

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



I was there

2 PETER 1.16-21

Peter gives his eyewitness account of Jesus being transformed by the light of God's glory. Writing about it later to the early Christians, he has had time to savour and to review his overwhelming experience and remains convinced that Jesus will return to rise as the morning star in our hearts.

The scene of transfiguration is the focus of our readings today: something being changed before our eyes. Moses encounters God on Mount Sinai and the people of God are changed by the Ten Commandments. Jesus is transfigured himself in the accounts by Peter and Matthew as a revelation of God, and Jesus as the Son of God. This week we consider the life-changing impact of these events.

Why is the Gospel read in the nave?

The Gospel is read in the nave — the main body of the church where the congregation gathers — to symbolise Christ coming among his people to preach and teach. As the Gospel Book is carried from the altar into the midst of the congregation, we are reminded that the Word of God is not distant or hidden, but active, living, and present among us.

This movement reflects the mystery of the Incarnation: the Word made flesh, walking and dwelling among humanity. It marks the Gospel as distinct from the other readings, emphasising that these are the very words and deeds of Christ himself. The procession also echoes long-held Christian tradition, where the Gospel is carried out from the sanctuary into the world, proclaiming the Good News beyond holy spaces.

In this moment, the Church is reminded of its calling to be missionary — to hear the Gospel, to be shaped by it, and to carry Christ's message of hope, love, and light into our everyday lives.

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

Collect 2nd Before Lent

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

How great thou art

Gradual

Majesty, worship his
majesty

Offertory

God of grace and God
of glory

Communion

I am the bread of life
Be still, for the
presence of the Lord

Recessional

The Spirit lives to set
us free

17th February - Shrove Tuesday

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Children's pocket money on the rise

A good way to beat inflation these days is to be a child. The amount of their weekly pocket money has been rising faster than inflation, according to a recent survey by the GoHenry banking service for six- to 18-year-olds.

Last year, on average, youngsters earned £10.73 a week. This was about 8 per cent up from the 2024 average of £9.92. (Inflation has been at most about 3%.)

GoHenry's survey found some of the ways in which children earn their pocket money. The most common job are: Tidying bedrooms – £1.12; Getting ready for school (includes homework) – £1.35; Helping around the house – £1.18; Looking after yourself (includes cleaning teeth) – £1.24; and caring for pets – £1.37

The top-paying jobs are: Looking after plants – £1.91; Being good – £1.46; Practising music – £1.44; Looking after pets – £1.37; Getting ready for school £1.35

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

God denies a Christian nothing but with a design to give him something better. - Richard Cecil

It is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus. - Robert Murray M'Cheyne

I am so busy at this present time I cannot do with less than four hours each day in the presence of God. - Martin Luther

From the Parish Prayer list:

Christians Together Sowerby Bridge
Any Church you have connections with;
Mearclough Road; Milner Royd Lane;
Milton Avenue; Milton Place; Milton
Street; Mitchell Street; Mount Street;
Myrtle Terrace.



Make a list before you go food shopping to help avoid over impulse buying and buying food you will end up throwing away.

Blessed are those who put their money where their mouth is, for their shopping bags contain seeds of hope for God's creation.



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

Next week

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY
2026
LENT 1

FIRST READING

GENESIS 2.15-17; 3.1-7

PSALM

PSALM 32

SECOND READING

ROMANS 5.12-19

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4.1-11

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

REBECCA LUMB

PSALM

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE GILL

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER INGALL

DIARY

Monday

10:30 Morning Prayer in church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning with pancakes

11.30am Mid week

communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

6.30pm Holy Communion

Thursday

11am Mothers Union

6.30 BCP evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

10.30 Christians Together Meeting

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

Shrove Tuesday Free Pancakes

10am on 17 February 2026

Join us for a pancake or two
in church from 10am - 11.30am



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

talked

Israel

Shiloh

stopped

night

Eli

leave

demanded

calling

right

ignored

priest

brought

heard

sorry

third

God

speak

sons

answered

Lord

listening

Samuel

morning

Ash Wednesday, mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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

We begin the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service at 6.30pm in church, including Holy Communion. This quiet, reflective service marks the start of our Lenten journey of prayer, repentance, and renewal.

If you have last year's palm crosses, please bring them with you. These will be burned and made into the ashes used during the service, reminding us of the cycle from Palm Sunday's joy to Lent's reflection, and of God's call to return to him with open hearts.

Mothers' Union – Thursday at 11am

Mothers' Union meets on Thursday, and we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us and see what MU is all about. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, prayer, and support.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union, as we give thanks for a long and faithful tradition of care, encouragement, and service within the Church and the wider community. Everyone is warmly welcome.

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

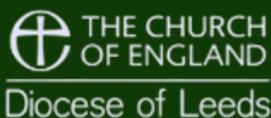


Once connected
scan the QR code
below



Captions* will appear once
the Service / Event starts.

*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



Meeting God in John - a Companion for Lent, Holy Week, Easter & Beyond By David F. Ford, SPCK, £10.99

Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, this book offers an accessible and absorbing introduction to the main message of John's Gospel, packed with compelling observations into the personality and impact of Jesus, both in the first century and today.

It will leave you with a renewed appreciation of and enthusiasm for John's writing. Each chapter includes questions for reflection or discussion.

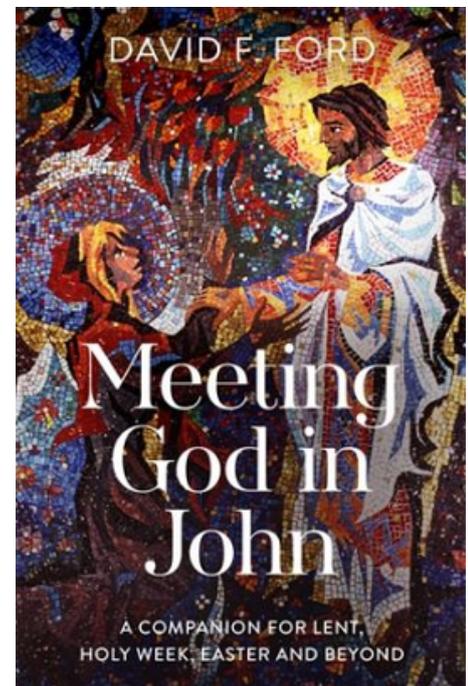
Smile Lines

Portrait

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



Church News 2026 Year A

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Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God's word.

Living Loving Learning.