

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



What do you see?

JOHN 9.1-41

Jesus restores the sight of a blind man who sees Jesus for who he is. The sighted do not believe the man's story, and fail to recognise who Jesus is. Jesus tells them that they are spiritually blind because they do not believe in him.

Sunday 15 March is Mothering Sunday in the UK. Mothers, and all parents and carers, do many things that go unseen and unnoticed, and today's Gospel passage about Jesus healing a man born blind enables us to explore the themes of seeing and noticing, as we ask the question 'What do you see?'.

Poverty, the care crisis and mental health - Synod discusses modern challenges

A call for renewed commitment to supporting people who live in poverty was among the motions recently debated at February Synod (9th to 13th).

The debate, marking 40 years since the landmark Faith in the City report, was among a series of key social challenges up for discussion, alongside the care system and the nation's mental health in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally led a debate on care for older and disabled people. Synod also explored how the Church can best respond to people's mental health needs.

Key items on the agenda also included progress on Church Safeguarding and the next steps after the Living in Love and Faith process – which explores the Church's approach to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage – concludes this year.

Sunday 15th
March 2026
Lent 4
Mothering
Sunday

FIRST READING

1 SAMUEL 1:20-END

PSALM

PSALM 127

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

GOSPEL

JOHN 19:25B-27

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

Collect Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and
strong, tender and
careful: watch over
us and hold us all
the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

All things bright and
beautiful

Gradual

For the beauty of the
earth

Offertory

Tell out my soul

Communion

Come down O love
divine

Bind us together

Recessional

Love divine all loves
excelling

Mothers and children

Whatever our childhood was like, it was formational. We learned from our earthly parents, good things ideally, although not everyone's childhood is great.

In the Bible, St Paul refers to the importance of up-bringing and of spiritual heritage. When he greets Timothy in his second letter to him, he calls him his 'Dear Son', praises his 'genuine faith' and then goes on:

"You share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."

Timothy's childhood had been rooted in the Old Testament scriptures that he had been taught by his mother and grandmother. Their example had set him on the right path, until he was old enough to choose for himself to follow Jesus.

Physically, we when we are young, we need nurturing by mothers and fathers. Spiritually it is the same. When we come to faith, we need spiritual mothers and father to help us grow into maturity as God's adopted children.

We also need spiritual sustenance: regularly reading the Bible, spending time in God's presence in prayer, and worshipping with the family of the Church.

God – our heavenly parent provides our personal nurturing through prayer and the Bible, but He also gives us each other, to encourage and share our experiences of his faithfulness.

However imperfect our earthly upbringing was, God is a good, good Father, a perfect parent who will only teach us good things. And gradually, as the fruit of the Holy Spirit ripens in us, we will become more like Jesus. We will gain more of the family likeness!

Is there someone in your life who has helped you to grow spiritually? This Mothering Sunday, thank God for them. Is there someone your life whom you have 'mothered' or 'fathered' along the way? This Mothering Sunday, pray for them.

The Daughters of Mothers

There are certain small things that you notice,

Little things you have started to do,

That prompt you to question, and

wonder

If the face in the mirror, is you.

The realisation is dawning,

As one year hurtles after another,

That in word, thought and deed,<

In gesture and glance,

You have somehow turned into your mother!



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



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

Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life. - Sophocles

What's done to children, they will do to society. - Karl Menninger

For a wife, take the daughter of a good mother. - Fuller.

Simply having children does not make a mother. - Anon

Her children arise up and call her blessed. - Proverbs 31.28

What is Raphael's Madonna but the shadow of a mother's love, fixed in permanent outline forever? - T W Higginson

One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters. - George Herbert

From the Parish Prayer list:

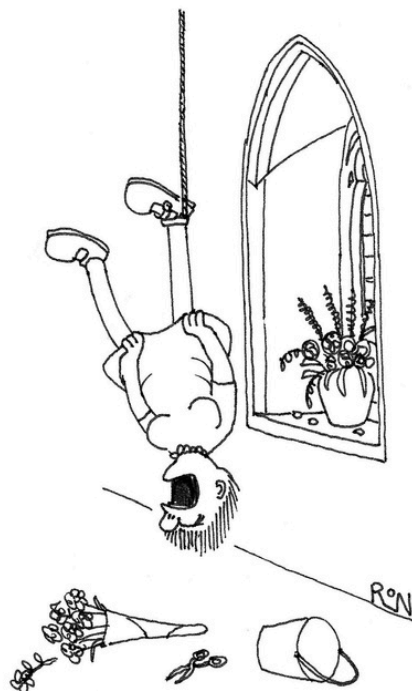
All who live & work within the Parish
Those with no safe place to call home;
Nelson Place; Nelson Street; New
Marsh; Newton Street; Newton Terrace;
Norland Road; Norland View; North Lea.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Reduce your impact on the environment by buying second hand when you can. Ebay & charity shops are good sources of reused items.

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



Mrs Stebbings always did the flowers in the South Window, as Mrs Todger soon learned

Next week

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2026
LENT 5

FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 37.1-14

PSALM

PSALM 130

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8.6-11

GOSPEL

JOHN 11.1-45

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

10:30 Morning Prayer in church

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

5.45pm Bible Study

7pm Deanery Synod

Thursday

9.30 School visit

11pm Mothers Union

6.30 BCP evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

5pm Film night

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion

12:15 pm Lenten Lunch

REVISION OF CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Notice is hereby given

that the Church Electoral Roll of the above parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council*, beginning on **Sunday** the **29th** day of **March** 2026, and ending on **Saturday** the **11th** day of **April** 2026.

After the revision, a copy of the Roll will be published by the Parochial Church Council on the church notice board and on the church website for at least 14 days and a copy of the Roll will be available for inspection on a reasonable request being made to the Council.

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if the person is—

(a) is baptised, (b) is aged 16 or over, and (c) has made one of the following three declarations and duly applied for enrolment.

The first declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it and is resident in the parish.

The second declaration is that the person is a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it, is not resident in the parish, but has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

The third declaration is that the person is a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and is also a member of the Church of England and has habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months.

Application Forms for enrolment can be obtained from the Church Electoral Roll Officer. In order for a person to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, an Application Form for enrolment must be returned by the date shown above for the ending of the revision of the Church Electoral Roll by the Parochial Church Council.

Any error discovered in the Roll should at once be reported to the Church Electoral Roll Officer.

Dated this **12th** day of **March 2026**

Signed: Sarah Towler

Address: _Fairhaven, Tuel Lane, Sowerby Bridge, HX6 2EL
Church Electoral Roll Officer

Email (*optional*): clarkybobs89@hotmail.co.uk

** The revision must be completed at least 15 days, but no more than 28 days, before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.*

At least 14 days notice must be given.

Church Electoral Roll

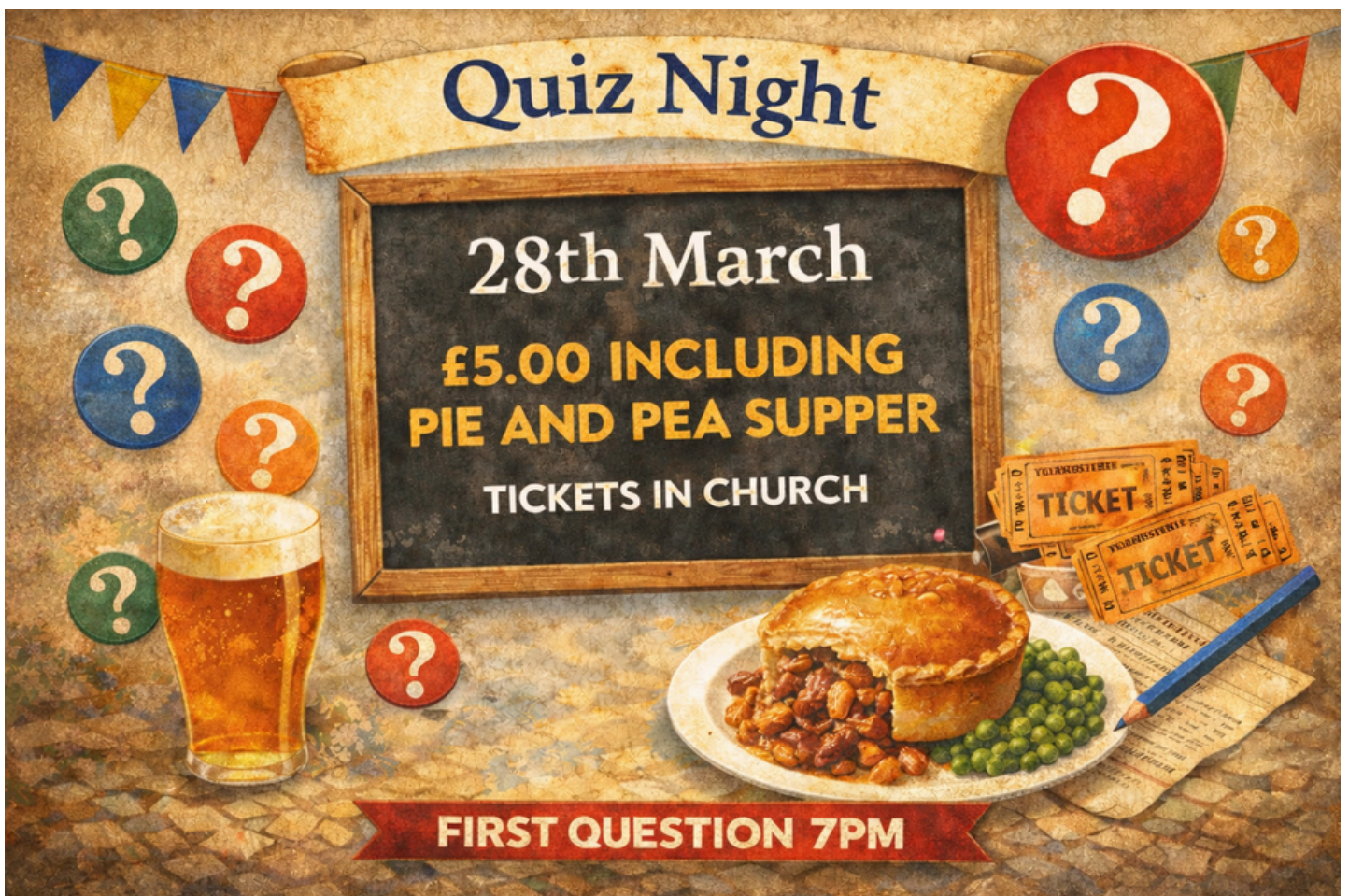
It is that time of year again, where the electoral roll is reviewed ready for the annual parochial church meeting (APCM). The Church Electoral Roll will be revised this year, beginning on Sunday the 29th day of March 2026, and ending on Saturday the 11th day of April 2026.

Why should I join?

You can be an active member of our church without joining to roll, and adding your name does not mean you take on an extra responsibility or commitment. However, joining the roll helps the church show its strength, and the number of people on the roll impacts the representation on church governing bodies. The electoral roll allows you to attend the APCM, vote on important church matters, and stand for election to the PCC.

How do I join?

If you are already on the roll, that's it for this year, you don't have to do anything. If you are not already on the roll, and would like to join, there are application forms at the back of church. You can return your completed form to church, post it to the address on the form, or email it to clarkybobs89@hotmail.co.uk





Congratulations

To Emma, Scott and family on the birth of their daughter and sister, Trinity

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.

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 22nd 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.

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.

YOUR PARISH SHARE IS VITAL FOR SUSTAINING MINISTRY AND MISSION THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS

What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is the financial contribution your parish is asked to make to support the mission and ministry of the Church. This primarily covers the costs of clergy stipends (wages) and their housing. Thanks to your support, with Share we are able to ensure:

- Every communion is celebrated
- Every sermon is preached
- Every bereaved family is comforted
- Every school assembly takes place
- Every baptism and wedding is ministered
- Every person is shown the love of Christ through our compassion and comfort.

The Bible and Parish Share

Using the Parish Share system means that we're able to offer mission and ministry across the whole of our diocese. More importantly perhaps, resourcing the work of the church this way follows some principles we find in Scripture. God is our Heavenly Father whose nature as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is to invite us to be in a relationship with Him and with one another. Parish Share is one way we act, as Christians, to fulfil our calling and even reflect God's own relational nature.

Parish Share presents an opportunity for each church community, according to their ability, to participate in the financial costs of ministry throughout our diocese. In this way, ministry may be sustained in poorer communities where otherwise this would not be possible.

Romans 12:4-5, NIV

We're not all the same, and not all of our church communities are the same, but, like different parts of the body we each play our own part in ensuring the flourishing of the whole body. In our diocese we use the words "Living, Loving, Learning" to describe our mission. Living together this way, as members of the one body, we pray and worship God together, we share His love with others by serving our neighbours, and we invite others to know the joy and fulfilment of a life with God at our centre, and the peace of eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Indeed, the mission to share the Good News is an urgent one.



Your Parish Share is vital for sustaining ministry and mission throughout the Diocese of Leeds.

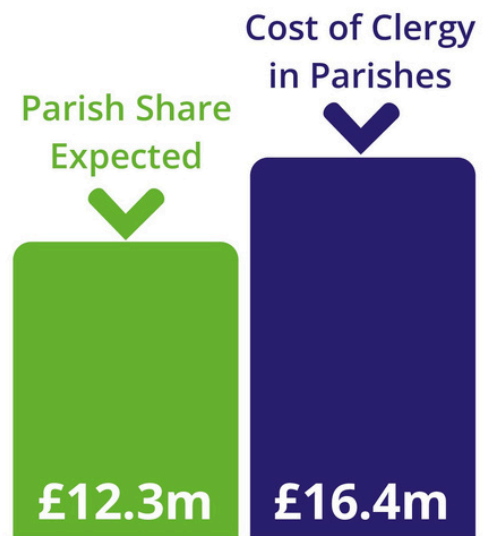
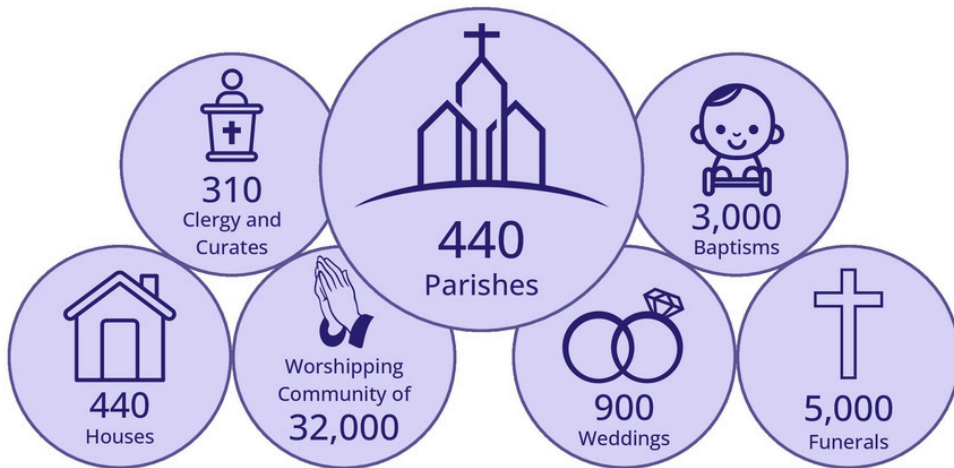
Giving generously is an expression of the love of God to the people around us, and is one way to live out our faith and support in our communities.

Thanks to the generosity of churches like yours, we hope to receive £12.3 million in Parish Share in 2025. This will go towards the £16.4 million needed to provide housing, stipends and other ministry support for our 310 clergy.

When we give through Parish Share we enable mission and ministry in all our parishes, encouraging confidence in the future of our diocese.

'Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand'
1 Chronicles 29:14

In our Diocese Parish Share supports:



For more detailed share information and support, please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/2025parishshareguide

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

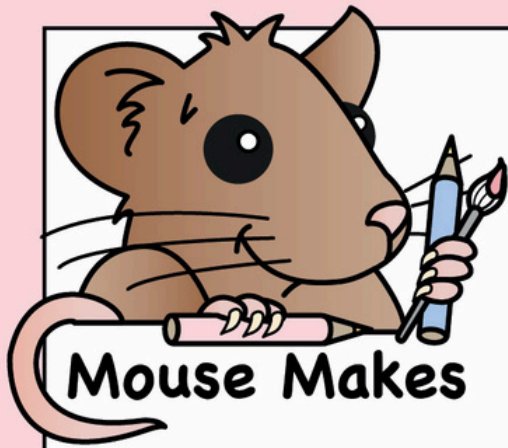


Sunday 5th April
Easter Sunday Holy Communion



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1526



The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.



Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20

A crossword puzzle grid with 9 numbered squares. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers are placed in the top-left corners of the starting squares for each word.

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

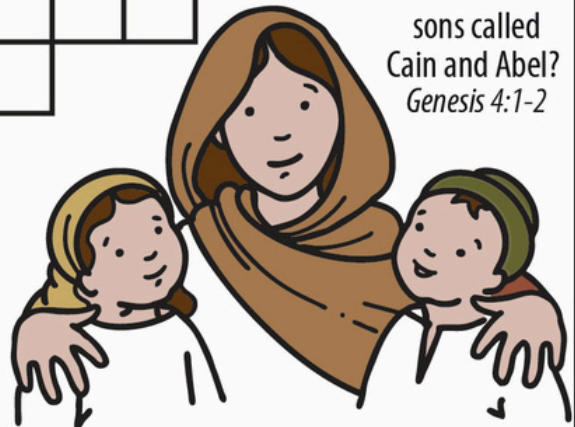
Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2

Across

- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus'** mother
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26



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.

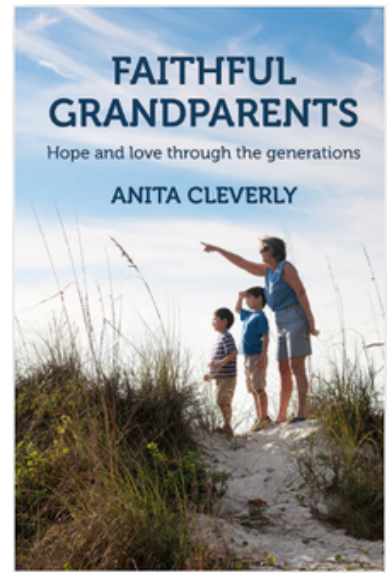
*Captions are auto
generated and will include
errors



Faithful Grandparents: Hope and Love through the Generations By Anita Cleverly, BRF, 39.99

This book urges grandparents to 'Be the grandparent
God wants you to be!'

There has never been a more important time to find
meaningful ways of passing on our faith to the next
generation. Part of this privilege and responsibility
lies with grandparents who are living authentic
Christian lives. They can be the vital link between the
gospel and the faith of a younger generation.



Smile Lines

Naughty mummy

A mother asked her young son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was five years old, because then he would ride for free. As they got into the bus the driver asked him how old he was. "I am five years old," said the little boy proudly.

The driver had a son of his own that age, and so he smiled. "And when will you be six years old?" he asked.

"When I get off the bus," answered the boy.



Church News 2026 Year A

Registered Charity 1131180

CCLI License Number 295704

Revd. Tommy DGLISH

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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.**