

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Get real!

1 TIMOTHY 2.1-7

Timothy is urged to instruct the church in Ephesus to pray for all people, especially rulers and those in authority, so that all might live godly lives in peace. Paul reminds Timothy that Jesus is the one mediator between God and humankind, and that Paul was chosen to be the bearer of this good news to the Gentiles.

1 Timothy addresses Christians grappling with the issues of living faithfully for Christ in the world. On this United Nations International Day of Peace, he encourages prayer for everyone, especially for those in power and authority, that they may govern wisely so that everyone may live in peace. In the Gospel reading, Jesus points out that we need to be wise in our use of money.

21st September - St Matthew

St Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

SUNDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER
2025
TRINITY 14

FIRST READING

AMOS 8.4-7

PSALM

113

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 2.1-7

GOSPEL

LUKE 16.1-13

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

GLENIS MCCARTHY

PSALM

ALASTAIR ROSS

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

CHRISTINE ROSS

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL & KEVIN HENRY

Collect Trinity 14

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Jesus is Lord

Gradual

Let all the world in every corner sing

Offertory

Stand up, stand up for Jesus

Communion

All I once held dear To him we come

Let all the world

Recessional

Guide me O thou great Jehovah

Reflecting Faith: First Impressions

This series has recently been looking at the opening and closing words of most church services.

They usually go something like this:

(In) The Lord be with you. And also with you.

(Out) Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

This month let's consider what's pretty much the very next thing we generally do / say at the start of the service.

We acknowledge how great God is: the recognition of His power and might, His goodness and mercy as well as His ability to give us never-ending love. This makes us realise how 'little' we are and how we have not been as loving and forgiving to others – and indeed to ourselves – as we could have been.

This is sometimes called the 'Prayer of Humble Access'.

In a way it mirrors the prodigal son when he returns to his father. The son had demanded his inheritance NOW and then rushes off to have a good time in all the 'usual' ways, followed by poverty and having to work in the lowliest of jobs just to keep alive. Eventually he realised that even the pigs in his father's house lived better than he did – so he decides he will humble himself and return home. He doesn't expect to go back to his previous standing, but rather to beg forgiveness and ask to be a servant.

It's the ending of this story that is so exciting. The prodigal's father is told of his wayward son's approach, and everyone is expecting him to turn away. Instead he rushes out to meet and greet him. Not waiting for an apology or a begging word, the father covers him in rich clothes, holding his (no doubt) smelly body close and just loving him.

And spiritually that is what God does to each of us, as we come deliberately and consciously into His presence and turn to Him. He holds us close and forgives us.

This month

Next time you go to a church service, take note of the words you are asked to say close to the beginning and the wording of 'forgiveness' said over you. Then having been forgiven, try not to stir whatever it was up again – God won't.

The Revd Dr Jo White considers ...

When the sun goes edgewise, and daytime equals night

22nd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere). The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness.

In your prayers this week....

Anne and her family; Anthony; Jean Angell; Lesley; 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 Gordon Howell and Sidney Turner.

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 rector had been unwell and a parishioner asked his housekeeper how he was. She replied: "It's his head you know, it's been on and off all the week."



From the Parish Prayer list:

For the needs of our church; Rosevale View; Saffron Close; Scar Head Road; Smiths Yard; South View; Spring Bank; Spring Garden; Spring Terrace.



Fashion's water footprint

Did you know that producing one pair of jeans and a t-shirt uses around 13,570 litres of water, mostly in the cotton growing and dyeing processes. Buy second-hand clothes to extend the lifespan of fabrics and reduce water waste consumption.

Defrost Smartly:

Instead of running water over frozen food, plan ahead and defrost it in the refrigerator overnight.

Quotes

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. - Anita Koddick

If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes. - Anon

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon. - Susan Ertz

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. - Dr Seuss

Next week

SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

2025

TRINITY 15

FIRST READING

AMOS 6.1A, 4-7

PSALM

146

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 6.6-19

GOSPEL

LUKE 16.19-31

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

ALASTAIR ROSS

PSALM

SARAH TOWLER

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

SUE SANDERSON & JANET TURNER

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

11.30am Midweek

service of Holy

Communion

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy

Communion

N	G	R	A	N	G	L	E	S	A	L	T	Gregory
O	A	D	O	O	G	T	E	T	D	O	E	History
Y	H	S	N	T	M	V	S	L	E	S	L	Son
M	S	P	H	H	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	Roman
O	H	S	I	L	G	N	E	N	R	E	C	Senator
N	O	P	S	U	O	R	E	N	E	G	T	Converted
K	S	E	T	A	T	S	E	S	V	N	E	Young
N	Y	R	O	M	A	N	N	G	N	A	D	Estates
S	E	I	R	E	T	S	A	N	O	M	G	Monasteries
E	P	O	Y	L	O	I	S	U	C	R	S	Generous
G	O	P	L	A	G	U	E	O	N	E	Y	Poor
P	P	S	D	L	R	O	E	Y	N	R	E	Monk

On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 - 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, "They are Angles." Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, "They are not Angles, but angels!" He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Big perspective, big questions

It was three years ago this summer that the first operational images from the James Webb Space Telescope astonished and delighted astronomers, as well as the rest of us.

Those of us who have grown up in an age when ‘astronaut’ is a career option (albeit a pretty specialist one) might struggle to identify with the wonder of these events, and the true scale of the challenge. Human beings developed the technology to send first a probe, then living people, out of Earth’s atmosphere, and cross the 252,000-mile gap to the moon. It was in 1959 that the Luna 3 probe managed to send back grainy images of the far side of the Moon, and in 1969 Apollo 11 managed to actually land on it, take off again, and arrive back in one piece. It’s the safe arrival home that gets me – like hitting the bullseye twice in a row.

For some space-travellers, seeing Earth from a distance is a life-changing experience; a shift in thinking dubbed ‘the overview effect’. The observer feels a sense of awe at seeing the whole planet as a single entity rather than a fragmented collection of countries, and at getting a sense of the fragility of the whole system. It brings people out of themselves – something psychologists call a ‘self-transcendent experience’.

Some people claim to have a ‘nothing but science’ approach to life that trusts only in things for which we can produce very concrete, measurable, evidence. Is it perhaps ironic, then, that this overview of the whole globe – which is made possible by science – can trigger such a deep sense of meaning?

Science can bring us to the big questions of meaning and purpose, but it doesn’t answer them. It’s important to recognise that science, wonderful though it is, has limits. Beyond those boundaries we step into other ways of knowing, such as philosophy or theology. At the interface between science and theology we can have some fascinating conversations.

The discussions about science and religion that I enjoy most happen when people share what really matters to them. What do you find beautiful? Which scientific discoveries changed the course of your life? How do you see yourself in relation to the cosmos?

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This regular series, ‘God in the Sciences’, is written by Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.



Last chance to join our Virtual Balloon Race!

Balloons set sail today at 12 noon. To take part, please see Dave T or Peter this morning. You can follow the race online at www.balloonrace.net/ccsb. Don't miss out on the fun!

Morning and Evening Prayers

we are going to try Morning Prayer on a Monday and evening prayer on a Thursday. Both would be via Zoom / MS Teams. To gauge interest in this there is a sheet at the back of church

Gold Eco-Award

The Parochial Church Council have agreed to work towards the Gold Eco Award. As part of this there will be some surveys for all of us to voluntarily complete to provide evidence of our commitment. The first of these surveys will be given out today and we would very much appreciate your support in completing the survey and returning it by Sunday 5 October. There will be a box at the back of Church for the surveys to be placed in.

Messy Church

There is no Messy Church this month - starting again in October.

School Visit

A class from Tuel Lane Infants is visiting Church on Thursday 25th to hear about Baptisms.

Harvest Festival

We have always supported **CART (Christian African Relief Trust)** at harvest, this year is no different, they are asking for money to go towards the costs of sending a container as well as being able to provide equipment for Schools. If you wish to support CART, please make cheques payable to them, our card reader will also be set up for donations to CART

Happy Days Food Bank, again this year, we will be supporting, please see the list of items at the below

We have been asked to concentrate on Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meals, and UHT Milk. However please feel free to donate anything from the following list: Corned Beef; Sardines; Sandwich pate; tinned veg; Pasta; Pasta sauce; UHT Milk; Cereal; Rice Pudding; Biscuits; Tea Bags, Long Grain Rice; Jam; Washing Tablets; Toiletries (body wash; shampoo; razors; soap; sanitary products. **Please ensure everything has a good date on it**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 5th October 2024
10.30am

Supporting
Happy Days with food and toiletries
CART with gifts of money to support on going
projects

**Happy
Days**

Helping the Homeless



*The land yields its harvest, God, our God, blesses us.
Psalm 67:6*

Find us on
www.christchurchsb.org.uk



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

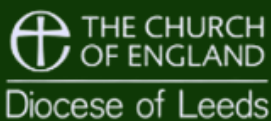


Once connected
scan the QR code
below



Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



*Giver of Life - the Holy Spirit in the
Creed and in Christian Life Today*
By Jane Williams, SPCK, £15.99

Here is a clear, fresh and inspiring introduction to the vital
role of the Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed and in the lives
of Christians throughout the world today.

Renowned theologian Jane Williams traces the rich
theology behind the Spirit's titles and explores the deep
connection between the Spirit and the life of Christ. At the
same time, she invites you to consider the role of the Spirit
as the one who brings you into the divine life of God,
shaping your relationship with Jesus and guiding your
faith.

This book may help anyone seeking to enhance their
appreciation of the Holy Spirit's transformative work in the
world and in the life of every Christian – past and present.

Smile Lines

Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

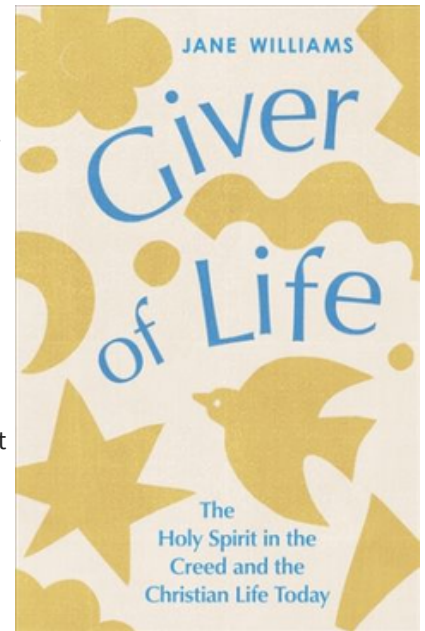
The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"



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.