

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



“Seeds of Faith, Gifts of Harvest”

2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

This week's reading, Paul reminds Timothy to “rekindle the gift of God that is within you.” Just as a seed needs nurturing to grow into a fruitful harvest, so too do the gifts God plants within us.

Harvest reminds us that the food on our tables does not simply appear—it comes through patience, care, and God's provision. In the same way, our faith grows when we tend it through prayer, scripture, and acts of love.

As we celebrate Harvest, let us give thanks for God's abundance, share generously with those in need, and remember to nurture the gifts He has planted in our hearts, so that together we may produce a harvest of faith, hope, and love.

Send your love with these flowers

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a ‘hidden message’ of love is making a big comeback.

It is the aster. It's popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent.

And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.

The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection. More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!

SUNDAY 5TH
OCTOBER 2025
TRINITY 16
HARVEST
FESTIVAL

FIRST READING

2 TIMOTHY 1: 1-14

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

MARK 6 31-44

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

RITA JAGGER

PSALM

SECOND READING

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA HARGREAVES

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER INGALL

Collect Trinity 15

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons; as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Come Ye thankful people, come

Gradual

Harvest Samba

Offertory

We Plough the Fields and Scatter

Communion

All things bright and Beautiful
Breathe on me breath of God
Autumn days
Give me joy in my heart

Recessional

Action song

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: Galatians

Paul's letter to the Galatians has been described as the 'Magna Carta of Christian Liberty', because it emphasises the freedom that we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Paul vigorously defends the truth that people are justified ('made right with God') by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our standing with God is not determined by what we do, but by dependence on what Christ has done.

It is generally believed that Paul wrote this letter in 48/9AD to the churches in the southern area of Galatia, which he planted on his first missionary journey. It was written before the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15), making it the earliest of Paul's letters.

Paul is dealing with Jewish-Christians (or Judaizers) who were advocating ceremonial practices of the Jewish law, including circumcision, in addition to faith in Christ as the means of salvation. They were undermining Paul's authority as an apostle, by asserting that his gospel didn't agree with the apostles in Jerusalem.

In response, Paul defends his apostolic authority and presents the true gospel, by emphasising the unique importance of Christ and His cross in salvation. He argues that 'a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ' (2:16). He appeals especially to the examples of Abraham (3:6-9) and Hagar and Sarah (4:21-31), who stand in contrast as being a 'slave' under the law and 'free' in Christ.

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' (5:1). We are justified through faith alone and it is by faith alone that we live out our new life in the freedom of the Spirit.

Prayer for October 2025

Dear Lord,

In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers. Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.

Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love – and a kinder world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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 Emily Tweedale

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



"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

From the Parish Prayer list:

Pupils staff and Governors of Christ Church Junior School; Byron Terrace; Canal Road; Carlton Mill; Central Buildings; Chapel Lane; Chester House; Charles Street; Chester Street.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Unplug Before Travelling

Even if electronic devices are shut off or in sleep mode, they still use energy. Being away for too long wastes energy that could otherwise have been plugged off. So, before going on holiday, unplug your devices from the wall sockets to save electricity. Each UK household spends around £50 - £86 a year to power appliances left in standby mode or unused.

Quotes

The fruit of the Spirit is not push, drive, climb, grasp or trample.... Life is more than a climb to the top of the heap. - Richard J Foster

Under Christ, as the Head, angels are the guardians of the Church. - John Calvin



October Birthdays

Anthea Gee
Mia Daglish
Emma West

Next week

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

2025

TRINITY 17

FIRST READING

2 KINGS 5.1-3,7-15C

PSALM

111

SECOND READING

2 TIMOTHY 2.8-15

GOSPEL

LUKE 17.11-19

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

CHRIS ROSS

PSALM

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

PAUL HEALEY

SIDES PERSON

PAULINE CHESLETT & LINDA FIRTH

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

11.30am Midweek

service of Holy

Communion

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

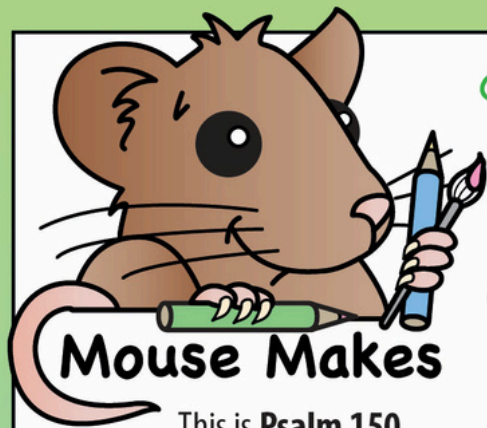
10am Coffee Morning

5.30pm Film Nigh

Sunday

10.30am Holy

Communion



Mouse Makes

This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.
*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him

with the sounding trumpet,

Praise Him

with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him

with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him

with the clash of cymbals,

Praise Him

with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath

PRAISE THE LORD!

P	K	G	C	Y	M	B	A	L	S	A
O	L	R	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	B
W	T	E	M	P	L	E	T	U	A	R
E	T	A	M	B	O	U	R	I	N	E
R	H	T	L	U	T	E	U	A	C	A
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	M	P	T	T
R	R	E	P	I	P	E	P	R	U	H
U	P	S	F	L	U	T	E	A	A	H
M	D	S	G	O	D	E	T	I	R	O
S	T	S	T	R	I	N	G	S	Y	R
O	Y	L	E	D	L	Y	R	E	Y	N

PRAISE • GOD • TEMPLE • HEAVENS • SANCTUARY • POWER • GREATNESS

TRUMPET • HORN • PIPE • FLUTE • HARP • LYRE • LUTE • STRINGS

TAMBOURINE • DANCING • CYMBALS • DRUMS • BREATH • LORD

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Lucas Cranach’s ‘Adam and Eve’

In October we traditionally give thanks for the good gifts of God’s creation at harvest time. In the readings for our worship, we often return to that original goodness in the Garden of Eden, described for us in the opening chapters of Genesis. We glimpse that scene of paradisaal harmony in Lucas Cranach’s painting ‘Adam and Eve.’ It shows a wonderful menagerie of birds and animals around the couple, all unaware that the harmony will be shattered as Adam takes the apple from Eve.

One version of this painting is in the Courtauld Gallery of Somerset House in London. It is a large, neoclassical building by the Strand in the centre of the city. In the summer months 55 fountains play in the courtyard outside, while in the winter people skate on the ice rink. Somerset House was built on the site of a Tudor palace and dates from the 18th century. It is now a centre for the visual arts with an impressive collection of paintings.

Lucas Cranach, this month’s artist, was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend of Martin Luther, but also had Catholic patrons. Like the Electors, they marvelled at his mastery of landscape and animals. In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God. But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah’s vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ’s body and blood.

The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.

The Revd Michael Burgess surveys works of sacred art that can be found in various museums





Morning Prayer – Now Online Every Monday.

We are delighted to announce that Morning Prayer will now take place every Monday at 9:00am via Microsoft Teams.

This is a wonderful way to start the day together in prayer, scripture, and reflection – Whether you're at home, at work, or on the go, you can join with others as we pause and place the day ahead into God's hands. To join, simply click this link:

👉 <https://bit.ly/CCSBMorningPrayer>

All are welcome – whether you've joined us before or this will be your first time. Why not make Morning Prayer part of your weekly rhythm?

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.

Follow our Virtual Balloon Race!

You can follow the race online at www.balloonrace.net/ccsb. Don't miss out on the fun!



HOW ENGLISH HAS CHANGED

**How the 23rd psalm has changed over
the last 1000 years:**

Modern (1989)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He lets me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me to still waters

King James Bible (1611)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Middle English (1100 - 1500)

Our Lord governeth me,
and nothyng shal defailen to me.
in the sted of pastur he set me ther.
He norissed me upon water of fyllyng.

Old English (800 - 1066)

Drihten me raet, ne byth me nanes godes wan.
And he me geset on swythe good feohland.
And fedde me be waetera stathum.

Find us on
www.christchurchsb.org.uk



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'Hebrews Coffee' Wi-Fi

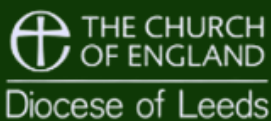


Once connected
scan the QR code
below



Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



No Visible Scars - An Always Hopeful Guide to Healing from Domestic Abuse as a Christian By Sally Hope, SPCK, £12.99

One in four Christian women will experience domestic abuse. Survivors report that their churches are not adequately equipped to support them, and that secular domestic abuse services do not understand their faith.

So this book explores domestic abuse and the unique challenges that Christian women face. It seeks to help survivors find answers to commonly asked questions such as 'Where is God in all this?' and survivors will be helped to recognise that God is firmly on the side of the abused, He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

No Visible Scars is based on the 'Always Hopeful' recovery programme for groups of Christian women who have experienced domestic abuse.

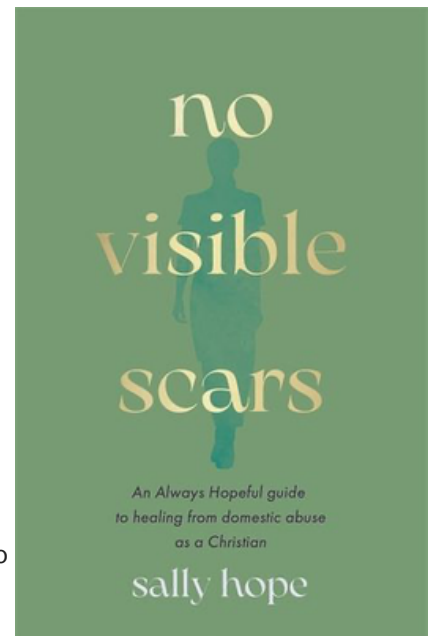
Smile Lines

Wear out

Three little boys were bragging about how tough they were. "I'm so tough," said the first boy, "that I can wear out a pair of shoes in a week."

"Well," said the second little boy, "I'm so tough, I can wear out a pair of jeans in a day."

"That's nothing," said the third boy. "When my parents take me to see my grandma and grandpa, I can wear them out in just one hour."



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.**