

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



God's Wisdom

1 CORINTHIANS 1.18-END

In a world that often values strength, success, and having all the answers, Paul reminds us that God's wisdom looks very different.

The message of the cross may seem foolish to some, but it is through humility, love, and self-giving that God's power is revealed.

This week, we are invited to pause and reflect:

Where do we look for wisdom?

How might God be calling us to trust, not in our own understanding, but in Christ's way of love?

Peaceful mind

The Bible tells the story of Jesus and His stressed disciples in a boat in a storm. Like them, we also get hit by storms in life. And like them, we can know that Jesus is also with us. Why not take a moment to ponder these promises:

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-8)

Sunday 1st
February 2026
Epiphany 4

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 17:8-16

PSALM

PSALM 36: 5-10

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1.18-END

GOSPEL

JOHN 2:1-11

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

RITA JAGGER

PSALM

DAVE TOWLER

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

PAULINE CHESLETT &

LINDA FIRTH

JUNIOR CHURCH

TBC

Collect Epiphany 4

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise

Gradual

Breathe on me,
breath of God

Offertory

Rejoice the Lord is
King

Communion

When I survey the
wondrous cross
Make me a channel of
your peace

Recessional

Video

2nd February - Candlemas - the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first ‘public appearance’. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to ‘present Him to the Lord’. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was ‘purified’. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year’s supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon’s great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

A religious upbringing helps your health in later life

Elderly people who had a religious upbringing have been found to be physically healthier, according to a recent study.

Scientists believe that one reason may be that they did not use drugs, cigarettes or alcohol when they were young. The data found that such people are reporting fewer difficulties with daily activities such as dressing or washing.

The study looked at older people across Europe, and the results were published in the journal Social Science and Medicine.

Many children in Europe who grew up after the Second World War had families who attended church on a regular basis, and who had Christian moral beliefs and values. For many children, this provided a sense of meaning in life, and a sense of belonging. They felt more ‘connected’, and hence more mentally and physically stable.

In your prayers this week....

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



This weeks flowers are to
celebrate Mike & Helen
Pedley's wedding anniversary.

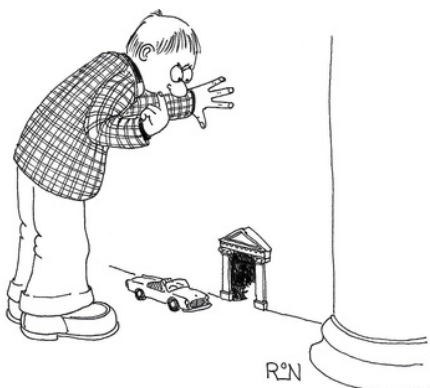
If you would like flowers in
church either in memory of a
loved one or to celebrate a
special day please speak to
Angela W

Quotes

Still water and still religion freeze
the quickest. - Anon

Some Christians are not only like salt
that has lost its savour, but like
pepper that has lost its pep. - Albert
George Butzer

Christianity is the total commitment
of all I know of me to all I know of
Jesus Christ. - William Temple



...and yet the Church Mice still put it about
that they were poor

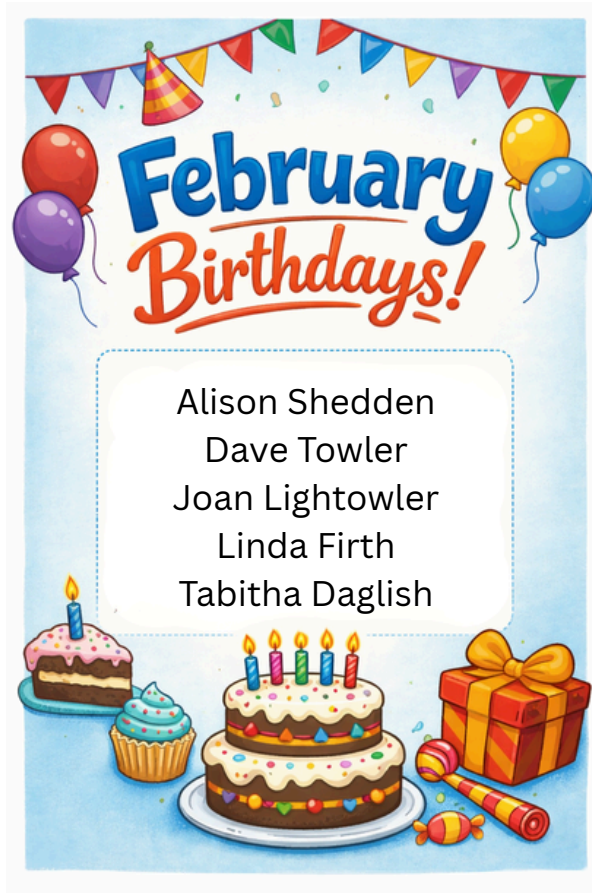
From the Parish Prayer list:

The Vicar, Revd. Tommy; The
Churchwardens, Dave and Peter; The
PCC; All who play a part in the running
of this church; Albert Buildings; Albert
Road; Albert View; Alexandra Close;
Allan Park ; Allan Terrace; Annie Street;
Arnold Street.



If you already have a full set of heating
controls, turning down your room
thermostat
by just one degree can save around £80 a
year. Jumpers are in this year!

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.



Next week

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2026
2ND BEFORE LENT

FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:1-2:3

PSALM

PSALM 136

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:18-25

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:25-34

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

DAVE TOWLER

PSALM

SARAH TOWLER

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA HARGREAVES

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE
MUNDY

JUNIOR CHURCH

TBC

DIARY

Monday

10:30 Morning Prayer in
church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning
11.30am Midweek service of
Holy Communion
1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

5.45 Bible Study

Thursday

6.30 BCP evening prayer

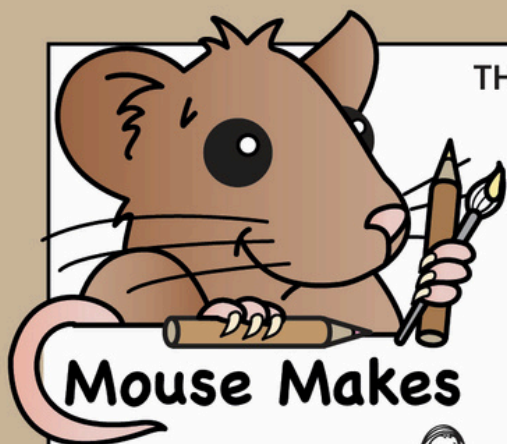
Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God **first**
Worship **only** Him.

1

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? v9

ROGLORYLO
IBAPTISED
VOFOOTHD
SERVEBTI
JORDANJEG
LORDNH



FORTYDAYS SON KLORDNH
TDOWNONWORSHIP
TESTWORLDLTUNB
LVTEMPTATIONGR
EIAMJESUSFNGDE
NLKPDESERTEROA
THOLYSPIRITYMD
IMJERUSALEMFSJ
WILDERNESSJUMP

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, **trust**
Him do not test Him.



Look Back Look Forward

I hope you all had a wonderful Epiphany, a season of journeys and discoveries. I feel my brain (unlike my bank balance) has recovered from the busyness of Christmas and lots of things have started up again. Anthea and myself have started doing assemblies again after the Christmas Holidays, and these are always such a blessing and the children really do engage well with what ever we are teaching them.

I also took part in a RE lesson at Christ Church and faced some tough questions, such as “how is God eternal” and “how was Jesus formed if God is his father”. Please let me know your answers. As the Magi have shown us our faith is a journey of discovery.

We continued movie night in January and I would like to thank everyone who helps out at these events and Peter and myself were able to do some home visits. Please let me know if you know anyone who would appreciate a visit.

We had the blessing of joining St. Pauls for their covenant service. Working closely with fellow Christians is a great opportunity to learn and experience different forms of worship. The high light of the month was Millie’s Baptism. It is great when candidates can make their own promises and hearing the baptism liturgy reminds us of the faith we are apart of.

I attended a fantastic training session called Neurodiversity and Children’s Ministry and will look to implement some lessons learnt from that training soon. Making everyone feel welcome and understand each other is a ongoing part of being a Church.

Looking forward we are going to move Morning Prayer to 10:30. This will begin in February and Evening Prayer using the Book of Common Prayer will continue. Messy Church will also start up again.

A subject we will be talking about more in February is money and stewardship. We need to produce a 5 year budget and do all we can to run as economically sound as possible. This does include looking for ways to generate or donate more money, but also making sure we are available here for all the community and giving them services that they need.

Revd. Tommy



Shrove Tuesday – 17 February

Join us on Shrove Tuesday and enjoy a pancake (or two!) between 10.00am and 11.30am.

Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a day of preparation before Lent begins — a time to reflect, say sorry, and make a fresh start. Over the years it has also become a chance to enjoy pancakes, using up rich ingredients before the season of Lent.

Do drop in, enjoy some fellowship, and share in this much-loved tradition.

Ash Wednesday – 18 February

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection, prayer, and preparation as we journey towards Easter.

The marking of ashes reminds us of our need for God's grace and the call to turn again to Christ.

We are invited to pause, reflect, and remember God's grace and love.

A Service of Holy Communion. 6.30pm

All are welcome to join us for this reflective service.

Happy Days donations

The orange donation box for food has now returned to the entrance of Church. All donations very gratefully received.

Holiday Hampers

For Rushbearing (Yes we know a long way off), we are looking at putting together holiday hampers, so if you are away on holiday or visiting somewhere, why not bring a little gift back that we can put into a hamper to raffle at this year's rushbearing event. If you are bringing food/sweets, please ensure it has a long expiry date on.

Also it would be great if you could start to collect bottles for our bottle stall

Financial information

November

Receipts £1,653.46

Payments £1,902.33

December

Receipts £2,388.06

Payments £2,256.69

Thank You – Kitchen Deep Clean

A huge thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to help deep clean the kitchen — it really is appreciated and has made such a difference.

As part of the clear-out, there are a few items we no longer need. Please feel free to take anything that may be useful to you. Any donations would be very welcome.

Thank you again for all your help and support.

Sowerby Bridge

500

YEARS OF FAITH

1526 - 2026

28th March - Quiz night
9th May - History Talk
27th June - Hymns & Pimms
5th Sept. - Rushbearing
19th Sept.
Steeton Male Voice Choir
17th Oct.
Last night at the proms
28th Nov. - Christmas Fair

Dates for Your Diary



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



Dancing to the Heartbeat of God Stories of Discipleship: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2026, SPCK, £11.99

With a foreword and an afterword by the Archbishop of Canterbury designate, an introduction by the Archbishop of York, and chapters by around thirty authors drawn from across the globe, the volume creates a sense of excitement, dynamism and faithful witness in its gloriously diverse writers and readers alike.

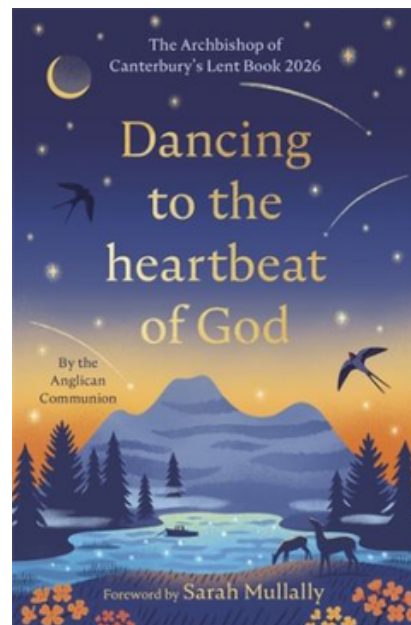
Its testimonies and stories aim to encourage people in the Church of England and across the Anglican Communion to share their faith with others.

Smile Lines

It hurts

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting him. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"



Church News 2026 Year A

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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.**