or lower temperature
On your washing machine or dishwasher the eco mode uses less water and saves energy with a lower temperature.

Quotes

What we desire our children to be, we must endeavour to be before them. - Andrew Combe

Every child has a right to be both well fed and well led. - Ruth Smelter

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises. - Demosthenes

We should all swap problems; everyone knows how to solve the other guy's. - Anon

Next week

SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST 2025
TRINITY 10

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 58.9B-14

PSALM

PSALM 103.1-8

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 12.18-29

GOSPEL

LUKE 13.10-17

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

PSALM

ALYSSA HARGREAVES

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

PAUL HEALEY

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL & KEVIN HENRY

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

Wednesday

5.45 Bible Study

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy

Communion/SoW

Keeping Calm in the Storm

One of the most famous stories about Jesus is the calming of the storm (Luke 8:22-25). Of course, anyone could say that the wind stopped suddenly of its own accord, but the disciples were not fooled. They had seen a number of these 'coincidences' in Jesus' ministry, and they weren't about to ignore this one. Jesus had calmed the waves with only His words. Wasn't this an act of God? Who else could be in complete control of creation?

Jesus dealt graciously with the very pressing and practical issue of the raging storm before He did a bit of teaching, asking His followers "Where is your faith?" It's not surprising that they were scared, given the circumstances, but clearly Jesus expected better of them. He had already been teaching them for some time, and clearly knew they were ready to trust Him.

In similar circumstances, Christians often do several things in quick succession. We start by panicking and being afraid. After a while we might remember what we know about God's character and pray for help, trusting that whatever happens He will help us to handle it. Most often, we don't get the storm-calming effect when we ask for it, but battling on with faith and God's help is much easier than trying to keep going in a panic.

'Peace' in this kind of situation is a very active holding on to what we know about God. The difference between trusting and not trusting can be like night and day in terms of stress levels. I have found that it can make the difference between unmanageable stress and something that stretches me and teaches me something new.

Knowing some science can help us to trust God. A Being who created the whole

universe, sustaining the wonderfully creative processes that produced diverse life on earth, must be both extremely powerful and extremely wise. The God who can both calm the waves and walk on them must be in complete control of the things He made. When this knowledge goes hand in hand with experience of God's intimate love for us and care for us in every situation that we find ourselves in, I am reassured that He's got things in hand.

I will always need help from others to pray faithfully in stormy situations, but hopefully I've seen enough now not to panic for too long. Time (and my closest friends) will tell!

Editor: Dr Ruth Bancewicz is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Wildfires in the UK

If you venture into the countryside this month, be careful and stay vigilant: be wildfire aware. So warns the National Fire Chiefs Council, after a record-breaking season for wildfires.

The concern is based on some alarming data. By June (the most recent data on hand) firefighters had responded to more than 500 wildfires across England and Wales. That was a 717 per cent increase on the same period as last year, and more than double the number seen in 2022.

Dry, sunny weather this Spring created ideal conditions for wildfires, which thrive on plenty of dead and dormant vegetation, and spread rapidly.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Ruth chapters 3 and 4

Naomi and Ruth had returned to Bethlehem as widows. Ruth had worked during the harvest in the fields of Boaz, a near relative.

Naomi told her daughter-in-law Ruth

You need someone to marry and look after you. I have a plan

I will do all you ask of me.

So Ruth went to where the grain was threshed. Boaz was on guard that night..

but she stayed out of his sight until he was asleep.

Then she uncovered his feet and lay down by them.



At midnight, Boaz woke, and was shocked to find her there.

As my relative who must look after me, will you marry me?

You have a closer relative; I will ask him tomorrow. If he will not marry you, I will do so gladly. Lie down now, and sleep.



Just before dawn, Ruth returned to Naomi.

All we can do now is wait.

Boaz went to the meeting place, and waited for the relative to pass.



Naomi wants to sell the land she inherited from her husband, and as nearest relative, you get first refusal.



I want to buy the land.

Then you must marry Ruth as the land must be inherited by her son

In that case, I don't want to buy it.

Then I will buy the land and marry Ruth.

So Boaz married Ruth and they had a son.



and he was an ancestor of King David!

My life is no longer bitter!



Revd. Tommy

Tommy is not feeling himself at the moment, please do pray for Tommy, Donna and the girls. We are thankful that our Area dean has been able to find cover for us till the end of August. For anything church related please continue to reach out to the churchwardens

Rushbearing – Saturday 6th September

Its time for us to start getting ready for rushbearing. so far we are looking for donations of:

Cakes for the cake stall, see Sue Sanderson

Raffle, tombola and bottle prizes, see Angela Wilkins or Janet Turner

Bacon, t-cakes, Mushy Peas, Milk, buns etc, a full list will be at back of church next week

Volunteers sign up to help in the kitchen or help on a stall, sign up sheet at the back of church next week

Financial information

May

Receipts £1,844.53

Payments £1,735.45

June

Receipts £1,810.82

Payments £2,118.32

Revd. Paul Ainsworth

We learnt this week of the death of Paul Ainsworth. Paul started his ministry here at Christ Church in the 80's as a lay reader. He and his wife Pat ran Cypher, a weekly group for teens within the parish. Please do keep his wife Pat and there children Xavier and Damian in your prayers. Funeral details to be advised in due course. May Paul rest in peace and rise in glory.

HeBrews Coffee Morning



Join us for fellowship and fun

COFFEE MORNING

Enjoy community, coffee, and conversation every
Tuesday and Saturday 10am till 1130am

Come join

Weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays
www.christchurchsb.org.uk

Find us on
www.christchurchsb.org.uk



Using your smart device,
scan the QR code to join
'Hebrews Coffee' Wi-Fi

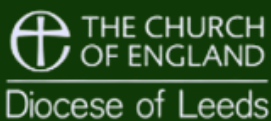


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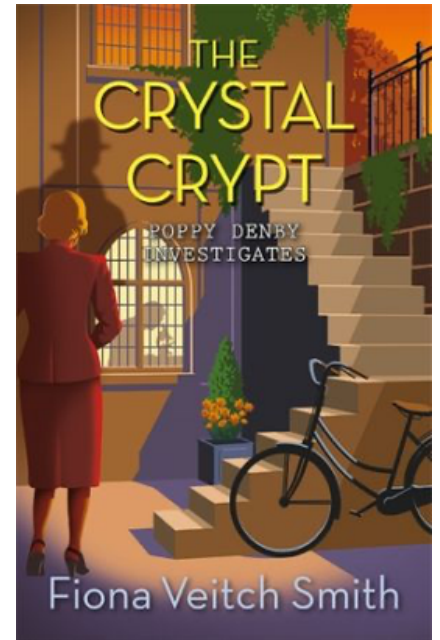
Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



The Crystal Crypt
By *Fiona Veitch Smith*. SPCK
£9.99

Set in the 1920s, Reporter sleuth Poppy Denby is asked to investigate the mysterious death of an up-and-coming female scientist in an Oxford laboratory known as the Crystal Crypt. The official verdict is that Dr June Leighton died in a tragic accident, but Dr Leighton's lab assistant believes it was murder. However, when Poppy discovers that the colleague has spent time in a mental institution and has an unresolved murder in her own past, Poppy wonders if she is being misled. But then, another female academic is attacked, and Poppy herself becomes a target.



Smile Lines

Music appreciation

The music critic enthused: "Here is
Tchaikovsky at his best. Music so beautiful
that it has to be heard to be appreciated."

A lot of music is like that.



Church News 2025 Year C

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Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.
Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God's word.
Living Loving Learning.