

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Keep asking questions

JOHN 3.1-17

Nicodemus, a Pharisee, goes to see Jesus, acknowledging him as a man of God. Jesus says that to see the kingdom of God, you must be 'born from above'. Nicodemus doesn't understand, although Jesus says that, being a teacher, he should. Nicodemus persists in asking questions to try to understand what Jesus means.

This week we are thinking about questions and the important part they play in our faith.

Peaceful mind in Lent

Lent is a time of prayer and inward reflection, when we take stock of where we are with God...with this in mind, the following may be helpful.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11: 28-30.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12

Sunday 1st March
2026
Lent 2

FIRST READING

GENESIS 12.1-4 **PSALM**
PSALM 121

SECOND READING

ROMANS 4.1-5,13-17

GOSPEL

JOHN 3.1-17

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB
DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

FIONA LAMB

PSALM

GLENIS MCCARTHY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

ANTHEA GEE

SIDES PERSON

PAULINE CHESLETT &
LINDA FIRTH

Collect Lent 2

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

And can it be

Gradual

Be thou my vision

Offertory

God is love

Communion

All I once held dear

Will you come and

follow me

Recessional

Video

The Seven Deadly Sins: Anger

Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one. (Benjamin Franklin).

Who or what makes you angry? In the third of our 7 Deadly Sins, we are looking at anger (or wrath).

It describes uncontrolled feelings of hatred and resentment, and it can lead to resentment and grudges, quarrelling and damaged relationships. Jesus warns us about the consequence of anger: 'I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.' (Matt 5:22).

Jesus Himself got angry, notably when He saw the Temple being exploited by the money changers (Matt 21:12-13). Such righteous anger is a measured response to injustice or evil, motivated by love not vengeance.

However, it is important for us to deal with unrighteous anger in our lives: 'In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.' (Ephesians 4:26,27). *What practical steps can we take to do this?*

Acknowledge your anger: What are the root causes of our anger? Often it comes from deeper feelings, like fear, inadequacy or the desire to control.

Control your anger: Stepping back before reacting can prevent anger from controlling us: 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (James 1:19,20).

Seek to forgive: Practising forgiveness, not seeking revenge or holding grudges, will enable us to overcoming anger: 'Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.' (Colossians 3:12,13). *Christ died to take the wrath of God we deserve, that we might know God's forgiveness.*

'People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing' (Will Rogers).

Diocesan apportionment ends, in first steps to simplify C of E finances

As of January 2026, diocesan apportionment has ended, meaning dioceses will no longer make financial contributions to cover costs of centralised services managed by the National Church Institutions.

Most of these costs will now be covered by distributions from the Church of England's national endowment fund (managed by the Church Commissioners), in an effort to help dioceses become more financially sustainable long-term, and to enable available diocesan funds to be spent on local parish ministry.

The centralised services which dioceses will no longer have to cover are: ministry training, Archbishops' Council National Church responsibilities, grants, mission agency pensions and clergy retirement housing. This will mean a reduction in annual costs to dioceses of £20m.

In your prayers this week....

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



During Lent it's traditional to not have flowers in church.

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

God requires a faithful fulfilment of the merest trifle given us to do, rather than the most ardent aspiration to things to which we are not called. - St Francis de Sales

Holiness consists of doing the will of God with a smile. - Mother Teresa

From the Parish Prayer list:

The Vicar, Revd. Tommy Daghish ; 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.

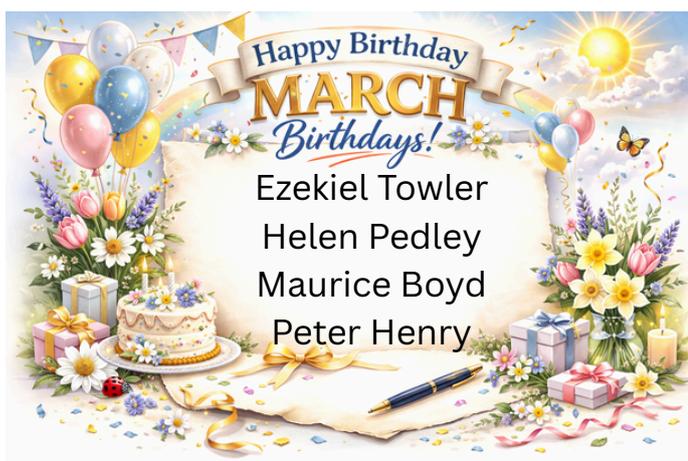
ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Small changes make a big difference 🌱 Try switching off lights and appliances when not in use, and only boil the water you need — good for the planet and your pocket too!



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Next week

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2026
LENT 3

FIRST READING

EXODUS 17.1-7

PSALM

PSALM 95

SECOND READING

ROMANS 5.1-11

GOSPEL

JOHN 4.5-42

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

GLENIS MCCARTHY

PSALM

GLENIS MCCARTHY

SECOND READING

PAUL HEALEY

INTERCESSIONS

HELEN PEDLEY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

DIARY

Monday

10:30 Morning Prayer in church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning
11.30am Mid week communion
1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

5.45 Bible study

Thursday

6.30 BCP evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning
10am Gardening Group

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion
12:15 pm Lenten Lunch

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

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story

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hard

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journey

Look Back Look Forward

February began with us moving the start time of Morning Prayer to 10:30 now to give more people a chance to attend. Morning Prayer is a beautiful 20 minute service. You follow along with the liturgy, listen to Bible reading and of course you pray. BCP (Book of Common Prayer) services also continued, and these are similar to Morning Prayer but in traditional language.

In February it was not Banana's in Pyjama's coming down the stairs it was me. Thank you to everyone who helped out while I was incapacitated, especially to Anthea who lead the assembly's solo. Assemblies continue to be a real source of joy, and during Lent the children set up a Kindness Calendar of good deeds they are going to do.

I was away overnight in the middle of February on a training course and it was very good. The main thing I took from it was to be more organised and I have started implementing these things. It is not something that comes easy to me but hopefully it will bear fruit.

It seems like advent just ended and now we are into Lent. Our Easter journey started with Shrove Tuesday and thank you to everyone who helped out and made delicious pancakes. We then had the Ash Wednesday service and it is always very moving and also a time to pause. Remember we are but ash it is meant to be humbling and liberating.

We are now in the Lent season and encouraged to take this time not just to give things up, but rather to reflect on what is really important. What is your treasure?

By the time you read this we will have started Messy Church again this year.

Looking forward to March we continue our Lent journey together and there will be lots of time for reflection. We also will meet with the Diocese to plan a 3 year budget which will then help us pay our Parish Share. Every month we need to make a payment to the Church of England to pay for things like the vicar (thank you by the way). Please continue to be as generous as you can be and as you have been.

As Lent is a time of reflection there are two important things I want to leave you with. The first is please do get involved with all that you can. Part of the training course I mentioned earlier said that around 70 people in the congregation is what you need to make everything run smoothly. We have around half of that so the work is doubled, and the fewer people who volunteer means that the work is piled up on those who do volunteer. The more people volunteering the more the workload is spread out. So please do help out in anyway you can – reading, prayer of intercessions, serving, IT or whatever you feel you can do. Training is given and you don't have to be perfect, the effort is all that matters.

The second thing is I really want to encourage you to attend as many services as possible during Easter. I know people have busy lives but this time of year is so important.

Both of these, helping out and attending services, help us to draw closer to both God and each other. Families spend time together and help each other, and we are brother and sisters in Christ. The time invested is rewarded in closer bonds and moments shared. It draws us closer to God, and that is the whole reason we are here at all, it is the fuel of our lives. So please stoke the flames of faith.

The Service we have over Easter outside the usual services are Maundy Thursday, Stations of the Cross and Easter Saturday Vigil. Please check the notice sheet for more details.

Rev. Tommy

Big Plastic Count starting March 9th

Over 32,000 people have signed up to count their plastic next month, will you join them? There's still time to sign up!

Fairness isn't something that usually comes up when talking about the plastic problem. We're on a mission to change that.

Because the truth is: the plastics crisis doesn't affect everyone equally.

If you read our last email, you'll know that the majority of UK plastic waste is burned in toxic incinerators. These facilities are ten times more likely to be built in areas hit hardest by inequality – meaning more air pollution and higher health risks for communities already facing an unfair system.

But it doesn't stop there. The whole lifecycle of plastic is unfair, from how it's made to what happens when it's thrown away.

Most plastic is made from oil and gas. As the world looks to transition away from fossil fuels, oil companies are turning to plastic to protect their profits. The industry already emits enormous amounts of carbon dioxide. If Big Oil goes all in, it will undermine efforts to limit global heating.

Just like the plastics crisis, the climate crisis hits minoritised communities first and worst, with floods and heatwaves affecting the global majority and low-income populations more, which only deepens existing inequalities.

Yet the same can be said for efforts to address these crises. Historically, under-served communities have been excluded from efforts to tackle environmental problems. Take plastic straws. They were banned without input from Disabled people – some of whom rely on them for safety and independence.

In short: communities already fighting for their rights are being left out of the conversation.

That can't be allowed to happen. That's why, at The Big Plastic Count, we put fairness first. That means centering the voices and experiences of those most affected by inequality, so that the solutions we work towards will benefit everyone.

You can be part of making that possible by joining our movement today.

For more information or to sign up visit <https://thebigplasticcount.com>



We Love Gardening

MONTHLY GARDENING GET TOGETHER, CAREING FOR OUR CHURCHYARD

SATURDAY
7TH MARCH
FROM 10AM



COMING SOON

**PLANT A FEW SEEDS EXTRA THIS SPRING
AND SAVE ANY SPARE PLANTS TO BRING
TO THE:**

THE BIG PLANT GIVEAWAY

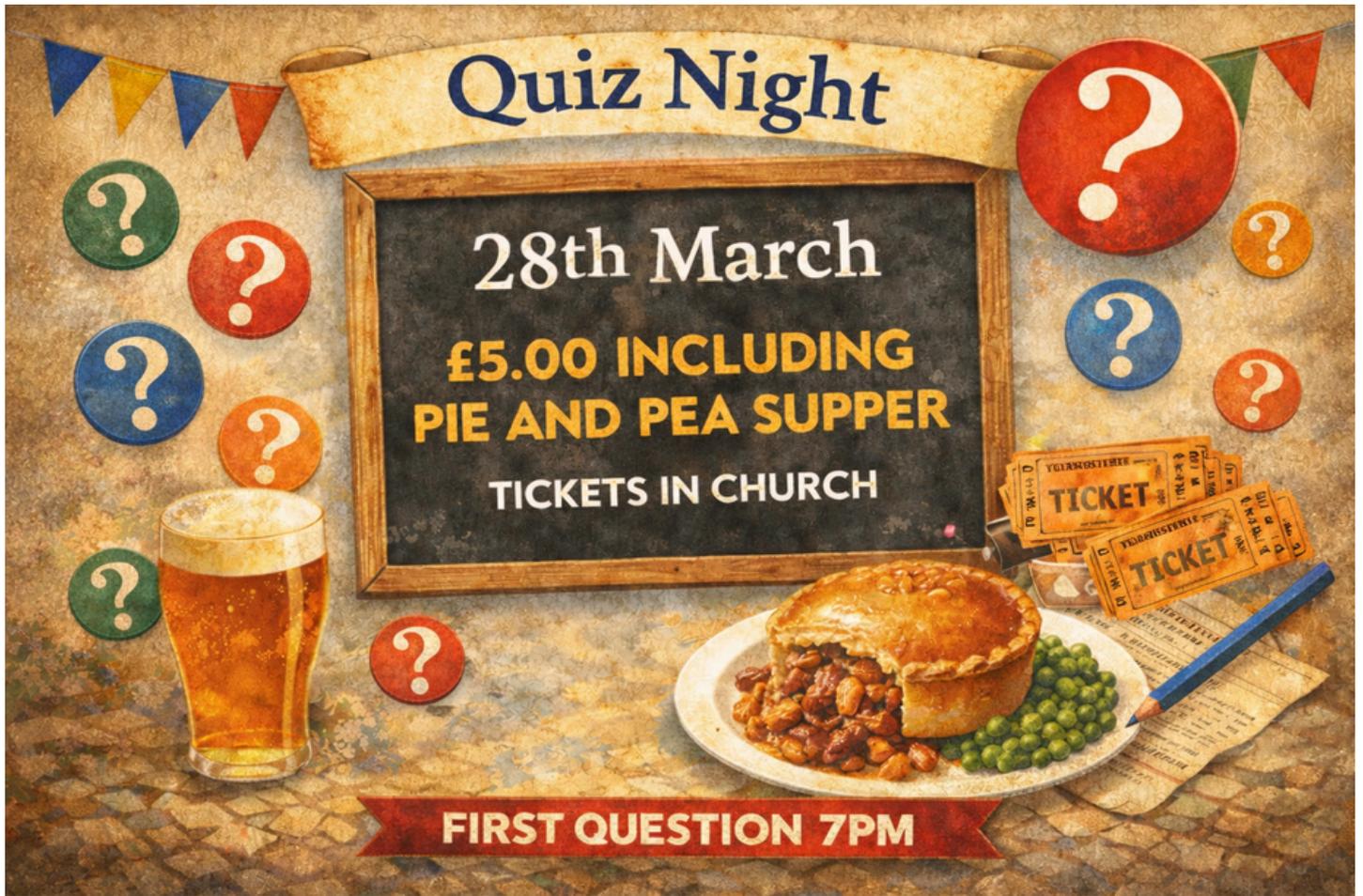
ALL WELCOME!

**SATURDAY
16th May
10AM-1PM**

**FREE ENTRY,
FREE PLANTS AND
FREE REFRESHMENTS**



**ST PAUL'S METHODIST CHURCH
TOWER HILL, SOWERBY BRIDGE, HX6 2EQ**



FIRST QUESTION 7PM

Mothering Sunday **March 14th**

Lighting Christ Church with love

candles £1.00 each
sheet in the community room



Easter Services



Thursday 2nd April



**Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
at Christ Church, 6.30pm**

Friday 3rd April



Good Friday Walk of Witness, 10.00am



Good Friday Lunch Out



**Good Friday Stations of the Cross
at Christ Church, 2.30pm**

Saturday 4th April



Easter Saturday Last Watch, 11.30pm

Sunday 5th April



Easter Sunday Holy Communion



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1527



Lenten Lunches – Every Sunday during Lent

Lenten Lunches – Can You Help?

We're looking for a few friendly volunteers to help with our Lenten lunches after the Sunday service on 8, 15 and 22 March. It's fairly simple stuff – picking up some bread, making bread and Cup-a-Soup, then helping with a bit of washing up and tidying afterwards. If you could lend a hand on any of these dates, we'd love to hear from you.

Palm Sunday Lunch – 29 March

We're planning a roast dinner on Palm Sunday, 29 March, and it would really help us with planning if we had a rough idea of numbers. Please let us know if you think you'll be joining us.

Christ Church Lit with Love – Mothering Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, 15 March, we will once again be lighting Christ Church with Love by filling our church with candlelight in thanksgiving and remembrance.

Candles cost £1.00 each and may be lit to give thanks for mum, gran, nana, aunty – or anyone who has been like a mother to us. Each flame is a quiet prayer of gratitude and love.

A sign-up sheet is available at the back of church. All are warmly invited to take part in this special and meaningful act of thanksgiving.

Knitted Chickens Needed – Good Friday Walk of Witness

We are once again collecting knitted chickens for the Good Friday Walk of Witness on 3 April. As we walk from St. Patrick's Catholic Church, through Sowerby Bridge, to St. Paul's Methodist Church, we give out the chickens, each containing a chocolate egg and an Easter message.

Over the years, those who receive them have been both surprised and deeply thankful for this small but meaningful gift, which helps share the message of Easter in a warm and joyful way.

If you are able to knit some chickens, please could they be brought to church by 15 March. Thank you to everyone who is able to help support this outreach.

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 years rushbearing event. If you are bringing food/sweets, please ensure it has a long expire 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



My Very First Easter Story Sticker Book By Lois Rock, SPCK, £5.99

A story book to retelling of the Easter story, with spaces left for children to fill with the appropriate sticker to complete the story. There are also extra activities about what can be found on the page – counting, naming, identifying – for which extra stickers are supplied.

The stickers come on a double page spread in the centre of the book, and are grouped and numbered according to activity to make it easy to select the right sticker to complete the task. This title is part of the much loved My Very First Series illustrated by Alex Ayliffe.

Smile Lines

A bit of painting

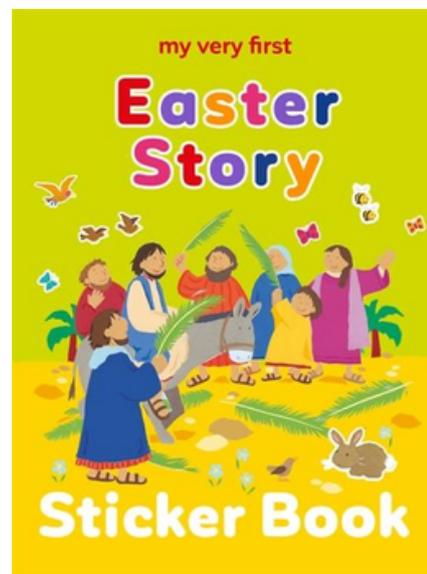
A Churchwarden in the Oldham and Ashton Deanery decided to freshen up the church hall exterior and set about painting it..

Part way through, he noticed the paint is running low so, not wanting to spend too much, decided to add in a generous splash of water.

He just manages to cover the last wall when out of nowhere, a torrential downpour begins, and within minutes, all the watered-down paint streams off the bricks and into the gutters.

As the storm clears, a booming voice rolls down from the heavens:

“Repaint, and thin no more.



Church News 2026 Year A

Registered Charity 1131180

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.**