

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



God stood by me

2 TIMOTHY 4.6-8,16-18

In prison awaiting trial and reflecting on his life and ministry, Paul has confidence that his suffering and desertion by supporters has not been in vain. He has fought the good fight and a crown of righteousness awaits him. In his lowest moments, people failed him but God stood by him.

Today we learn from Paul's example – God will always stand by us when we stay close to him, even in the most difficult times.

27th October - Odran of Iona, fought over by the spirits

Odran is a suitable saint to remember as Halloween approaches, for his story involves the spirit world.

British by birth, Odran (died c. 563) was one of Columba's first companions on Iona. Sadly, he died not long after his arrival on the island. But Columba found comfort, for in a vision he saw Odran's soul ascending to heaven, after being fought over by angels and devils. Christ had redeemed Odran for His own, and so all the devils there ever were could not lay claim to Odran's soul.

In memory of his dear friend, Columba named the graveyard on Iona after him, Reilig Orain. An old Irish tradition has an Odran abbot of Meath and founder of Latteragh (Co. Tipperary), and it is probable that these Odrans are one and the same.

SUNDAY 26TH
OCTOBER 2025
LAST AFTER
TRINITY

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 14.7-10,19-22

PSALM

PSALM 84.1-7

SECOND READING

2 TIMOTHY 4.6-8,16-18

GOSPEL

LUKE 18.9-14

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

FIONA LAMB

PSALM

GLENIS MCCARTHY

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

ANTHEA GEE

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE
MUNDY

Collect Last after Trinity

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

We have a gospel to proclaim

Gradual

O God of Bethel

Offertory

Come down, O Love divine

Communion

I cannot tell
Seek ye first

Recessional

God has spoken
through his
prophets

The Nicene Creed: The Person of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

This month we are considering what the Nicene Creed says about the Holy Spirit.

‘We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life’: The original version of the Nicene Creed ended simply ‘We believe in the Holy Spirit.’ However, the phrase ‘the Lord, the giver of life’ was added to counter the teachings of Macedonius (Bishop of Constantinople), who viewed the Holy Spirit as a creation of the Son. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity who shapes us, according to Christ’s image, through His fruit and gifts: ‘the Spirit gives life...we are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.’ (2 Corinthians 3:6,18).

‘who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified’: In the late 6th century the Latin churches added the phrase ‘and the Son’ (the Filioque Clause), which was rejected by the Orthodox Churches. Augustine described the Spirit as ‘love proceeding’ from the Father and the Son, so we can know God: ‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me.’ (John 15:26).

The Creed is clear that the Holy Spirit is due equal status and worship with the Father and the Son, as a distinct divine person:

‘May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.’ (2 Corinthians 13:14).

‘He has spoken through the Prophets’: Why does the Creed include this activity of the Spirit? It is not just referring to the OT prophets, but the whole of Scripture. He has inspired Scripture, so that we have God’s word communicated by human writers: ‘All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness’ (2 Timothy 3:16). When we read the Bible, the Spirit enables us to hear what God is saying to us.

In what areas of life have you felt the Holy Spirit at work in you?

Our series on the Nicene Creed continues this month. Canon Paul Hardingham considers a bedrock of our Christian belief: that Jesus is the Son of God.

Agape Love

*There is a love that no man really knows,
It’s heaven sent and comes down from above,
To undeserving man it gently flows
This gift of grace is God’s agape love.*

*They watch in wonder as the child is born,
This mystery as God becomes a man
The angels see Him taking on this form
As God becomes encompassed in a span.*

*For sinners still Christ pays the awful cost,
At Calvary He bears our sin and dies,
Forgiveness ours comes flowing from His cross
And man now free from guilt stands justified.*

*Such love as this, such wondrous sacrifice,
That God Himself descends from heaven above,
To rescue fallen man He pays the price
God knows no other way – for ‘God is Love’*

By Megan Carter

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 Nicolas, William and Tony Hornby

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



After his induction, Harry met the leaders of the other denominations

From the Parish Prayer list:

For the Environment ; Watson Mill Lane; West Parade; Wharf Street; Willow Crescent; Willow Dean Avenue; Willow Gardens; Willow Hall Drive



Don't Throw Wearable Clothes Away

The UK produces around 1 million tonnes of textile waste per year. Once in a landfill, they can take hundreds of years to decompose and release greenhouse gases (GHG).

You can make easy alterations and repairs to your clothing to keep them longer or adjust to current trends. Vintage and second-hand outlets will offer more affordable alternative options, often based on the same clothing items.

If you want some new clothing, be sure it's of good quality and lasts a long time. You can also research sustainable brands that limit the impact of production and are transparent about their supply chains.

Blessed are those who know that they can't change the world but that they can change their own impact on that little bit of it where they live and work.

Quotes

People who sing their own praises usually do so without accompaniment. - Anon

Confidence is keeping your chin up; overconfidence is sticking it out. - Anon

A man shows his character by what he laughs at. - Anon

Next week

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

2025

ALL SAINTS DAY

FIRST READING

DANIEL 7:1-3; 15-18

PSALM

PSALM 149

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:11-END

GOSPEL

LUKE 6:20-31

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

GLENIS MCCARTHY

PSALM

PAUL HEALEY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER INGALL

SIDES PERSON

DONNA DAGLISH (L) & FIONA LAMB (A)

DIARY

Monday

9:30 Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

11.30am Midweek

service of Holy

Communion

1pm Knit & Natter

Wednesday

5.45pm Bible Study

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy

Communion

The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

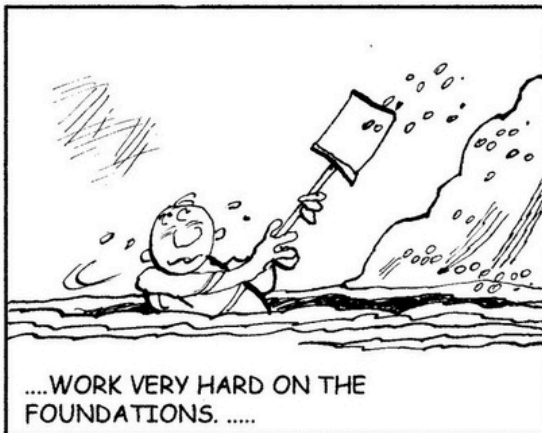
...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



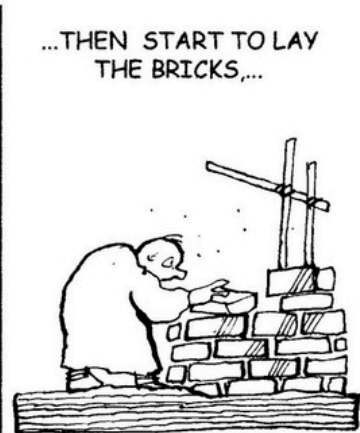
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS...



...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,



....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.



...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Praying With the Prayers of the Bible: the Prayer for Holy Love

1 Thessalonians 3:12, 13, runs: 'May the Lord ...establish your hearts unblameable in holiness.' Paul's first letter to the Thessalonian church, dating from about 51 AD, is generally regarded as the first book in the New Testament to have been written. That means that this prayer is the first New Testament prayer to have been composed.

Paul has already highly commended the genuine spiritual experience and character of these new Christians. He thanked God for their faith, love and hope, 1:3; they were examples to others, 1:7; their faith in God was being widely spoken about, 1:8; and having turned from idolatry they were now serving the true God and expecting Christ's Second Coming, 1:9, 10. It is for these new and enthusiastic believers that Paul now prays.

The prayer asks for two great blessings for these Christians. First that they may abound in love toward each other and to the world, and then that their conduct will be characterised by holy living. What a model prayer this is for Christians in every age! Note Paul's words, 'may the Lord make you increase and abound in love' (v.12). This is not merely asking that these believers will love one another, but that their love will be full and overflowing.

Perhaps Paul is recalling that Jesus said the world would recognise His disciples by their love toward one another (John 13:35). But this love, the essence of Christian experience, is not narrow or parochial. Paul prayed that their love would abound not only to each other but also 'to all men.' What a picture of what His church should be! All of us who claim to be His people should be known by our love for one another and for the world for which He died.

Then comes the second request in the prayer, that their hearts will be 'established unblameable in holiness.' (v.13). The word translated 'established' means to be fixed, to be settled, indicating constant character. In this world no Christian can be faultless, but by His grace and mercy we are called to be blameless. In the prayer Paul brings together the condition of our hearts – overflowing in love, and the quality of our conduct – steadfast in holy living. What a combination of holy love, a reflection of what Jesus was!

One other aspect of this prayer is worth noting. When Paul prays that the love of these Christians will abound to each other, he adds that this is how he feels about them; 'as we do to you' (v.12). Likewise, in 2:10 Paul says the Thessalonians are witnesses of His holy, righteous and blameless conduct among them.

The love and holiness for which Paul prays for these believers can be seen in his own life and work. Surely the most pressing need in all our congregations is that all of us as Christ's disciples will consistently bear witness to His love controlling our hearts and our conduct.



Morning Prayer – Now Online Every Monday.

We are delighted to announce that Morning Prayer will now take place every Monday at 9.30am in church.

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.

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

many thanks for returning the Eco Survey. We are now collating the responses and will publish the results soon. Watch out for the next one.

Christmas Angels

I know it's early but we are asking for knitted angels again ready to distribute at Christmas. Patterns available at the back of Church.



Bubl  and Bubbles!

Seth McNamee
as Michael Bubl 



*A wonderful way to
start your
Christmas season.*

**Saturday 22nd November
7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Tickets: £10 Adults | £5 Children
£25 Family**

Includes a complimentary glass of
bubbles or soft drink

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

Buy tickets online or in church
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

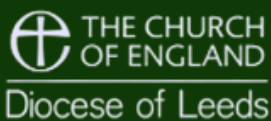


Once connected
scan the QR code
below



Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



A Good Old Age - An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years

By Derek Prime, 10Publishing, £7.99

Old age often gets a bad press. Associated with grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and isolation it's not something we particularly look forward to or relish when we're there.

Pastor and Bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life.

With biblical wisdom and practical advice, Prime helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.



Smile Lines

Who is God?

During a youth service, the minister asked if anyone could tell her who God is. One youngster waved a hand, and ventured: "Isn't God the man who saves the King?"

Cheap at the price

A little boy was pestering his parents for a baby brother or sister. They kept telling him 'maybe one day, but we can't afford one yet.' Then one Sunday the little boy dragged his parents over to the noticeboard at the back of church. It was advertising a coming sale at the church and announced: 'Children: free'.



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.**