

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



A Hope That Holds Us

ROMANS 8:18-25

Paul writes to a community living with uncertainty and struggle, reminding them that present sufferings are not the end of the story. In Romans 8, he speaks of creation “groaning” as it waits for renewal — a powerful image that still resonates today.

Across the UK, many people are feeling that groaning: the ongoing pressure of the cost of living, worries about health services, jobs, the environment, and what the future may hold. It can feel as though hope is in short supply.

Yet Paul points us towards a deeper hope — not a quick fix, but a steady trust that God is at work, even when we cannot yet see the outcome.

We wait, not with despair, but with patience and confidence, knowing that God’s promises are bigger than our present challenges.

This week, may we hold on to that hope, support one another, and trust that God is bringing new life, even in difficult times.

When you pray...

Words and wisdom of Jesus –
He doesn’t say, if or in case,
He says, when... you pray.
And we will.

From deep within,
Our spirit calls out to God,
Created to communicate with the Creator.
Cinemas can ban, statistics can suggest we won’t,
But Jesus says, when you pray...

Say, Our Father,
And when we do, He hears and answers
And pours out His love,
Always.

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

Collect 2nd Before Lent

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Great is thy
faithfulness

Gradual

Lord of all
hopefulness

Offertory

All my hope on God is
founded

Communion

Seek ye first
Blessed assurance

Recessional

Lord the light of your
light is shining

8th February - Kew - and the wild boar

St Kew has nothing to do with gardens or the ‘Q’ of James Bond fame. This Kew was a girl who lived in Cornwall in the 5th century, and who should be the patron saint of girls with difficult older brothers.

Kew’s older brother was a hermit who felt his younger sister was not worthy to even visit his cell. But big brothers often underestimate their younger sisters, and he was no exception. One day Big Brother saw a wild boar charge out of the woods towards his sister. Kew spoke to it kindly in tones of such purity and sweetness that it immediately slowed down to a peaceful walk.

Big Brother was so shaken by this that he repented of his superior attitude. When he then bothered to spend time talking with young Kew, Big Brother discovered her nature to be of “rare virtue and holiness”. Other people thought so too, and after her death they decided Kew had been a saint, and so should have the parish church named after her.

Perhaps the moral of all this is that if you want to win over a difficult older brother, you should first practise on wild boars.

What’s the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Old Testament: Isaiah

Isaiah is often regarded as the greatest of the prophets. His name means ‘The Lord saves’ and he began his 50-year ministry in 740 BC when King Uzziah died (6:1). Many scholars challenge the claim that Isaiah wrote the entire book, however there are striking verbal parallels between chapters 1–39 and 40–66.

Isaiah spoke during the stormy period marking the expansion of the Assyrian empire and the decline of Israel. The Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom in 721. Judah was left to decide whether they would make alliances with other kingdoms or rely on God to protect them. Isaiah warns Judah that her sin would bring captivity in Babylon, which eventually took place in 586.

Isaiah sees the Messiah coming from the line of David. He speaks of a new temple being established (ch2); a child born with a new kingdom (ch9) and judging differently to other kings (ch11) as well as the nature of His suffering (ch53). The ‘suffering servant’ (chapters 42–53) also applies to Israel as a nation, who are called to be a ‘light for the Gentiles’ (42:6). Not surprisingly Jesus applies Isaiah’s words to His own life and ministry. eg Is 61:1 quoted in Luke 4:18. Throughout his book Isaiah presents the full dimensions of God’s judgment and salvation as ‘the Holy One of Israel’ (6:1), as well as the ‘Sovereign Lord’ far above all nations (40:15–24).

Isaiah looks forward to the promise of a new city of Zion (chs 60-66), in which the people offer praise to the Holy One of Israel. ‘Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. ‘The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.’ (65:17).

In your prayers this week....

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



This weeks flowers are
memory of Emily Tweedale.

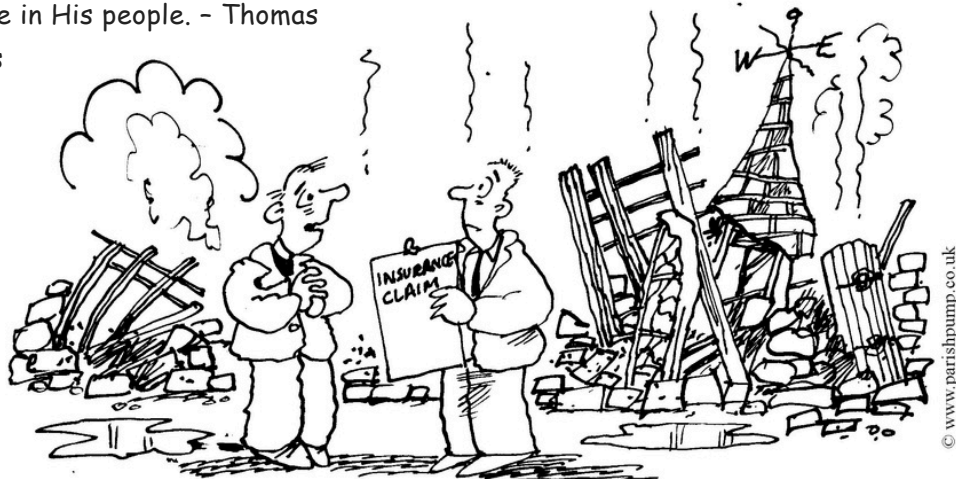
If you would like flowers in
church either in memory of a
loved one or to celebrate a
special day please speak to
Angela W

Quotes

Every action of our lives touches on
some chord that will vibrate in
eternity. - E H Chapin

It is dangerously possible for activity
to be no more than a dizzy whirl
around a central emptiness. - Anon

God would not rub so hard, were it
not to fetch out the dirt and spots
that be in His people. - Thomas
Brooks



...er... apart from this little hiccup... it was an excellent church pancake supper...

From the Parish Prayer list:

Pupils staff and Governors of Trinity
Academy Grammar; Dale Terrace; Dale
View; Dalton Street; Dam Head Road;
Dearden Street; Denby Place; Derby
Street; Durham House.



More than half the money spent on fuel
bills goes towards providing heating and hot
water. Installing a room thermostat, a
programmer and thermostatic radiator
valves and using these controls efficiently
could save you around £75 a year.

Blessed are those who look beyond their
local context, not with despair but with the
hope of making a difference.



Next week

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
2026
NEXT BEFORE LENT

FIRST READING

EXODUS 24.12-18

PSALM

PSALM 99

SECOND READING

2 PETER 1.16-21

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 17.1-9

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

SARAH TOWLER

PSALM

ALASTAIR ROSS

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL & KEVIN HENRY

DIARY

Monday

10:30 Morning Prayer in
church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning

Wednesday

Thursday

6.30 BCP evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

5pm Film Night

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

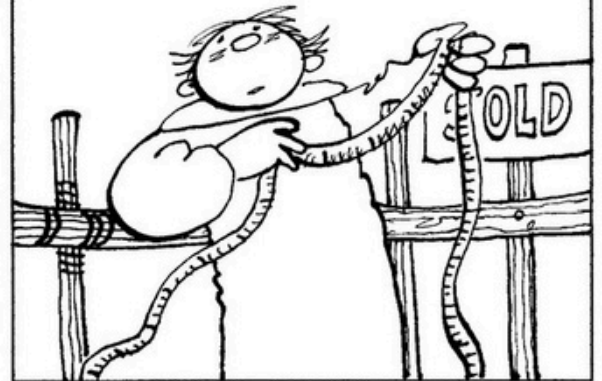


OH! NO!!

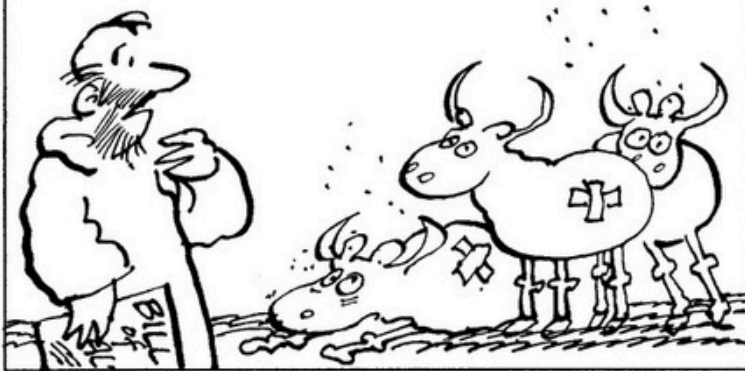


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

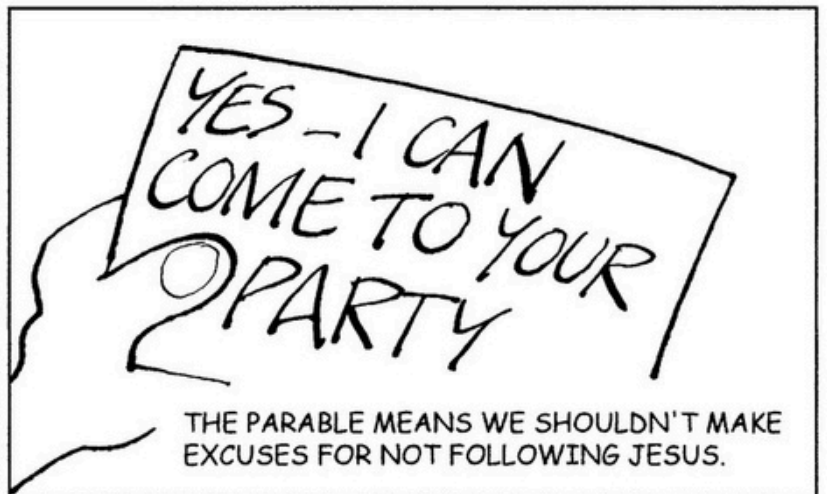


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

St. Faithful's Havnot.....

FROM THE TECH TEAM – A BRIEF ACT OF WORSHIP IN SEVERAL PARTS

We have recently received a number of letters from Mrs Trellis of Welsh St, Havernot, enquiring why churches now require so much “technical garbage” (her phrase) when worship appeared to function perfectly well for centuries without microphones, screens, or anything with a battery.

Dear Mrs Trellis — and those who have shouted “WE CAN’T HEAR YOU” at a screen with the absolute confidence that volume is a two-way system — we, the Tech Team, have been asked to reflect on technology in church. We do so with joy, mild anxiety, and a faint ringing in the ears which we now regard as vocational.

Let us begin with microphones.

The microphone is not a holy relic. It does not require tapping, blowing into, kissing, or the ceremonial question “Is this on?” while it is demonstrably on. Nor does it benefit from being held at navel height, pointed at the chest, or swung gently like a censer during the sermon. A microphone works best when held approximately one fist away from the mouth — a fact demonstrated repeatedly, verbally, diagrammatically, and once through interpretive dance (attendance optional).

Headsets, meanwhile, are frequently adjusted mid-sentence, removed during hymns, and occasionally switched off “to save battery”, despite the service having another 47 minutes to run. Which brings us neatly to batteries.

If you place a microphone battery into a charger, it is essential to pause — just briefly — to check for the red light. The red light is not decorative. It is not a suggestion. It is not a spiritual metaphor. It is the only sign the battery is charging. Placing a battery in a charger and walking away in faith is not an act of trust in God; it is tempting providence and usually results in silence during the Gospel.

Cables also deserve a word. They are not spaghetti. They do not benefit from being folded into tight, resentful knots and forced into drawers. Nor should they be wound lovingly around elbow and hand like festive garlands, no matter how satisfying that feels. Cables have opinions. Ignore them, and they will exact revenge during the Notices, preferably at the most meaningful moment.

Tablets can cause particular distress. “I’ve lost the church,” someone will say, staring at a live stream of the sermon, having somehow wandered through YouTube, Facebook, and possibly the Vatican en route. “The sound’s gone,” they add, while the mute icon glares at them with all the subtlety of a motorway sign.

We are deeply grateful for our “helpful” volunteers — truly. But if a Tech Team member is actively adjusting something, please resist the urge to also adjust it, usually in the opposite direction, while saying, “I’m sure it’s this.” It is never this. And yet, despite the feedback, the flat batteries, the tangled leads, the mysteriously vanished livestream, and the occasional cry of “It was working a minute ago”, we persist. Because when technology works — even briefly, even imperfectly — something rather lovely happens.

A grandchild sees their nan read a lesson. A grandpa watches his grandson lead prayers. A sermon reaches beyond the building. A hymn travels further than the nave.

Technology is not the enemy of the Kingdom. It is simply another set of loaves and fishes — easily dropped, frequently misunderstood, but capable, in the right hands, of reaching more people than we ever expected.

Now please excuse us. Someone has just turned off the sound “to be helpful”.

— The Tech Team

Disclaimer: St Faithful’s is a fictional parish, imagined by a real-life parish priest. It reflects familiar church cultures, observed with affection and humour, in the belief that theology still has something to say.

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





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.

Lenten Lunches – from 22 February

Our Lenten Lunches will begin on Sunday 22 February, following the morning service, and will continue throughout Lent.

This is a gentle time to pause, reflect, and share fellowship together over a simple lunch as we journey through the season of Lent.

All are very welcome to come along and be part of this shared time.

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

Find us on
www.christchurchsb.org.uk



Using your smart device,
scan the QR code to join
'Hebrews Coffee' Wi-Fi

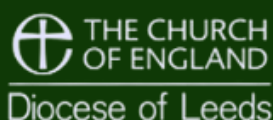


Once connected
scan the QR code
below



Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



Draw Near - Life-Giving Habits for Lent

By Kate Bruce, Michael Leyden and Jessica Martin, CHP, £22.99

This is the official Church of England booklet for Lent 2026. It invites you to develop a rhythm of life that will help you grow as a disciple of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

Each week a different contributor explores an activity central to Christian discipleship: worship, prayer, Scripture, communion, service to others and sharing the good news. For each day of Lent, it offers daily Bible readings, images, short reflections, prayers and practical responses to help you draw near to God this Lent and beyond.

Smile Lines

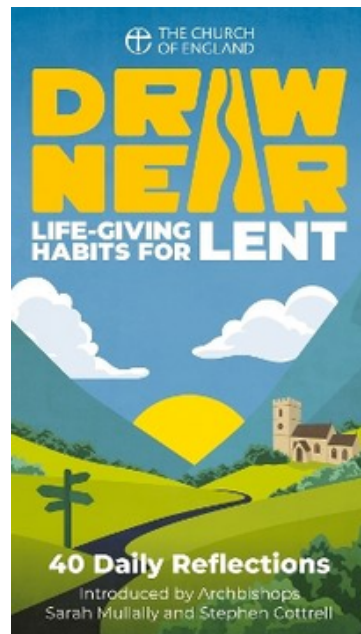
God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek.

"Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"



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.**