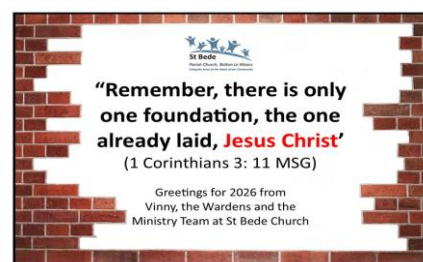


11th January 2026



Editorial

1st Sunday of Epiphany – Baptism of Christ

Jesus – Our Foundation

Our text verse for 2026 is 'Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid, Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 3:11). In our reading for today, 1 Corinthians 3:1-17, Paul reflects on the growing church as the Gospel spreads and reminds us that the church's foundation is Jesus.

As anyone involved in construction will know, there are many building regulations to be followed. Some builders have encountered problems when they have failed to adhere to these, meaning that the buildings have had to be demolished and rebuilt. The foundation has to be right. Builders have to be wise and take care when building.

Paul tells us in verse 10: 'By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.'

Paul was given great grace by God. He was used to build the Gentile church. The knowledge and grace he had, made him a master builder and he knew how to lay the external foundation. As Paul says: 'For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.' (verse 11)

Jesus is a priceless foundation. His love was poured out freely for us. Jesus must be the foundation of our lives and our church. No other foundation can be laid that will stand the test of time and eternity except Jesus Christ alone.

With Jesus, as the firm foundation of our lives and indeed the church, we will have a 'spiritual' building that will last forever. Will you be the wise builder and make Jesus the foundation of your life? Will you have an eternal home built on a priceless foundation? The key to that new home is Jesus. He is reaching out to you today.

Carol Hardman – Authorised Lay Minister



Please Pray for...

Minti R
David & Norma V
Barbara S
Brenda & Ken
Betty
Lee A
Stuart & family
Jackie
Isaac
Jodie
Anne H
Ross
Belinda K
Phil & Sue B
Norma M
Freda
Samantha W

Emma H
Chloe
Rachael B
John H & Debs
Sue S
Vinny H
Bishop David †
Michael F
Joanne
Brian G
David P
Tania
Irene S
Claire H
Re-Ordering Project
WoW & Beyond WoW
Pause Café

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers,
not just the sick or bereaved.



This week at St Bede

Sunday 11th January

10am Holy Communion

Worship with us as we begin a new series exploring our new text verse for the year and the need to make Jesus our sure foundation in all that we do. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' returns this week

Monday 12th January

7.30pm St Bede PCC Meeting

Our PCC meets tonight in the Community Room

Wednesday 14th January

6.15pm WOW

Our Worship on Wednesday Service continues this week as we reflect on Nicodemus and his encounter with Jesus. Our youth group **Beyond WOW** also meets this week.

7.30pm Alpha Course

Our new Alpha Course continues this week at St Andrews. New members are still welcome if you want to come along.

Sunday 18th January

10am Healing Service

Worship with us as we continue to reflect on Jesus our foundation and cornerstone. There will also be space in our service for people to come forward for prayer and healing. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week.





 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

St Bede Charity Partner 2026.

COMING SOON

COLLECT

Heavenly Father at the Jordan
you revealed Jesus as your Son:
may we recognize him as our
Lord and know ourselves to be
your beloved children; through
Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Our Church depends very heavily on
fundraising as well as regular giving
to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give
by setting up a Standing Order from
your bank. Please contact our
Treasurer, Simon Brooks
for further details –
brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website
www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR
code below



TEXT VERSE FOR 2026

As we move into 2026; we also have
a new text card!

Our verse for 2026 is 'Remember,
there is only one foundation, the one
already laid, Jesus Christ' (1
Corinthians 3:11)

This verse reminds us and calls us
that we need to make Jesus the sure
foundation of who we are and all
that we do in our lives.

It is a fitting verse for us at St Bede
particularly as we continue to
prepare for a major building project
in rebuilding and expanding our
community room.

Please do pick up your free text verse
card at the back of church if you
haven't already done so.

A THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped taking
down the Christmas decorations last
week.



OUR NEXT EVENT

Tickets are now available for our
next event on **Saturday 31st January
2026.**

Booking is essential so get them
while you can! Only £6.50

THE EVENT IS ONE OF THE MOST HISTORICALLY CERTAIN MOMENTS IN JESUS' LIFE

Most historians—even secular scholars—
consider the baptism of Jesus by John the
Baptist to be one of the **best-attested events**
in the Gospels.

This is because it meets the "criterion of
embarrassment": early Christians would not
have invented a story in which **Jesus is
baptised alongside sinners**, unless it had truly
happened.

All four Gospels that mention the baptism
agree it happened **around the Jordan River**,
which served as an important **symbolic
boundary** in Jewish history.
John the Baptist's movement used water
immersion to signify **repentance and
preparation** for God's coming kingdom.

John the Baptist is mentioned not only in the
New Testament but also by the Jewish
historian **Flavius Josephus** (c. 93 CE).
Josephus describes John as:

- a popular Jewish teacher, a baptiser,
eventually executed by Herod
Antipas.

It functions as the **inauguration** of his public
work.

Although the general event is consistent
across the synoptic gospels, details vary. John
does **not narrate the baptism itself**, but he
testifies to seeing the Spirit descend on Jesus.

These differences reflect theological
emphases, but not a contradiction of the basic
historical event.

Some early Christian groups even debated
whether the baptism was the moment Jesus
became divine, showing its significance in later
theological development.

Modern archaeology has identified several
ancient baptismal sites along the Jordan. All
are historically connected to early Christian
pilgrims as the traditional site of Jesus'
baptism.



Join us for fun, food, songs, games,
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

**We meet every Wednesday
6.15pm-7pm
St Bede Church Community Room**



St Bede Parish Church invites you to our

Winter Warmer Lunch

Saturday 31st January 2026
at 12 Noon



Come along for a delicious lunch for only £6.50

When the temperature drops, there is
nothing better than a hearty lunch to
lift your spirits!

Booking is essential by emailing
fundraising@st-bede.org.uk or in person



St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.

Contacts

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Reader Emeritus – Pat Bristow

Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

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St Bede Primary Academy Headteacher – Anna Black – 01204 61899

Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

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