

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Who are you?

JOHN 4.5-42

Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well. After first seeing herself as an outsider, she learns that Jesus' gift of 'living water' is also extended to her. In a scenario that is defined by much division, Jesus brings a new, united identity for all as the people of God.

This week, we consider the question 'Who are you?'. Throughout the Gospels, people wonder who Jesus is. In this week's passage from John's Gospel, the Samaritan woman wonders the same, and, as she discovers more about who Jesus is, she also discovers more about herself.

Education Secretary praises Church of England schools at Festival of Flourishing

The impact of Church of England schools on children's lives and communities has been celebrated at the first ever recent Festival of Flourishing.

Hosted by the National Society for Education, the event formed part of the Society's annual national conference and brought together school and trust leaders, teachers, clergy, policymakers and young people to explore how placing children and young people at the heart of leadership, governance and culture can enable schools and communities to flourish.

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson spoke warmly about the Church of England's long-standing contribution to national education, praising the commitment, community role and leadership of its schools and trusts.

She highlighted the strength of the partnership between Church and state, recognising the impact of Church of England schools in serving more than a million children and acting as "calm and hopeful anchors" within their communities. "There are so many Church of England schools that understand this already," she said.

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

PAUL HEALEY

SECOND READING

PAUL HEALEY

INTERCESSIONS

HELEN PEDLEY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

Collect Lent 3

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

ProceSSIONal

Praise my soul the King of heaven

Gradual

Father, hear the prayer we offer

Offertory

In heavenly love abiding

Communion

The King of Love my shepherd is
All heaven declares

Recessional

Guide me O thou great Jehovah

A Bucket of Tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are then swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' – which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, that we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a theology of science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.

This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.



Easter Lilies

If you would like to have an Easter lily placed in church on Easter Sunday in memory of a loved one, you can sign up in church or make your donation through our secure online giving page. Please select "Easter Lily" under the campaign options. There is a small charge of £3.50 per lily or 3 for £10.00.

For more information, please speak to Angela Wilkins.

In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Lukas Powell;
Maralyn Pawson; Vanessa
Starsmore; Victor Smyth; Kelly
Swift



This weeks flowers are in memory of Margaret Boyd

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 often works more by the illiterate seeking the things that are God's than by the learned seeking the things that are their own. - St Anselm

It is His long-term policy, I fear, to restore to them a new kind of self-love - a charity and gratitude for all selves including their own; when they have really learned to love their neighbours as themselves, they will be allowed to love themselves as their neighbours. - CS Lewis

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.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



When you need to buy large item research it carefully. Think about how long it could last, how much it costs to run, what it is made of, where it is made, can it be recycled at the end of its life.

Better quality items often last longer and so cost you less over time.

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



*My sermon today comes from
Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*

Next week

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026
LENT 4
MOTHERING SUNDAY

FIRST READING

WILL CONFIRM VIA IKNOW

PSALM

WILL CONFIRM VIA IKNOW

SECOND READING

WILL CONFIRM VIA IKNOW

GOSPEL

WILL CONFIRM VIA IKNOW

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

RITA JAGGER

PSALM

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

SARAH TOWLER

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE

MUNDY

DIARY

Monday

9.30 Messy Church meeting

10:30 Morning Prayer in church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

communion

Wednesday

Thursday

9.30 School visit

6.30 BCP evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

5pm Film night

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

12:15 pm Lenten Lunch

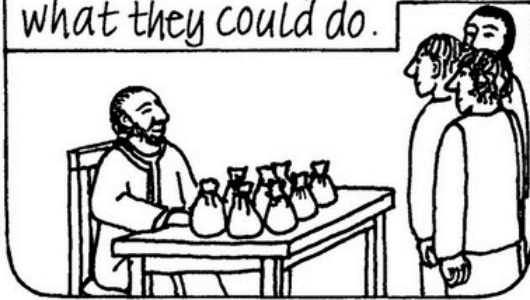
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus told a story to help his disciples
to be ready for the end of time. 'A
rich man was about to go on a journey...'

He gave his servants money
to look after, depending on
what they could do.

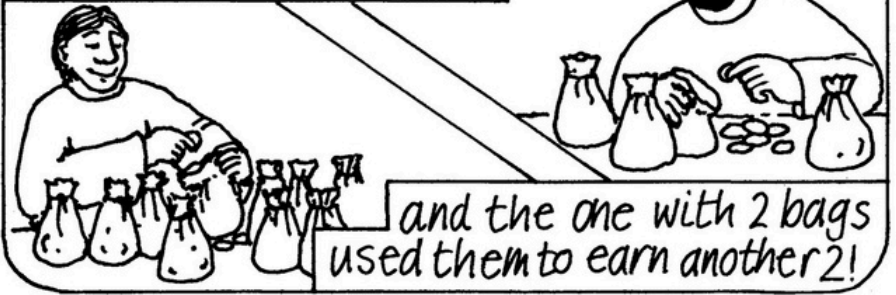


He gave 5 bags of coins to the
first, 2 to the second, and 1 to the third.

As soon as he had gone,
the first two servants
started to work.



The one with 5 bags of coins
used them to earn 5 more,



and the one with 2 bags
used them to earn another 2!

The third servant dug a
hole and buried his bag.



When
the master
came back,
he called
his
servants
to him...



The first two showed him they
had doubled his money, and he
was very happy with them.



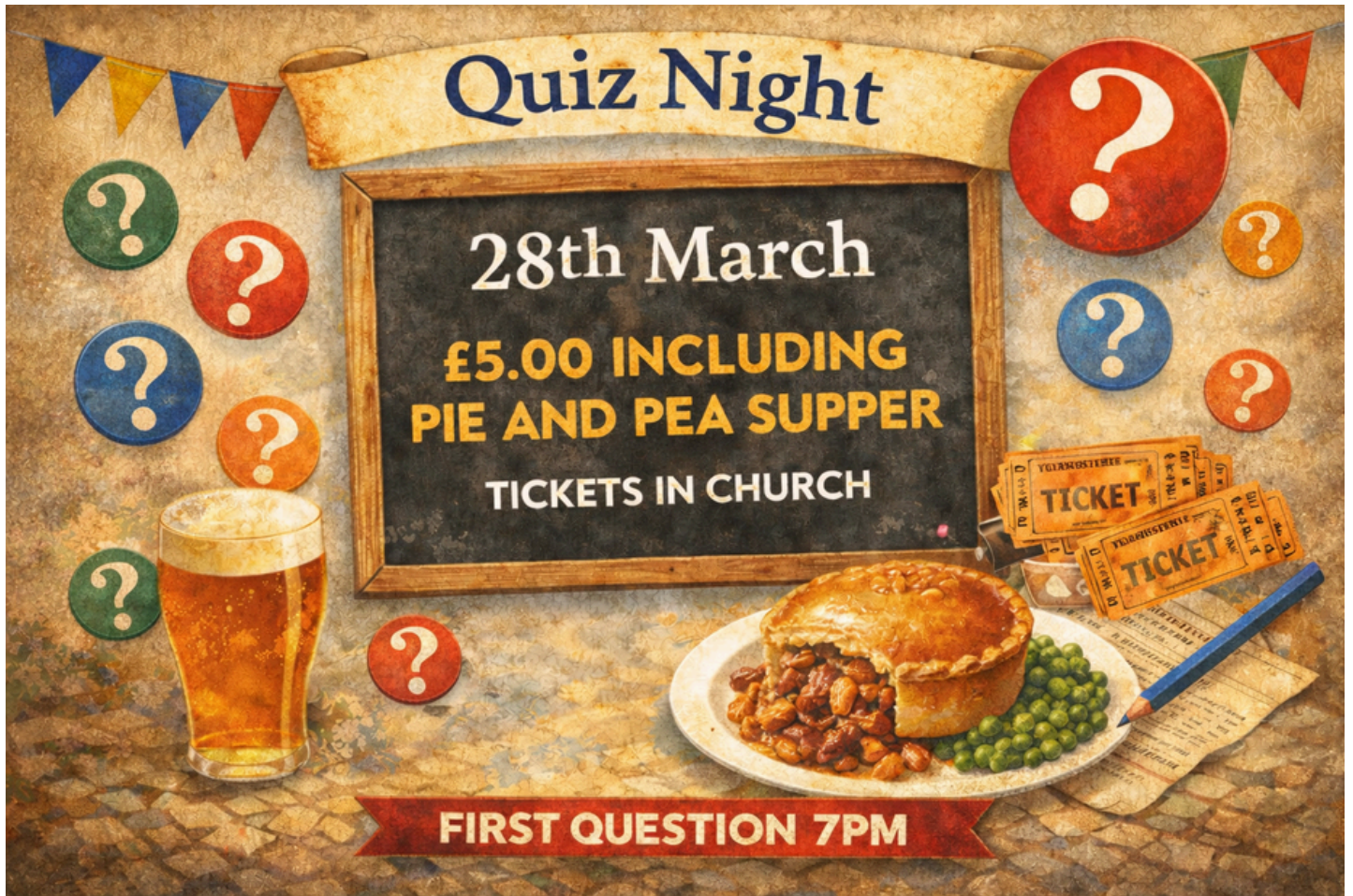
You are a hard man
who expects us to work. I
was afraid so I just hid it.

If you knew what I
expected, why didn't
you do it?



Get out of here!





Mothering Sunday March 14th

Lighting Christ Church with love

candles £1.00 each
sheet in the community room





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.

Could you help make this year's Mothering Sunday posies?

If you're able to lend a hand, we'll be putting them together during our coffee morning next Saturday at 10am. Everyone is very welcome to come along and help.

Good Friday Meal

Following the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, a meal will be held at Salts Bar at 1.00pm.

Anyone wishing to join is very welcome. Please speak to Janet Turner if you would like to come along.

APCM 2026

our annual church meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 26 April 2026.

Organisation reports – please could all organisations/groups send their annual report to Anthea at antheagee@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 5 April. Thank you.

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.

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 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.

Easter Services



Thursday 2nd April



**Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
at Christ Church, 7.30pm**

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 1526

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Jeremiah

Jeremiah is described as 'a true, honest, and God-revealing companion for the worst of times.' (Eugene Peterson). He was a priest from the village of Anathoth, near Jerusalem. His ministry to Judah began in 626 B.C. and continued until after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Jeremiah brought a message of judgment and hope: 'See, I have set you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.' (1:10).

During Jeremiah's ministry, Judah had rejected the Lord for idols (2:13). They claimed to be God's people, yet they refused to heed God's word by refusing to be corrected and following false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear. Therefore, Jeremiah was the prophet of judgement. He called Judah to repent, but they refused (6:16-17). However, he also brought a message of hope. He preached that they should trust God (9:23-24) and that a faithful remnant would be restored to the land (23:3; 31:7-9).

Jeremiah was a reluctant prophet, who felt compelled to speak God's word (20:9). His life was characterised by sorrow, 'O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me.' (8: 18). His people continually refused to listen to him, rewarding his labour with rejection and persecution.

Much of Jeremiah's message remains relevant today, because we still fall into idolatry, whether it is wealth, talents or social standing. Sin requires repentance and restoration; obedience brings blessings and joy with it. However, Jeremiah also points to Christ, as the one who makes this possible. He showed great compassion for His people and shed tears for them. He suffered their ingratitude, but still forgave them.

The Boys' Brigade launches alumni network to connect generations

The Boys' Brigade wants to get in touch with former members to celebrate more than 140 years of shaping young lives

The organisation wants to connect with previous members to share their stories of how The Boys' Brigade (BB) helped prepare them for their lives and careers. To do so, it has launched a new alumni scheme (<https://alumni.boys-brigade.org.uk>).

But the new scheme "isn't just about reminiscing about the past", the organisation states, "it is about giving you the chance to reconnect with us and help build a stronger future as The Boys' Brigade heads towards our 150th anniversary."

The Boys' Brigade (BB) was founded in 1883 and today works with 1,200 churches of all denominations. For generations, BB has provided 'opportunities to learn, grow and discover", and this positive influence "is as important and as relevant today as ever."

BB trustee Andrew Baldwin says, "One of the things that always makes me smile is hearing stories of people's connections to the organisation. There is a huge BB community out there – across the UK and around the world.

"Former members are in every walk of life. We want to hear your stories, and the part that The Boys' Brigade played in your life.

"The alumni scheme gives us the chance to reconnect and build a stronger future, as we head towards our 150th anniversary."

As one former BB boy said: 'BB taught me how to become a leader, a good man and a better person. It pushed me to see what I was capable of. It gave me drive. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it hadn't been for The Boys' Brigade.'

ST PAUL'S METHODIST & CHRIST CHURCH SOWERBY BRIDGE

COMING SOON

Plant a few seeds extra this spring AND
SAVE ANY SPARE PLANTS to bring to
the:

THE BIG PLANT GIVEAWAY

SATURDAY
16TH MAY

10AM-1PM

All welcome!

Free entry,
free plants and
free refreshments



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

8th March - Woodbine Willie

Bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War – the Revd Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27th June 1883 – 8th March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby.

By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed-out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and sadly died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

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



Christian. Mother. Working: Your practical, prayer-filled companion By Naomi Aidoo, BRF, £8.99

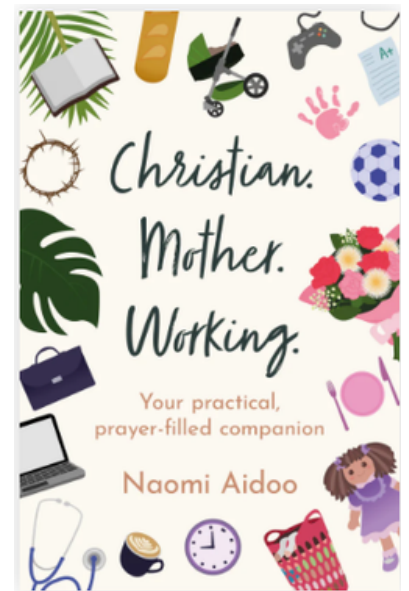
This book considers how family and faith impact our work in each of life's seasons. With more and more mothers in the workforce, it shows how working motherhood is something to be celebrated. Through work we can display the call on our lives into areas which extend beyond our families, and which can also bring flourishing and fulfilment.

Smile Lines

How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."



Church News 2026 Year A

Registered Charity 1131180

CCLI License Number 295704

Rev. Tommy Daghish

The Vicarage, 62 Park Road, Sowerby Bridge, HX6 2BJ.

07378 517 835 Email: vicar@christchurchsb.org.uk

Churchwardens

Mr. Peter Henry 07720 745 230 peter@christchurchsb.org.uk

Mr Dave Gill 07400 373 902 dave@christchurchsb.org.uk

Safeguarding

Mrs Glenis McCarthy 07773998104 glenismc@msn.com

Mrs Fiona Lamb 07870168198 fiona.lamb1@sky.com

**Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.
Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God's word.
Living Loving Learning.**