

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Groundbreaking!

MATTHEW 28.1-10

Two women, disciples of Jesus, visit his tomb and find it empty. They are sent by an angel to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus is raised. As they run, they meet Jesus himself who repeats the angel's message that he is risen.

This is an opportunity to enter into the drama of the first Easter Day and recognise the presence of Jesus in the midst of events that shake us. We will think about how life can surprise us, but also how God always whispers in our ears, 'Don't be afraid' as the bewildered women heard through an angel when they had faithfully gone to the tomb early on Sunday morning.

Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene – Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18

Other women at the tomb – Matthew 28:8-10

Peter in Jerusalem – Luke 24:34; 1

Corinthians 15:5

The two travellers on the road – Mark 16:12,13

10 disciples behind closed doors – Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25

11 disciples WITH Thomas – John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5

7 disciples while fishing – John 21:1-14

11 disciples on the mountain – Matthew 28:16-20

A crowd of 500 – 1 Corinthians 15:6

Jesus' brother, James – 1 Corinthians 15:7

Those who saw the Ascension – Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

Sunday 5th April

2026

Easter Sunday

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

FIRST READING

ACTS 10: 34-43

PSALM

PSALM 118:14-24

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 28:1-10

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

DAVE TOWLER

PSALM

RICHARD SMITH

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE GILL

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL & KEVIN HENRY

Collect Easter Sunday

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Jesus Christ is risen today

Gradual

I am the bread of life

Offertory

Alleluia give thanks

Communion

In Christ alone

See what a morning

Recessional

Thine be the glory

EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon',

which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

A selection of photos from this week!



Look Back Look Forward

In March, Anthea, Angela and I attended the Deanery Synod and shared the work we have been doing. It was encouraging to reflect on all that we have achieved. Some churches are experiencing a lot of growth, so I have asked if I can attend some of the services and events they run to try to learn their secrets.

Paul, Anthea, Helen and I worked with the diocese to put together a three-year budget for the church. I want to thank all of them for all their work and the information they supplied. The diocese could see all we are doing and understand the effort we are making. As a result, we have a lower target for the Parish Share. We all need to make sure we are doing all we can to keep the work of the Lord being done through our wonderful church.

I had some class visits towards the end of term, and the children asked some fantastic—yet challenging—questions. For example: If God gives us life and made us in his own image, what about life on other planets or in other galaxies? Please let me know your thoughts.

We journey through Lent together, and this is always a time for reflection and renewal. Our faith is something we both have and seek; we can relax and trust in it, yet we also have to work at it and fight for it. Lent reminds us of that beautifully.

Looking forward, we have a busy Holy Week. By the time you read this, we will have had our Maundy Thursday meal and service, the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Stations of the Cross, and the Easter Vigil. On Easter Sunday, we are blessed to have a baptism and renew our vows. Thank you in advance to everyone who works so hard to help put these services together and ensure they run so smoothly.

Next Friday is another big day, as we have the pleasure of hosting Dave and Alyssa's wedding. Seeing two wonderful people declare their love for one another before God is one of the most precious gifts of church life.

Rev. Tommy

500^{YR}
ANNIVERSARY
1526 – 2026

A JOURNEY THROUGH
500 YEARS
OF FAITH

From the Old Brig Chapel in 1526
to Christ Church Today
A talk by Peter Henry

SOWERBY BRIDGE CHURCH.



DOORS OPEN
6:00PM

TALK STARTS
7:00PM

Saturday 9th May

TICKETS: £5.00

Purchase in Church or Online




Christ Church



In your prayers this week....

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



This weeks flowers are in memory of loved ones who have gone before us.

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

There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil. - John Calvin.

The precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us. - Christopher Nesse

From the Parish Prayer list:

Pupils staff and Governors of Christ Church Junior School; Byron Terrace; Canal Road; Carlton Mill; Central Buildings; Chapel Lane; Chester House; Charles Street; Chester Street.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Turn off the tap while cleaning your teeth. The clean water that flows out of your tap needs energy in many stages of processing and transport before it gets to the tap.

Don't waste it!

Blessed are those who care for all God's creatures.

Blessed are those who feed the hedgehogs, who make fat balls for the birds, who build bug hotels and who plant flowers to attract bees.



Next week

SUNDAY 12TH APRIL 2025
EASTER 2

FIRST READING

ACTS 2.14A,22-32

PSALM

PSALM 16

SECOND READING

1 PETER 1.3-9

GOSPEL

JOHN 20.19-31

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

RICHARD SMITH

PSALM

GLENIS MCCARTHY

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

communion

Wednesday

Thursday

6.30pm BCP evening Prayer

Friday

2pm Dave & Alyssa's

wedding

Saturday

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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

At this meeting you will be able to ask questions/bring your thoughts and hear what has been happening over the year at your Church. At the meeting Church Wardens will be appointed along with Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and Deanery Synod representatives. If you feel this is something you are being called to please have a word with Revd. Tommy or one of the PCC/Deanery Synod members. There is a list of current members in the Community Room.

Organisation reports

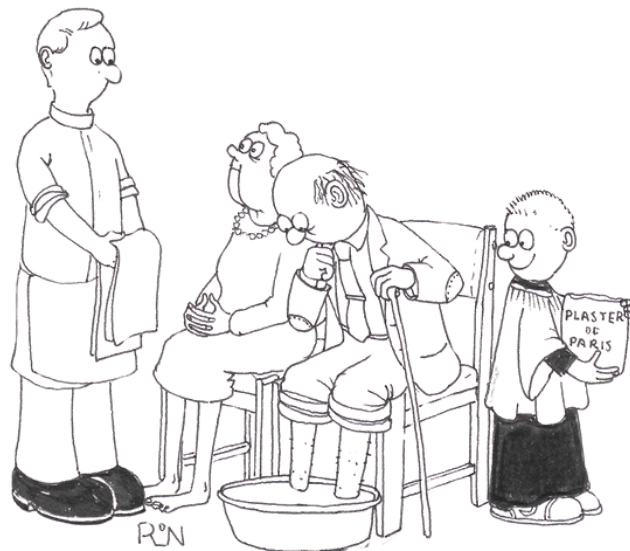
Please could all organisations/groups send their annual report to Anthea at antheagee@yahoo.co.uk by Sunday 5 April. Thank you.

Nomination forms for Church Warden, Parochial Church Council (PCC) and Deanery Synod representatives are available at the back of Church. Church Wardens are appointed on an annual basis. Peter will be standing down this year following 11 years of service. From the PCC Sarah and Helen will be at the end of their term of office and can be elected for a further term. Graham is also at the end of his term of office but is not standing for re-election.

Financial information for February

Receipts £1,884.07

Payments £2,354.45



Maunder Thursday on April 1st - the last
temptation of Eric

You are *joyously* invited to join



In uniting *their lives* together in Christ

April 10th, 2026

2 O'CLOCK *in the* AFTERNOON

at

Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge



**With a *Reception*
to be held at**

Hollins Mill from 6.30pm

12 Hollins Mill Ln, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2QG

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ - the Screen at the East End

“I am the light of the world,” our Lord says in St John’s Gospel. He is the One who can bring sight and insight to those born blind, and vision to those who feel they live in a world of darkness. In Him is the glory of God and life for all people. That radiant glory greets those who visit Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and look down the main aisle to see the wondrous screen at the east end depicting Christ in majesty surrounded by our Lady and the saints.

Ironically, the history of the Abbey in the Middle Ages was one of darkness and conflict, where disagreement severed the harmony of monks and townspeople. The Abbey was dissolved in the 16th century, but then restored to its former glory in the early 20th century. Ninian Comper began working on the screen in 1922, and it was completed in 1934.

In front of the screen is a large altar with a crucifix and six tall, stately candlesticks. Their lights are signs of Jesus the Light proclaimed by the dazzling central figure on the screen behind. Originally candlesticks would have stood on the ground before the altar, or lamps were hung above. In the 14th century candles were placed on the altar.

Aesthetic judgement will vary from person to person, and some may find tall candlesticks like these obtrusive, detracting from the sacrament of the altar. Whatever their size, when lit they announce that Jesus is the true light, who welcomes everyone to find nourishment and guidance for life’s pilgrimage in communion at that table. Here at Wymondham Abbey I think the pilgrim visitor will find that the beauty and grace of these altar furnishings complement the great mystery of divine light celebrated in Ninian Comper’s masterpiece.

Have you ever thought how an actual church building might provide a series of visual aids to spiritual meditation? The Rev Michael Burgess continues his procession through a church building, this month pausing to consider the significance of the screen at the east end. photograph: Wikimedia Commons: Evelyn Simak / Wymondham Abbey - the chancel



AN EVENING WITH
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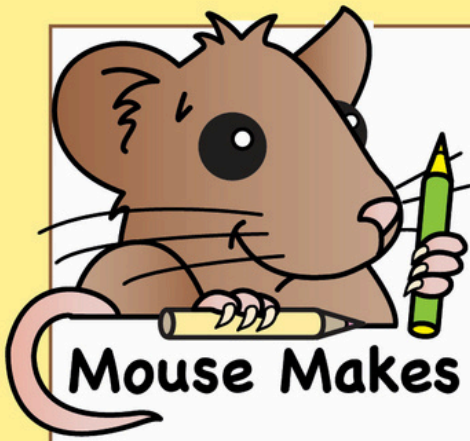
SATURDAY 2ND MAY
DOORS OPEN
18:30



CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

BUY YOUR TICKET AT:

**[WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSB.ORG.UK/ACTIVITIES/
COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT](http://WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSB.ORG.UK/ACTIVITIES/COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT)**



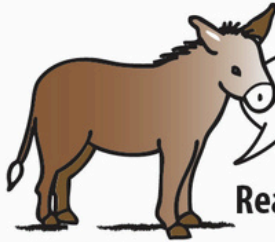
Mouse Makes

G O O D N E W S
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 S T O M B V D Y
 S R Y E M P T Y

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41

I nailed Jesus to the cross

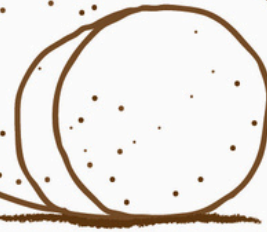
Read Mark 15:16-32



I laid his body in my tomb



Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke to the angel

Jesus is alive!
He ate a meal with me!



Read Luke 24:13-35



Find us at

www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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the QR code below



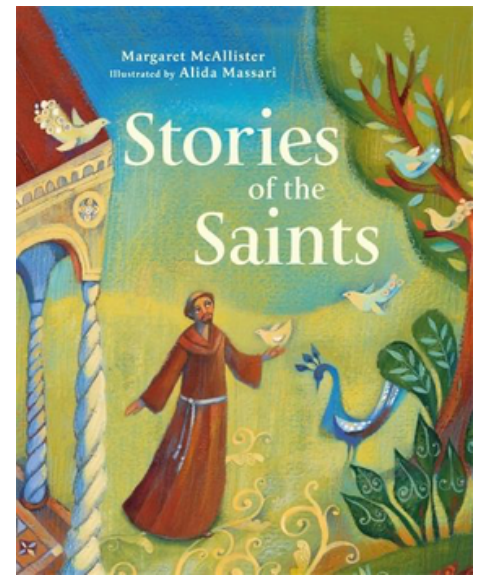
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Service starts.



Stories of the Saints By Margaret McAllister, SPCK, £12.99

A beautifully illustrated children's book featuring 12 inspiring stories of Christian saints, ideal for ages 7 to 11. From Saint Peter and Saint Paul to Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Bernadette, Padre Pio, and more, each story brings to life the courage, faith, and compassion of these beloved saints.

Lively and vivid, some tales are told in the first person, others through onlookers' eyes, with each story including extra information about the saint's life. Graceful illustrations, inspired by ancient art and architecture, make every page a visual delight. Perfect for young readers, families, and Sunday schools, this faith-based collection inspires children with stories of heroism, kindness, and devotion.



Smile Lines

From a church notice-sheet

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Wheels

A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the vicar told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the vicar assured him that his prayers had been heard. The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".

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

Rev. Tommy Daghish

The Vicarage, 62 Park Road,
Sowerby Bridge, HX6 2BJ.
07378 517 835
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