

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



How to live now

2 THESSALONIANS 3.6-13

Paul is heavily critical of those who believed that Jesus had already returned and therefore saw no point in working. Instead, they relied on the support of the church to keep them fed! Paul reminds them sternly that they still live in the ‘not yet’ time before Christ’s return.

Today we explore how we, too, should live in the ‘now’ as followers of Jesus as we await his return.

Conservation project launched to preserve ‘table top’ tombs

A Church of England-backed initiative has been launched to help with the preservation of thousands of stone monuments that feature in

churchyards throughout the country. There are believed to be more than 4,000 ‘table top’ tombs, many ornately carved, dating from the 17th to the 19th century, in Diocese of Gloucester churchyards alone, and many thousands more in churchyards across the country. The tombs are distinctive for their flat slab (the ‘table top’) supported by sides or upright legs.

A collaborative project based in the Diocese of Gloucester and supported by the Church of England’s Cathedral and Church Buildings team, with funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is now assessing the conservation needs of the tombs. The project will contribute to new national guidance on the care and maintenance of the tombs.

SUNDAY 16TH
NOVEMBER
2025
2ND BEFORE
ADVENT

FIRST READING

MALACHI 4.1-2A

PSALM

PSALM 98

SECOND READING

2 THESSALONIANS 3.6-13

GOSPEL

LUKE 21.5-19

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

HELEN PEDLEY

PSALM

ALASTAIR ROSS

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

CHRIS ROSS

SIDES PERSON

KEVIN HENRY & JACKIE GILL

JUNIOR CHURCH

TBC (L) & DAVE CALLIGHAN

(A)

Collect
2nd before
Advent

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS
HYMNS

Processional

He who would valiant be

Gradual

What a friend we have in Jesus

Offertory

Great is thy faithfulness

Communion

Will you come and follow

Be still for the presence

Bind us together Lord

Recessional

I, the Lord of sea and sky

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

Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians around AD 60, while in prison at Rome. It was probably a circular letter to be read in the house churches of Ephesus and the local area. Paul founded the church over a period of three years (Acts 19:1-20:1) between 52-55 AD. Ephesus was the leading city and commercial centre in the region, famous for its temple to the goddess Artemis (Diana).

Paul's aim in writing his letter was to help his readers understand the dimensions of God's purpose and grace for them and His eternal plan for the church. The believers needed to understand their status 'in Christ' and the call to live a life worthy of Christ. Ephesians is divided into two halves: chapters 1-3 concern theological issues, while chapters 4-6 deal with the practical outworking of faith.

Having shown God's purpose for the church, Paul shows how God has reconciled individuals to Himself by grace (2:1-10). He has reconciled people to each other by breaking down the barriers through Christ's death (2:11-22). This is the 'mystery' revealed by Paul (3:1-13) and he shows how Christ's gifts promote unity and maturity (4:1-16). The believer's new life stands in contrast to the old way of life without Christ (4:17-6:20).

The great overarching theme of the letter is that we are rescued by God not just for our personal benefit, but to bring praise and glory to Him in our lives: 'He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment - to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.' (1:9,10).

Leaf some green stuff in the garden

The clocks have gone back, and we are putting our gardens to sleep for the winter. But this autumn, when you tidy up, do not tidy away too much. Many insects and wild creatures will be relying on some ground cover or hideaway to call 'home' for the winter. Several piles of twigs or pruning, left around your garden in discreet places, will provide a great winter 'snugs' for toads, grass snakes and other small garden inhabitants. 'Spent' seed heads provide cover and food for birds over the winter. Above all, before you light any bonfires on 5th November, take care there are no hibernating hedgehogs inside!

Help our woodlands

If you've been admiring the glories of autumn, and have any time to spare, why not consider volunteering to help the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity? The Trust looks after more than 1,000 woods and groups of woods. The Trust also campaigns to protect and save more ancient woodland from destructive development. It always needs volunteers to help in a wide variety of ways. For details, visit: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

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.



This weeks flowers are in Memory of Michael McCarthy

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



"Goodness! is it time for Christmas Fair organising, carol service planning and nativity play rehearsals already?!"

From the Parish Prayer list:

All who live & work within the Parish;
Those with no safe place to call home;
Nelson Place; Nelson Street; New Marsh; Newton Street; Newton Terrace; Norland Road; Norland View; North Lea.



Make sure your hot water tank is insulated with a thick jacket. It will save you lots of money not to mention reducing your carbon emissions.

Has your loft got loads of insulation? It's one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy and will pay for itself in hardly any time.

Blessed are those who tread lightly on the earth that God gave us, for their footprints point others in the right direction.



Pray for the Angela, her family and Friends of Peter Wilkins

Quotes

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts. - Anon

Dear God, I have a problem, it's the big me. - Anon

Growing old is inevitable, growing UP is optional. - Anon

There is no key to happiness. The door is always open. - Anon

Next week

SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

2025

CHRIST THE KING

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 23.1-6

PSALM

PSALM 46

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 1.11-20

GOSPEL

LUKE 23.33-43

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

ALASTAIR ROSS

PSALM

DAVID TOWLER

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA HARGREAVES

SIDES PERSON

PAULINE CHESLETT & LINDA

FIRTH

JUNIOR CHURCH

ANTHEA GEE (L) & FIONA

LAMB (A)

DIARY

Monday

9:30 Morning Prayer in church

Tuesday

10am Coffee Morning

11.30am Midweek service of Holy Communion

Wednesday

9.30am New Road School visit

5.45 Bible Study

Thursday

11am Mothers Union

6:30pm BCP Evening prayer

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
Matthew 7:7-11, Luke 11:5-13

To teach about praying, and God's good gifts, Jesus told this story - 'If you have a visitor arrive in the middle of the night..'

Oh no! I have no bread to feed him! I am so ashamed! What can I do?... I know!



'You would go round to a friend's house.'



I really, really need some bread for a visitor.



I need that bread!



Jesus concluded...

So keep on asking and it will be given, seeking and you will find, knocking and it will be opened... And parents, if your hungry child asks for bread,

'..would you give them a stone?'



'And if they asked for a fish...'



'..would you give them a snake?'



'Or if they asked for an egg...'



'you'd give a scorpion?'



If you, who aren't perfect parents, give good gifts to your children, then don't you think that gifts from your perfect Father, God, will be even better?

Praying With the Prayers of the Bible: When your prayer is not answered

2 Cor. 12:8; 'Three times I asked the Lord about this ...but...'

Paul is talking about one of the most mysterious and one of the most baffling aspects of prayer – when God does not say yes.

On the face of it, Paul's prayer was very modest. For some time he had been troubled by 'a thorn in the flesh.' He doesn't tell us what the 'thorn' was and down the centuries theologians and commentators have made suggestions. Most of them have thought that the affliction was physical because Paul says it was 'in the flesh.' Some have suggested that he suffered from epileptic fits which caused him to fall down, while others have suggested that he was laid low by constant fevers or that he had very poor eyesight, the last based on his remarks in Galatians 6:11. But in spite of this great servant of the Lord praying earnestly three times that the thorn would be removed, God did not answer as Paul expected. A number of things in this passage (verses 7-10) are very helpful to all of us in the matter of prayer.

First, although God's answer was not what Paul asked for, God did answer him. God is never indifferent to the prayers we utter from the depth of our heart. Unlike the idol Baal in the Old Testament story about Elijah, (1 Kings 18) the God and Father of our Lord Jesus is not on a journey, nor is he busy elsewhere, nor is he sleeping. He hears our prayers and our cries when we come to Him in our need and pain and distress.

Second, although Paul did not get the answer he wanted, God made him a wonderful promise. He said, 'My grace is sufficient for you' (v.9). This was not what Paul asked for, yet what a promise it was! God said in effect. 'I will not take the thorn away – but my daily grace is all-sufficient.' In spite of the thorn, Paul will triumph. When God gives us all-sufficient grace, it will take care of everything in our lives.

Thirdly, Paul learnt that God's wonderful grace meant that in his weakness 'the power of Christ' (v.9) would be with him, the power that would make him effective and fruitful in his ministry.

Fourthly, this experience taught Paul that he could be 'content with weaknesses and insults' (v.10) because it was for Christ's sake, and when he is weak in himself, he is strong in Christ (v.10).

So what about unanswered prayer? Unless our prayer was selfish and not for our good in the first place, God does answer our cry. When the answer is not what we expected, then it means that our loving Father has something for us even better and more important than what we asked for.

We continue our series on prayer by the Revd Dr Herbert McGonigle. Dr Herbert McGonigle is a former Senior Lecturer in Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.



Christmas Fair

It's that time again when we ask for your help and support. we are looking for donations of:

Tombola prizes

Raffel Prizes

Cakes for the cake Stall

Please speak to either Angela Wilkins or Rebecca Lumb

October's financial information

Receipts £1,726.03

Payments £2,626.38

Parish Share

Following the talk Rev Tommy gave a few weeks ago I promised I would update everyone as soon as I could.

We have now received information re the requests for the next 3 years. The requests are:

2026 - 26887(10% increase)

2027 - 28997(7.85% increase)

2028 - 29866(3% increase)

We're due to have a meeting early next year to discuss our plans/budgets etc. Diocese would like us to prepare a budget projecting forward for those 3 years in readiness for this.

Paul

Dates for your Dairy

Saturday 22 November – Buble and Bubbles – tickets £10.

Saturday 29 November – Christmas Fair, 10.00am-4.00pm.

Saturday 13 December – Live Nativity at St. Paul's Church, Sowerby Bridge.

Saturday 13 December – Family Film Night in Church. Doors open 5.00pm, film starts 5.30pm.

Thursday 18 December – Nine lessons and Carols, 7.00pm with Friendly Brass Band accompanying some carols.

Saturday 20 December – Christians Together Carol singing at Tesco, Sowerby Bridge, 11.00am-12.30pm. All very welcome.

Sunday 21 December – Christingle service, 4.00pm.

Wednesday 24th December - Crib service 4.00pm

Wednesday 24 December – Midnight Communion, 11.30pm.

Thursday 25 December – Short Christmas day service, 10.30am.

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 Year to Slow Down - a Christian guide to embracing handmade & homegrown

By Rachel Bearn, Form, £14.99

Rachel Bearn shares her own experience of how reducing her pace helped her begin to heal from severe chronic illness and connect deeper with her faith. Over 12 months she shares the benefits of living slowly, quietly and in the present moment, dependent on God and God alone – as He always intended for us.

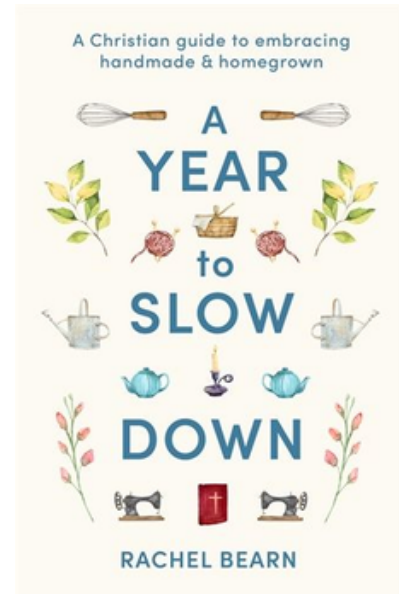
This is a practical guidebook that takes readers through the four seasons of the year, incorporating the festivals and celebrations that have punctuated the Christian calendar for generations and encouraging you to live seasonally and in the moment.

Smile Lines

Exam

In the examination paper, the professor wanted us to sign a form stating that we had not received any outside assistance. Unsure of whether he should sign the form, a student admitted that he had prayed for the assistance of God.

The professor carefully studied the answer page and then replied, "You can sign it with a clear conscience. God did not assist you."



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1821

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.**