

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Support through suffering

1 PETER 4.12-14; 5.6-11

Peter reassures the Early Church communities that Christ is with them and cares for them in their suffering. Believers should be humble, resist evil and give their anxieties to God. Those who are steadfast in their faith will ultimately be rewarded.

Today's passages remind us that whatever we face, we can withstand testing times with support from God and those around us.

World Council of Churches condemns Russia's mass abduction of Ukrainian children

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has responded with grave concern to a recent United Nations commission that has confirmed Russia's mass abduction of Ukrainian children.

"These actions are a shocking violation of the God-given dignity of every child and the sanctity of family bonds", said the WCC's general secretary, the Revd Professor Jerry Pillay.

"The deliberate removal and relocation of children for political or ideological purposes is fundamentally incompatible with international law, morality and Christian values."

Professor Pillay was responding to a report by a UN-appointed Independent International Commission of Inquiry, which said that Russia had committed crimes against humanity by forcibly deporting Ukrainian children during and after its February 2022 invasion.

Sunday 17th May

2026

Easter 7

FIRST READING

ACTS 1.6-14

PSALM

PSALM 68.1-10,32-35

SECOND READING

1 PETER 4.12-14; 5.6-11

GOSPEL

JOHN 17.1-11

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

PSALM

DAVID TOWLER

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

TBC

SIDES PERSON

ANTHEA GEE &

JANE MUNDY

Collect *Easter 7*

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

THIS WEEKS *HYMNS*

Processional

All hail the power of Jesus' name

Gradual

As the deer pants

Offertory

Rejoice! the Lord is King

Communion

Be still for the presence
King of Kings

Recessional

Christ triumphant,
ever reigning

The Seven Deadly Sins: Lust

'Lust is the craving for salt by a man who is dying of thirst' (Frederick Beucher).

This month's Deadly Sin is lust. It is usually understood as an intense desire for sexual pleasure, but can include other things eg food, success or fame. Objectifying a person for our own selfish pleasure can leave us feeling guilty, ashamed or disappointed. Our relationship with God is spoilt, as we create an area of life which is not under God's authority. As Jesus says: 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."'

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.' (Matthew 5:27,28).

How can we deal with lust in our lives? Confess it to God: 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9). Lust feeds on secrecy, yet God already knows our thoughts and desires. Focus on Jesus, who loves and accepts us for who we are. Confess our desires to Him, knowing that He wants to cleanse us of our sin.

Renew your Mind: 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.' (Romans 12:2). *Overcoming lust requires an understanding of our thinking. We need to acknowledge when lust affects us, understand the triggers for our thoughts (circumstances, time) and address them by asking for God's strength to overcome them.*

'Lust is a poor, weak, whispering thing compared with that richness and energy of desire which will arise when lust has been killed.' (CS Lewis).

Christ is All-in-All

*We hold you and your treatment
at the heart of every prayer,
And we ask our God who loves you
Just to hold you in His care.*

*May He make His presence known
To you in every way He can
While the healing balm of Christ is
placed
In the hands of mortal man.*

*So may the good Lord bless you<
As He holds you in His grace;
And may He ever let His peace
Be known in every place*

*Where your journeying will lead you;
In whatever may befall:
That you will know in everything
How Christ is all-in-all.*

By Sam Doubtfire

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel but he was now old. The leaders of the twelve tribes came to talk to him...

We want a king like all the other countries

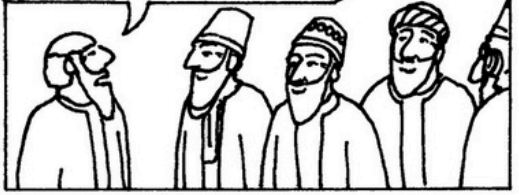


God told Samuel

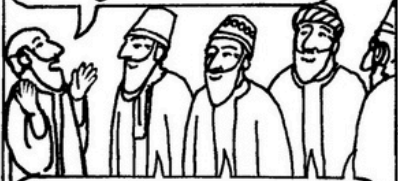
It's not you they are rejecting but Me.



If you have a king, he will take your sons to be his army and your daughters to work in his palace.

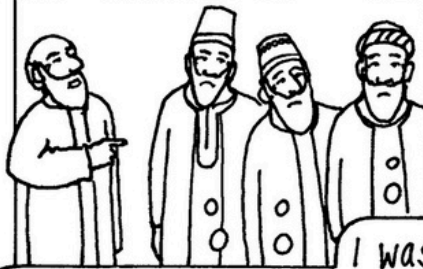


He will take the best of your land, your crops and your animals



We still want a king.

Samuel sent them home.



I was hoping he would choose me..

Saul and his servant were looking for some donkeys that had run off.



They decided to ask Samuel to ask God where the donkeys were



God told Samuel that Saul was to be the king



Samuel called everyone to a meeting and told them that God had chosen a king.



God told them that Saul was to be their king...



but Saul was hiding.

He's behind the luggage.



and they found Saul.

The people cheered!



Long live the King!

In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Carol Sharp;
Lukas Powell; Maralyn Pawson;
Helen Pedley; Christine Russell;
Vanessa Starsmore; Victor
Smyth; Kelly Swift



This weeks flowers are in memory of Eric Bottomley.

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

A happy marriage is a union of two good forgivers. - Robert Quillen

Though conversing face to face, their hearts have a thousand miles between them. - Chinese proverb

A family is a mobile strung together with invisible threads - delicate, easily broken at first, growing stronger through the years, in danger of being worn thin at times, but strengthened again with special care.... continuity! - Edith Schaeffer

From the Parish Prayer list:

For all on our prayers needed list; The NHS and our local GP's and nursing teams; Emergency Services; Oak Avenue; Oak Place; Oak Street; Old Cawsey; Old Marsh; Oliver Close; Orion Place; Overdale Mount.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Use a bowl to wash up rather than a running tap and save £25 a year in energy bills.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins

Blessed are those who look upon the world with God's loving eyes and seek to protect it, nourish it, and enable it to flourish.



©Andy Robb

Next week

SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2026
PENTECOST

FIRST READING

ACTS 2.1-21

PSALM

PSALM 104.26-36,37B

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 12.3B-13

GOSPEL

JOHN 20.19-23

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

TBC

FIRST READING

DAVID TOWLER

PSALM

RICHARD SMITH

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

PAULINE CHESLETT & LINDA FIRTH

DIARY

Monday

10:30am Morning Prayer

7:00pm PCC

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

communion

Wednesday

5.45pm Bible Study

Thursday

11am Mothers union

3.30pm Messy Church

6.30pm BCP evening Prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Ken's 90th Birthday

Vanessa & Fiona invite all to join in celebrating Kenneth's 90th birthday on Sunday 7th June 2026. Please join us for sandwiches and cake following the family service.

Our Fundraising team

Angela, Peter, Janet, Kevin, Rebecca, have planned a series of events to celebrate our 500 years of faith in Sowerby Bridge. The next event will be Hymns/Pimms on Saturday 27 June. If you have any fundraising suggestions please do speak to one of the above team. Thank you.

Iknow - Rota Holidays

With the warmer weather approaching, can I ask that if you are on any rota's can you please add your holidays onto the system, it just makes planning roles easier to manager Any issues with Iknow speak to Peter

Revd. Tommy's Holidays

Revd Tommy will be on leave from Sunday 31st May till Monday 8th June, please reach out to the Churchwardens.

Financial information for March

Receipts 2,075.75
Payments 2,941.79

Financial information for April

Receipts 1,993.49
Payments 2,945.46

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chosen

crops

everyone

countries

leader

luggage

palace

rejecting

meeting

animals

Israel

cheered

servant

daughters

Samuel

home

donkeys

sons

king

hiding

found

land

Saul

other

Reflected Faith Series: The Creed (Part 1)

There are various sections that make up a Communion service. While different denominations, and different styles of churches even within the same denomination, may do things differently, generally speaking they all include the same foundational elements.

So, after the Bible readings, and then sermon, what follows next?

In Common Worship (CW) we ‘immediately’ jump to our feet and proclaim our faith!

If you follow the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), the Creed comes between the Gospel reading and the sermon – which is my excuse for forgetting to say it more than once when I’ve conducted the latter service first (if you get what I mean) on a Sunday morning.

The question is, ‘Why is it placed here?’ Wouldn’t it make more sense to have it at or close to the beginning of a service; so that we can be sure everyone in the congregation is on the same page, so to speak.

Or why not at the end, just before we go out into the world taking our faith with us?

Why here?

When (BCP) it follows directly after the Gospel reading, it’s as though having heard the words of Jesus we rush to say ‘I believe that. I believe in who said it. And I believe in ... etc etc.’ Rather like after your favourite team has scored a goal!

Where we’ve had the sermon first (CW), it’s as though the ‘explanation and contextualisation’ by the preacher makes it so plain that we can do nothing less than join together and reaffirm our baptismal faith.

This month

Pause for a moment before you say the Creed next time and consider where in your service it is placed. What has encouraged you to be able to say it from your heart? Was there a word, phrase or sentence that particularly gripped you and prompted you to your feet? Or was it just words written on the service sheet with a direction to stand?



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www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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Once connected scan
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Auto generated captions
will appear once the
Service starts.



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1821

God's Homecoming - The Forgotten Promise of Future Renewal By Tom Wright, SPCK, £24.99

Building on his bestselling *Surprised by Hope*, Tom Wright now offers a comprehensive investigation into what the hope of salvation really means in terms of biblical teaching about the resurrection of the body.

Through a powerful exploration of Paul's letters and the Hebrew prophets, he reveals that biblical hope is not limited to individual salvation, but the renewal and reconciliation of all creation.

At the heart of this hope is the promise that the Creator God will return to dwell among His people, filling the whole world with His glorious, healing presence.

Wright's in depth reading of Scripture reframes our understanding of grace, showing that Christianity is not about escaping the world but about God's initiative to restore it. When we stop asking, "How can I get to heaven?" and instead grasp God's desire to come and dwell with us, in us, and through us, we rediscover the true depth of the gospel: a story suffused with love, renewal, and divine purpose.

A profound follow-up to *Surprised by Hope*, *God's Homecoming* is essential reading for anyone interested in Christian theology, biblical studies, the afterlife, and the hope of resurrection, as well as fans of Tom Wright (NT Wright).

Smile Lines

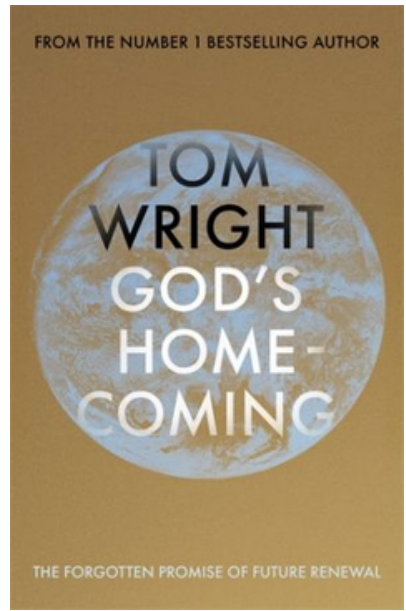
Short-staffed

Two men were working for the town council. One would dig a hole and the other would follow behind him and fill the hole in. They worked up one side of the street, then down the other, then moved on to the next street, working furiously all day without rest, one man digging a hole, the other filling it in again.

An onlooker was amazed at their hard work, but couldn't understand what they were doing. So he finally approached the hole digger, "I'm impressed by the effort you two are putting in to your work, but I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only to have your partner follow behind and fill it up again?"

The hole digger wiped his brow and sighed, "Well, I suppose it probably looks odd because we're normally a three-person team. But today the guy who plants the trees called in sick."

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



Rev. Tommy DGLISH

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