

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Worth finding

1 TIMOTHY 1.12-17

Paul thanks God for his favour and mercy by calling him to ministry despite being the worst sinner of all. If God can change Paul's life, he can change anyone's.

Both the Epistle and Gospel readings this week speak of the lost being sought and found. We have a God who loves to seek out the lost because we are worth finding – a cause for celebration!

Premier Christian Radio - the first Christian broadcaster to Britain

Christian broadcasting was not always allowed in this country. As late as the mid-1980s, Christians were petitioning Parliament and the broadcast regulator to allow Christian broadcasting to begin in the UK.

Finally, it happened, and in 1990 the law was changed. Five years later, in the summer of 1995, Premier Christian Radio was launched. The Christian community rallied around the station, with thousands committing to provide regular monthly support, and to make it the success that it is today.

Highlights of the past 30 years include:

1999 – launch of Premier Online, streaming Premier to the world

2006 – launch of Premier.tv, providing Christian Internet TV on demand

2009 – broadcasting nationwide begins on DAB Digital radio

2010 – Premier Gospel begins

2016 – Premier Praise begins

Nowadays, with more than 1,100,000 listeners every week, Premier is the largest Christian Media organisation in the UK, reaching people via its print, digital and radio platforms.

Premier Christian Radio is available online and nationally on DAB and on smart speakers. The Premier Christian App is available to both iPhone and Android users, via their respective app stores.

SUNDAY 14TH
SEPTEMBER
2025
TRINITY 13

FIRST READING

EXODUS 32.7-14

PSALM

PSALM 51.1-10

SECOND READING

1 TIMOTHY 1.12-17

GOSPEL

LUKE 15.1-10

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

DAVE TOWLER

PSALM

GELNIS MCCARTHY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

Collect Trinity 13

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

All people that on earth do dwell

Gradual

O worship the Lord

Offertory

The King of Love

Baptism

Shine from the inside out

Communion

Blessed assurance

Amazing grace

Be still for the presence

Recessional

Praise my soul the King of heaven

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to Books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Cor. 5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3-4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9,12-13).

To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).

To warn them not to be "yoked together with unbelievers" (6:14-7:1).

To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).

To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chs. 8-9).

To deal with the opposition (chs. 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3,10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul suffered too much to be a Spirit-filled apostle.

Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: 'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.' (2 Cor 12:9). Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.

Did you spot many butterflies this past summer?

The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is deeply worried about our butterflies. Or rather, the lack of them. It seems that more than 80 per cent of our species have declined sharply in number since 1970s.

Each summer sees the Big Butterfly Count, when the public is encouraged to send in the number of butterflies they have seen over a short period of time. Last year saw the lowest number of butterflies spotted in the count's 14-year history. Even the familiar species like the small white, common blue and small tortoiseshell had their worst summer ever. And a record number of people saw no butterflies at all.

Butterflies have been hit by climate change, the use of pesticides, and damage to their habitats. The drought this summer will have been bad news for their caterpillar offspring, which need growing plants to feed on.

So, this autumn, why not plan a happier year for butterflies in 2026? As you prepare your garden for winter, go to

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/butterflies-in-your-garden> for some ideas of how to make your garden butterfly-friendly.

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 Mollie Wallace.

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



From the Parish Prayer list:

Rev. Jeanette and congregation in the Ryburn Benefice; Lord Street; Lower Clifton Street; Lower Clyde Street ; ower Hollins; Malton Street; Marina Gardens; Marton Heights; Mayfield Gardens

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Check for leaks: Regularly inspect your toilet and faucets for leaks, which can waste a lot of water.

Use the toilet wisely: Avoid flushing items like wet wipes and only flush when necessary.

Quotes

It is only with gratitude towards God that life becomes rich. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Christ promises to save His people from their sins, not in their sins. - C H Spurgeon

Hope is the foundation of patience. - John Calvin

I believe every Christian man has a choice between being humble and being humbled. - C H Spurgeon

We play the game; God keeps the score. - Erwin W Lutzer

Next week

SUNDAY 21TH 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

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

11.30am Midweek

service of Holy

Communion

1pm Knit & Natter

Wednesday

5.45 Bible Study

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy

Communion

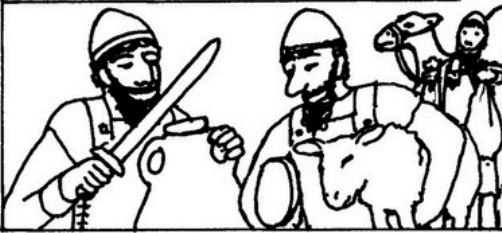
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Judges 6:1-7, 11-16, 25-35

Once the Israelites had moved into their
promised land, they obeyed God, but not for
long, so God let other countries invade.

The Midianites invaded every
year, and stole all the food
the Israelites had grown.

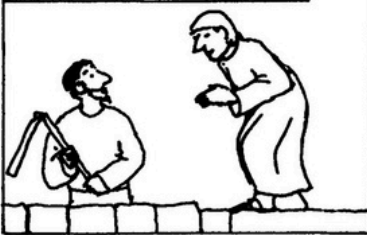


The Israelites had to
hide in the hills.



After 7 years,
the Israelites called
out to God for help.

Gideon was secretly
threshing wheat when
an angel arrived.



The Lord is helping you,
mighty warrior.

I don't
mean to be rude, but it
doesn't look like He is.



God said

I will give you the
power.



But my clan
is the weakest in our tribe and
I'm the weakest in my family.

I'll be helping you. Start by pulling
down the altar built for Baal and
build one for Me.



Gideon did as he was told (but he
waited and did it at night).



In the morning, people
came to complain to
Gideon's father



If Baal is upset, he
can take his own
revenge, can't he?



Gideon sent out messages
to call men to fight the
Midianites..



and 32000 came.

Praying with the Prayers of the Bible - Learning to Pray by Example

Luke 11:1: 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

Luke tells us that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray after He had just prayed. This is very important. In His preaching Jesus had spoken about prayer; (e.g. Matt. 6:5-8) He had also included prayer in His teaching; e.g. Luke 18:1. But it was neither His preaching or teaching on prayer that inspired this request from His disciples; it was His example in prayer. Also, Jesus had sent His disciples out to preach, yet their request was not, 'Lord, teach us to preach.' They had witnessed the mighty miracles that He performed and saw the astonishment of the crowds (Luke 9:43), but they did not ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to perform miracles.' No, they asked instead, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

The disciples were beginning to learn that there was a direct link between the prayer life of Jesus and His Spirit-anointed ministry. We need go no further than what we find here in Luke's Gospel to see the consistent prayer life of Jesus. As news of His mighty ministry spread far and wide, 'great multitudes gathered to hear and be healed' (Lk. 5:15). This was 'high noon' in the ministry of our Lord and as the crowds gathered to hear Him, 'He withdrew to the wilderness and prayed' (v.16).

The next chapter tells us that Jesus made a habit of having whole nights of prayer. 'In those days He went out into the hills to pray, and He continued all night' (6:12). A little later the evangelist records that immediately following the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples were with Jesus – and He was praying (9:18). When Luke recounts the Transfiguration of Jesus, he says the Lord took Peter, John and James up the mountain 'to pray' (9:28).

Luke wants his readers to know about the prayer life of Jesus. At every step of His ministry we see Jesus praying. He prayed early in the morning before the day began; He prayed late in the evening after hours of demanding ministry; He prayed in secret; He prayed with His disciples, and He often prayed all night. He prayed in homes; He prayed by the roadside; He prayed on mountains; He prayed in boats; He prayed in the wilderness; He prayed in the synagogue; He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane; He prayed on the Cross.

No wonder that Jesus' example in praying prompted His disciples to ask, 'Lord, teach us to pray.' As we read and study the life and ministry of our Lord, we will be likewise moved to ask Him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'



Revd. Tommy New contact number

Revd Tommy has a new contact number - 07378 517 835, should you wish to contact Tommy please use this number

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

🎉 A Brilliant Result from Rushbearing! 🎉

What a fantastic day we had – and what a total to celebrate! This year's fair raised an incredible **£1,576.52** (after expenses). That's our best yet, and it shows how much we can achieve together.

Just look how far we've come:

- 2021: £284.18
- 2022: £753.83
- 2023: around £1,200
- 2024: around £1,400
- 2025: £1,576.52! 🎉

A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible – our wonderful stall holders, those who donated gifts and goodies, and all who gave their time and energy.

And of course, a very special thanks to Rebecca Lumb, who did a brilliant job organising all the stalls this year. 🌟

This amazing result is down to the whole community pulling together – well done and thank you!



CHRIST CHURCH VIRTUAL BIG BALLOON RACE

21 September to 05 October

£4.00 a balloon or 3 for £10.00

<https://www.balloonrace.net/ccsb>

or speak to Dave T or Peter

Find us on
www.christchurchsb.org.uk



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

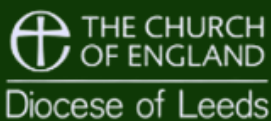


Once connected
scan the QR code
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Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



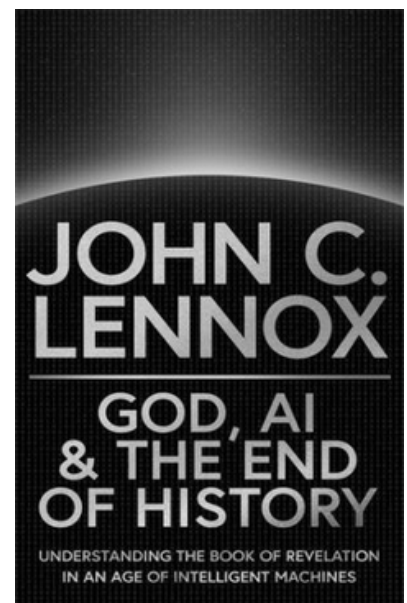
*God, AI and the End of History -
Understanding the Book of Revelation
in an Age of Intelligent Machines
By John C Lennox, SPCK, £29.99*

"Revelation promises to do two things: fill our hearts with praise to God, and simultaneously prepare for God's inevitable cataclysmic intervention in this world to judge evil righteously at the return of Christ."

So writes John Lennox, as he explores the connections between John's visions and the terrifying prospect of an Artificial Super Intelligence that emerges to deceive the world and oppose the rule of Christ.

Countless books have been written on the meaning of Revelation. This one draws on the work of great interpreters of the past, but at the same time it breaks new ground by advancing reasons why we need to take very seriously the possibility that a supernatural power opposed to God is using technology – and in particular advanced AI – to drive a transhumanist vision of upgraded humans.

Already some scientists are envisioning the development of superintelligences that may become the gods of the future and rule over humans. Others raise the even more disturbing prospect that ASI (Artificial Super Intelligence) could eventually achieve world domination. These developments, argues Lennox, are likely to involve the deception of billions of people, inspired and engineered by the one whom the New Testament calls 'the Antichrist'. To find out how John Lennox reaches that conclusion read this fresh, wide-ranging and amazingly thought-provoking commentary on Jesus' last message to His followers.



Smile Lines

Smart car

A clergy friend of mine bought a new car that sported an on-board computer. On Sunday morning he got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. Glancing at the readout, he chuckled at the announcement: "Time for service."



Church News 2025 Year C

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CCLI License Number 295704

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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.**