

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS

HUDDERSFIELD EPISCOPAL AREA

EPIPHANYTIDE CELEBRATION SERVICE

Saturday 24th January
2:30pm

at Huddersfield Parish Church
Byram Street HD11BU

Revealing the hidden

ISAIAH 49.1-7

In this second 'servant song', we hear how God's servant was chosen by God before birth, then hidden and prepared for the special mission of not only restoring God's people but also being a light to all nations.

As we reflect on the readings and theme, we also reflect on our own lives. What might be currently hidden, and what is ready to be revealed so that people can see more of who God is?

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th to 25th January

This year the prayers and reflections are from the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

They extend an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

Huddersfield
Parish Church

Sunday 18th
January 2026
Epiphany 2

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 49.1-7

PSALM

PSALM 40:1-12

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1.1-9

GOSPEL

JOHN 1.29-42

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

REBECCA LUMB

PSALM

PAUL HEALEY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE GILL

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL

KEVIN HENRY

JUNIOR CHURCH

TBC

Collect Epiphany

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Lead us heavenly Father

Gradual

All heaven declares

Offertory

Rock of ages, cleft for me

Communion

Purify my heart

Will you come and follow me

Recessional

At the name of Jesus

Government urged to keep VAT grants for repairs

The Chancellor has been urged to retain a tax scheme for listed places of worship, as a survey, recently published, showed the majority of the UK population backs government support to help churches pay for repairs to their buildings.

A poll shows that two in five people, or 43 per cent of all adults, report having had contact with their local church. The majority of these, or 53 per cent, was for services and worship, but also 23 per cent – nearly seven million people in the UK – had contact for community support such as parent toddler groups, lunch clubs and food banks.

An estimated 2.8 million people – or four per cent of the UK population – have been in contact with their local church for a food bank. Church of England churches run or support 31,300 social action projects, including nearly 8,000 food banks, with emergency food provision and community cafés on the rise.

More than three quarters of the population – 77 per cent – said historic cathedrals and churches are local and national treasures. And two in five – 41% – said they had visited a church or cathedral simply to find a quiet space for reflection or prayer, with this figure rising to 50 per cent amongst young adults in the 18 to 34 age range.

The survey conducted for the Church of England by Savanta, shows 59 per cent of the UK population agree that the

Government should help with the costs of repairing and maintaining historic churches.

The Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme was first put in place by the then Chancellor Gordon Brown in 2001 and allows for VAT grants on repairs of more than £1,000 to be claimed for essential repairs and maintenance.

The future of the scheme is in doubt after the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) announced an interim arrangement earlier this year with a reduction in the amount of money available from £42 million a year to £23 million and a cap of £25,000 per building. The scheme is due to come to an end in March next year and there has been no confirmation from the Government on whether it will be renewed.

The Church of England is responsible for 45 per cent of the UK's Grade 1 listed buildings. More than 12,500 of its church buildings have listed status.

Current estimates show that around 260 churches and cathedrals have reported that their essential repair projects are at risk because of uncertainty over the scheme's future and big increases in costs as a result of the £25,000 limit on claims.

The DCMS Commons select committee called in July for the scheme to be made permanent and the cap on claims to be lifted, after hearing evidence from the Church of England as part of its inquiry into built heritage.

In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Lukas Powell;
Maralyn Pawson; Vanessa
Starsmore.



This weeks flowers are from
donations to the flower fund.

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 POWER
AND PROMISE
OF HOLY
BAPTISM:
GOD'S GIFT
OF NEW LIFE



Please pray for Emelia
(Millie) Wright

Quotes

Philosophy and religion may reform,
but only the Bible can transform. - B
Edwards

Think like a man of action and act like
a man of thought. - Henri Bergson

Unless a man has to do more than he
can do, he will not do all that he can
do. - Gordon Cooper

From the Parish Prayer list:

For the work of the Mothers Union and
our own branch; Oxford Street; Park
Crescent; Park Drive; Park Gardens;
Park Road; Park Street; Park View; Park
Villas.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Stop using aluminium foil for cooking
wherever possible; use a container with a
lid that can be reused. Aluminium is a rare
metal and its extraction and purification
uses a lot of energy.

Blessed are those who look upon the world
with God's loving eyes and seek to protect
it, nourish it, and enable it to flourish.



Next week

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY 2026

EPIPHANY 3

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 9.1-4

PSALM

PSALM 27; 1,4-12

SECOND READING

CORINTHIANS 1.10-18

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4.12-23

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

PAUL HEALEY

PSALM

RITA JAGGER

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

ALASTAIR ROSS

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER INGALL

JUNIOR CHURCH

TBC

DIARY

Monday

9:30 Morning Prayer in
church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning
11.30am Midweek service of
Holy Communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

5.45pm Bible Study

Thursday

6.30 BCP evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

d	r	u	n	k	o	k	o	e	f	j	w
n	g	i	y	o	s	d	a	w	u	c	s
h	t	u	p	e	n	i	n	n	a	h	a
a	s	p	v	l	a	e	n	s	s	i	m
n	j	i	r	k	u	r	q	i	p	l	u
n	w	t	r	a	v	e	l	l	e	d	e
a	f	r	t	n	y	e	n	e	c	r	l
h	g	s	t	a	y	e	d	n	i	e	o
w	o	r	s	h	i	p	r	t	a	n	v
e	d	i	a	n	s	w	e	r	l	h	e
e	y	c	w	f	e	a	s	t	f	m	d
p	s	h	w	s	h	i	l	o	h	x	h

Israel	none	worship
prayer	weep	loved
children	God	silent
Elkanah	travelled	answer
wives	Peninnah	Samuel
year	Shiloh	feast
Eli	stayed	special
rich	Hannah	drunk

'He gave us eyes to see them' - The Church Door - St John's Adel



Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Revd Michael Burgess begins at the Church Door....

George Herbert is a much-loved Anglican poet, who died just 40 years old in 1633. His volume of poems 'The Temple' was published later that year. In it the poet leads the reader through the church door into the building to meditate on all that is seen inside.

That procession through the church is the theme of our monthly articles this year. We shall visit a variety of English churches as we make our way from the font to the altar.

We begin this month outside the glorious Norman building of St John's Church, Adel, near Leeds in West Yorkshire.

The church has a very fine south doorway with ornate carving. The oak door is a Victorian copy of the original door;

the Sanctuary Ring is a replica of the Norman ring/knocker. It shows a monster about to swallow a man, but open the door and there is safety and protection away from the harms of the world. It is the theme in St John's Gospel of Jesus as the door to the sheepfold. Enter through Jesus, we are told, to find the safety of the flock, and also to find nourishment and renewal. We can stand at the door of this beautiful church or at the door of our own churches. It opens and welcomes us to enjoy the friendship and refreshment within.

The door could stay closed, protecting us from the storms of life without that threaten us like the dark creature in the Norman sanctuary ring of Adel church. But we know that in the church building we have no abiding city. Our worship ends and the door will open once again to lead us out into that world. Within we have found nourishment in the sacrament of the altar, in the word of scripture, and in the fellowship of the flock. We go out to share those gifts with the world that others may come to know Jesus as the door that leads to life eternal.



Christingle

many thanks to all who supported the Christingle service in December. Donations of £115.21 were collected for The Children's Society.

Huddersfield EA Epiphany Celebration

You are warmly invited to our annual Huddersfield EA Epiphany Celebration Service on 24 January from 12.15pm - 3.30pm at Huddersfield Parish Church, this event is open to all. The season of Epiphany is a time when we mark the gift of Christ to all nations, and also the time we commit ourselves to mission and unity.

In attendance at lunch will be resource colleagues from the Area and Diocesan Teams who will open their "surgeries" so come with your questions, queries and experiences to help shed light on stewardship, safeguarding, governance matters and more.

Our Annual Celebration service at 2.30pm is an open invitation to anyone in the area to come and honour the work of our angels without wings - otherwise known as volunteers -who enable mission and ministry in a myriad different ways in the Huddersfield Episcopal Area.

Programme

12.15 - Lunch (BYO / support local businesses)

CHOIR PRACTICE / NETWORKING / MARKETPLACE

2.30 - HEA Annual Celebration Service

3.30 - Depart

Do please make every effort to attend what will undoubtedly be an inspiring and enjoyable afternoon. I look forward to welcoming you all.

+Smitha

Bishop of Huddersfield

Church Flowers

If you have ever wondered how our flower rota works, it is actually very simple. The flowers in church each Sunday are given as a gift – an offering from members of the congregation.

A flower rota is displayed on the noticeboard in the Community Room, showing all the Sundays of the year. You are welcome to add your name at any time.

Flowers may be placed in church in memory of loved ones, to mark personal celebrations, or for church festivals and special occasions. They bring beauty to our church and greatly enhance the atmosphere of our worship space.

We also have a flower fund, and anyone is welcome to contribute. Donations may be given to celebrate birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or other special events.

Our Flower Co-ordinator is Angela Wilkins. Please speak to her if you would like to arrange flowers in church for a special occasion.

HOW DO I MAKE MY FAITH COUNT?

Come along and find out... Events 2026

10 February 2026, 7pm-9pm @Leeds Minster

Discussion Evening - Bishop Chris Edmondson will help us think about how we hear God's call

22 April 2026, 6pm-9pm @Wakefield Cathedral

Vocations Fayre - connect with people from a broad range of ministries, including lay, ordained and chaplaincy. Pre-event Choral Evensong at 5:30pm

13 June 2026, 10am - 3pm @Bolton Abbey Priory

Vocations Retreat Day - Spend time discerning with God and others whilst immersed in the history and beauty of Bolton Abbey

23 September, 7pm-9pm @St Peter's Huddersfield

Discussion Evening - Hear about real experiences of starting a new ministry for lay and ordained

18 November, 7pm-9pm @Church House Leeds

Discussion Evening - Hear perspectives on ordained ministry from the new and the retiring

For more details email vocations@leeds.anglican.org

Registration via Eventbrite

Exploring Vocation Together



Jenice Guild
Administrator
jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org

Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw
Diocesan Director of Vocations
sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org

Contacts

