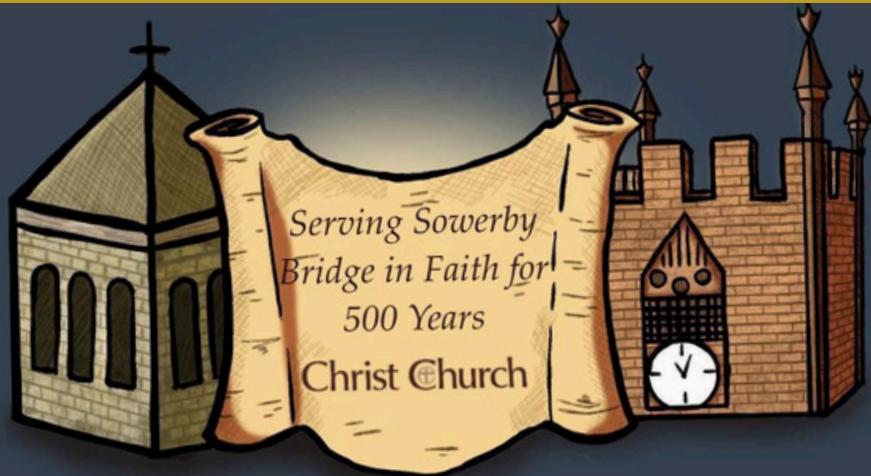


# WEEKLY NEWS



## *Moving outwards*

**ISAIAH 9.1-4**

Isaiah proclaims light and freedom for those in the region of Israel – the Galilee of the nations. We hear again the well-known words, often heard at Christmas, about light dawning on those who have been walking in darkness. The coming of the servant means that their oppression is over and joy abounds.

This week, we will move outwards beyond the Christmas associations of the Isaiah passage and see our calling mirrored in that of the first disciples.

## *Bishop Mullally presses for palliative-care availability*

“Every person is of immeasurable value and cannot be diminished by illness, disability, or care costs,” the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, recently told the House of Lords,

The Bishop, who is now also Archbishop-designate of Canterbury, added that: “however many amendments there are to this Bill, the Bill will never be safe. I hope that all of us would believe that, if someone wants to live, then somebody in that stage of life should have access to palliative care and the social care support they need.”

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

## Collect Epiphany 3

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THIS WEEKS HYMNS

### Processional

We have a gospel to proclaim

### Gradual

He who would valiant be

### Offertory

Fight the good fight

### Communion

In heavenly love abiding

Open our eyes

### Recessional

And can it be

## 25th January - Conversion of St Paul

*January is a month of the beginning of great things! As well as the naming of the Son of God, we celebrate the conversion of the greatest ever apostle of the Christian faith. Many books have been written on Paul, and here is the briefest of introductions.*

*He was a Jew, born as 'Saul' at Tarsus, and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then, on his way to Damascus, Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him in his tracks.*

*He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed.*

*Saul changed overnight. He was given a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote epistles to the young churches that he founded – and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.*

*Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: Paul was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in 64AD, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.*

## Holocaust Memorial Day

*Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), held each year on 27th January, marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.*

*Under the Nazis, six million Jewish men, women and children were murdered, as well as millions of Gentiles. Holocaust Memorial Day also commemorates the more recent persecutions and slaughter in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.*

*A spokesman explains: "HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, we bring people together to learn more about the past, empathise more with people today, and work to build a better future. Together we bear witness for communities who suffered attempted annihilation, and we honour the survivors and all those whose lives were changed beyond recognition."*

*This year's theme is 'Bridging Generations'. HMD says: "The responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors – it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us."*

# In your prayers this week....

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



This weeks flowers are in  
memory of Jim Wallace

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

It takes a great person to give sound  
advice tactfully, but a greater to  
accept it graciously. - J C MacAulay

Anger is temporary insanity. - C H  
Spurgeon

A gentleman is one who never hurts  
another's feelings unintentionally. - O  
Herford

Golf is a game that has produced  
more liars than anything else except  
the income tax. - Anon

Fanaticism is redoubling your effort  
when you have forgotten your aim. - G  
Santayana

Politics is the career of plundering  
and blundering. - Disraeli

## From the Parish Prayer list:

Our Country and the world; Current  
News items; Villa Street; Wakefield  
Road; Walker Lane; Wallis Street;  
Washer Lane; Water Street; Watson  
Bridge.



Eat less meat, particularly red meat;  
producing 1kg of beef produces the  
equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> to you driving a 300mile  
round trip while leaving all your lights on at  
home.

Blessed are those who feed the hedgehogs,  
who make fat balls for the birds, who build  
bug hotels and who plant flowers to attract  
bees.



## Next week

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

## DIARY

### Monday

9:30 Morning Prayer in  
church

### Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning  
11.30am Midweek service of  
Holy Communion

### Wednesday

### Thursday

6.30 BCP evening prayer

### Friday

### Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

### Sunday

10.30am All age Communion

# The Good Samaritan

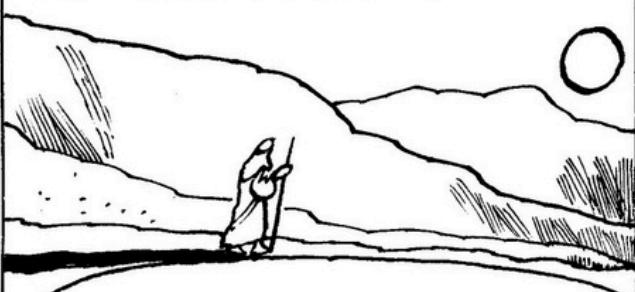


ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.



...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.



HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!



A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO. ON THE WAY...



THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!



LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE RELIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!



BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS, AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.



JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- PRIEST
- TEMPLE MAN
- FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

# *Sowerby Bridge Celebrates 500 Years of Christian Faith with a Year of Music, History and Community*

In 2026, Sowerby Bridge marks a truly extraordinary milestone: 500 years of Christian presence in the town. Five centuries of prayer, worship, service and community life have shaped not only the spiritual landscape of Sowerby Bridge, but also its identity, resilience and sense of togetherness. This anniversary is a moment to look back with gratitude, celebrate the present, and look forward with hope.

The story begins in 1526 at what became known as the Old Brigg Chapel. Long before the bustling town we know today developed, local people gathered in this small chapel by the bridge to worship, finding strength and comfort in their shared faith. For generations, the Old Brigg Chapel stood as a beacon of Christian life in the area, witnessing baptisms, weddings, funerals and countless acts of devotion. It was more than a building; it was the heart of a growing Christian community.

By the early 19th century, Sowerby Bridge was changing rapidly. The Industrial Revolution brought growth, industry and a rising population. The Old Brigg Chapel, steeped in history though it was, could no longer meet the needs of the expanding town. In 1821, a moment of great significance arrived: the congregation said a heartfelt farewell to the old chapel and moved into the newly built Christ Church. This was not an ending, but a continuation of the same story of faith, carried forward into a new chapter.

Christ Church became a symbol of renewal and hope, standing proudly as a spiritual home for generations to come. For over 200 years, it has remained a place of worship, welcome and service to the people of Sowerby Bridge, continuing the Christian witness that began five centuries earlier.

This remarkable journey from the Old Brigg Chapel to Christ Church is beautifully reflected in the special anniversary logo, designed by a member of the congregation. The logo links the two buildings, old and new, showing that while the setting may change, the heart of the Christian message remains the same. It is a visual reminder that today's church stands firmly on the foundations laid by those who worshipped here centuries ago.

Revd Tommy reflected on the significance of the year:

"This celebration is about far more than marking a date in history. It is about honouring the faith, dedication and love of all those who have gone before us, and recognising that the Christian story in Sowerby Bridge is still alive today. Our church is not just a place of memory, but a place of living faith, and we are excited to open our doors to the whole community throughout this special year."

To mark 500 years of Christian presence, Christ Church is hosting a rich and varied programme of events that will run throughout the year, bringing together history, music, worship and celebration.

The anniversary is not only about remembering the past, but about celebrating a living story. For 500 years, Christian worship in Sowerby Bridge has adapted and grown, responding to changing times while remaining rooted in faith, compassion and service. The move from the Old Brigg Chapel to Christ Church in 1821 stands as a powerful symbol of this continuity – a reminder that while buildings and generations change, the Christian message endures.

This is more than an anniversary. It is a thanksgiving for the past, a celebration of the present, and a hopeful step into the future of Christian life in Sowerby Bridge.



### **Finance Update – Tracking our expenditure**

At the start of a new financial year for church we are wanting to keep a closer eye on our income and expenses. We know some people buy things for church as needed for Film night, Messy church or repairs. Please remember you can reclaim what you've spent by submitting your receipt to Paul who will pay you back.

If you are still happy to donate items needed for church use, we've designed a new form for you to fill in and send your receipt as a donation. This helps us know about currently "hidden" spend. Ask Paul (Treasurer) or Anthea (Gift Aid Secretary) to e-mail it, or take a hard copy for you to use whenever you need it.

If you are a tax payer this new process allows us to claim gift aid at 25% and may also allow you to reduce the income tax you pay.

### **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.

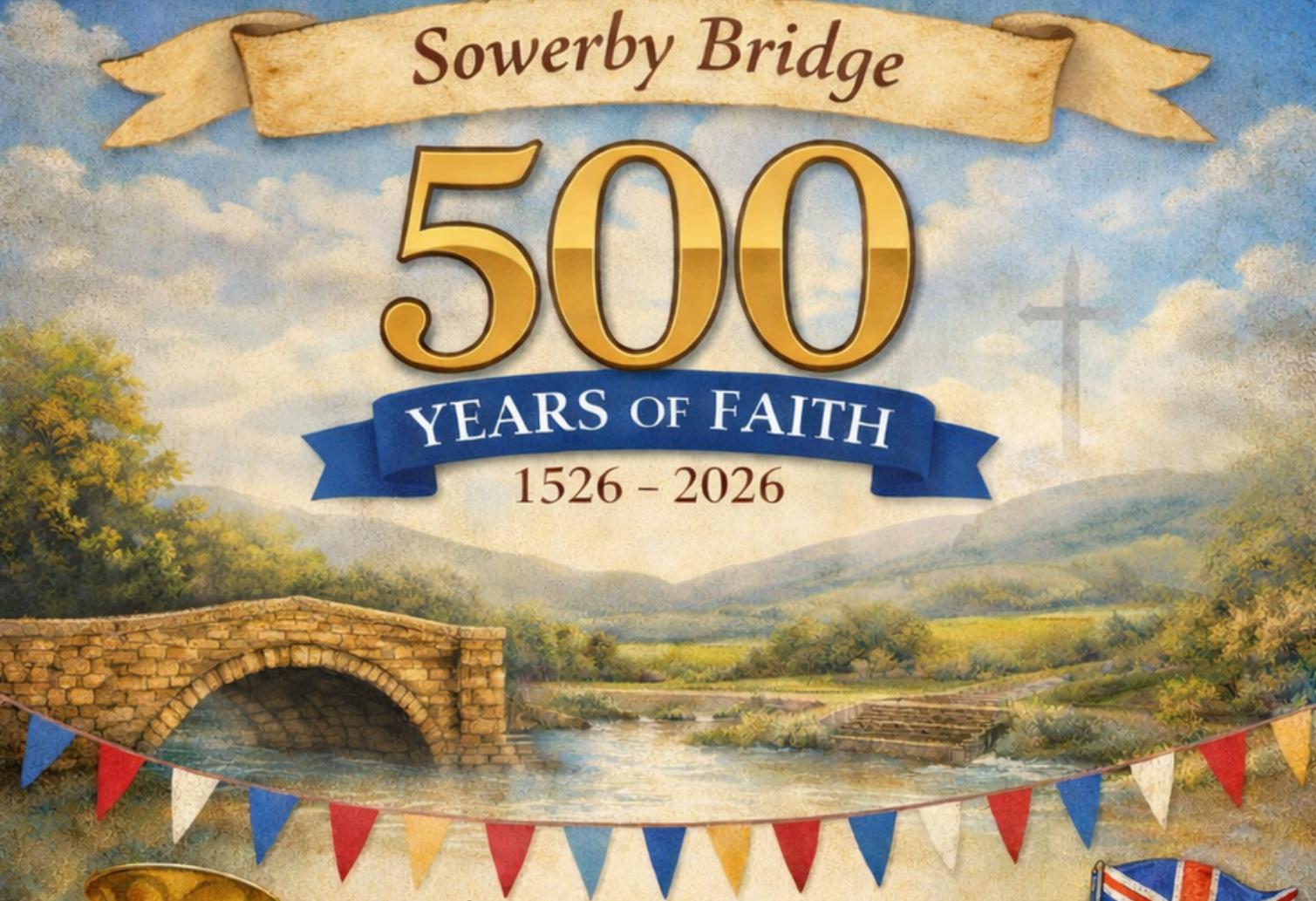
Our Flower Co-ordinator is Angela Wilkins. Please speak to her if you would like to arrange flowers in church for a special occasion.

# Sowerby Bridge

# 500

## YEARS OF FAITH

1526 - 2026



**28<sup>th</sup> March - Quiz night**

**9<sup>th</sup> May - History Talk**

**27<sup>th</sup> June - Hymns & Pimms**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sept. - Rushbearing**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

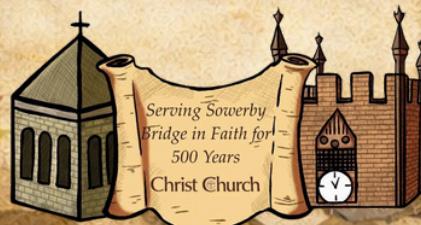
**Steeton Male Voice Choir**

**17<sup>th</sup> Oct.**

**Last night at the proms**

**28<sup>th</sup> Nov. - Christmas Fair**

*Dates for Your Diary*



Find us on  
[www.christchurchsb.org.uk](http://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



**Church News 2026 Year A**

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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.**

*Meeting God in John - A Companion  
for Lent, Holy Week, Easter and  
Beyond*

*By David F. Ford, SPCK, £8.79*

Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, *Meeting God in John* will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose. Ford's straightforward approach also makes it helpful for new Christians just starting out on their faith journey. With its focus on the Passion narrative, it also serves beautifully as a Lent devotional

### *Smile Lines*

#### **Cold ministry**

Two missionaries were comparing notes about their work in the arctic settlements of Siberia. "It was so cold where we were," boasted one, "that the candle froze during our church service and we couldn't blow it out."

"That's nothing," said the other. "Where we were it was so cold that my sermons came out in chunks of ice, and the congregation had to thaw them to see what I was talking about."

