

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

# WEEKLY NEWS



## *Sharing your hope*

### **1 PETER 3.13-22**

Peter encourages persecuted Christians to keep doing good, even when faced with evil. They should replace any fear with readiness to gently explain the reason for their hope in Jesus, who also suffered to bring salvation.

This week we'll explore how, with the Holy Spirit as our advocate, comforter and encourager, we are strengthened to be faithful witnesses, sharing our hope in Jesus with others.

## *Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May*

It's that time of year again – when Christians across the country raise funds for Christian Aid's programmes, which help those suffering poverty and injustice worldwide. Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

It says: "This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

"Through our locally led work with partners around the world who are rooted in their communities to lead change, your valuable support will help communities ravaged by poverty and the effects of the climate crisis. Christian Aid welcomes anyone who would like to be involved this year in raising support. And there are various ways to take part:

- Give online or through collections.
- Fundraise with friends, family, colleagues or your community.
- Take part through your church with worship, prayer and events.
- Volunteer locally to support Christian Aid Week activities.

Sunday 10th May  
2026  
Easter 6

### **FIRST READING**

ACTS 17.22-31

### **PSALM**

PSALM 66.7-20

### **SECOND READING**

1 PETER 3.13-22

### **GOSPEL**

JOHN 14.15-21

### **SERVERS**

ANTHEA GEE  
GRAHAM LAMB

### **FIRST READING**

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

### **PSALM**

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

### **SECOND READING**

ANTHEA GEE

### **INTERCESSIONS**

PAUL HEALEY

### **SIDES PERSON**

DARRELL & JENNIFER  
INGALL

## *Collect* *Easter 6*

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

## *THIS WEEKS* *HYMNS*

### **Processional**

Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise

### **Gradual**

We have a gospel to  
proclaim

### **Offertory**

Christ is the one who  
calls

### **Communion**

Purify my heart  
All heaven declares

### **Recessional**

I, the Lord of sea and  
sky

## *14th May - 40 Days with the Risen Christ*

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection!

*Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)*

*The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)*

*No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.*

ST PAUL'S METHODIST & CHRIST CHURCH SOWERBY BRIDGE

# THE BIG PLANT GIVEAWAY

**ALL WELCOME!**

**SATURDAY  
16TH MAY  
10AM-1PM**

**FREE ENTRY, FREE PLANTS, FREE REFRESHMENTS,  
GREEN CRAFT AND PLANTING ACTIVITIES**

**EVERYONE INVITED TO TAKE PLANTS AND BRING  
SPARE PLANTS IF YOU HAVE THEM.**

**FLOWERS, SHRUBS, VEGETABLES - ANY TYPE OF  
PLANTS**

**TAKE ANY YOU CAN GROW IN YOUR  
GARDEN, ON A BALCONY OR  
WINDOW LEDGE**

**BRIGHTEN UP  
SOWERBY BRIDGE  
AND REDUCE YOUR  
CARBON FOOTPRINT!**



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

# 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

Hail the day that sees him rise  
To His throne above the skies;  
Christ, a while to mortals  
given,  
Reascends His native heaven. -  
Charles Wesley

Astronauts sink into  
insignificance beside this  
ascension! - V Havner

Christ was taken up into  
heaven, not to enjoy blessed  
rest at a distance from us, but  
to govern the world for the  
salvation of all believers. -  
John Calvin

## From the Parish Prayer list:

Our Local MP, Kate Dearden; Our Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer; Members of Parliament; Exeter Street; Fairbanks; Fall Lane; Fern Lea Street; Gas Works Road; Gratrix Lane; Greenups Mill; Greenups Terrace.

**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



More than half the money spent on fuel bills goes towards providing heating and hot water.

Installing a room thermostat, a programmer and thermostatic radiator valves and using these controls efficiently could save you around £75 a year.

Blessed are those who tread lightly on the earth that God gave us, for their footprints point others in the right direction.



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...?'"

## Next week

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

JANET TURNER & JANE

MUNDY

## DIARY

### Monday

### Tuesday

10.00 Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

### Wednesday

### Thursday

6.30pm BCP evening Prayer

### Friday

### Saturday

### Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



### **Children's Society**

the home collection boxes will be collected in during the morning service on Sunday 17 May. If you cannot be at the service please let me know and I will arrange to collect your box. Thank you. Anthea

### **Rogationtide Service at Stirley Community Farm**

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Huddersfield Area Environment Champion invite you to an openair Rogationtide service

The Big Birthday Blessing

At Stirley Community Farm YWT, Hall Bower Lane, HD4 6

On Sunday May 17th. At 2pm

Assistance dogs allowed. Some of the areas are wheelchair accessible.

Parking available.

Bring donation for YWT and a food donation for tea and cake in the Cre8 Barn afterwards.

Wear strong shoes or boots and weather-dependent clothing.

Children welcome with accompanying adults

PEO's, clergy, church EcoChurch groups and church members welcome.

### **Year 6 pupils end of primary tests**

Year 6 pupils in primary schools will be sitting their Standard Attainment Tests during the week commencing 11 May 2026. Please see the message below that we have forwarded to Christ Church, Bolton Brow and New Road schools.

Hello Year 6 – we hear you have a special week coming up and we hope you will allow us to say a pray for each and everyone of you. Thank you for just being you and for all that you have brought to Father God, we pray for the Year 6 children as they sit their SATs next week. We pray that they will sleep well and wake up refreshed ready for the day. As they start each test, we pray they will be calm and will read the questions carefully. Lord Jesus may the children know of your presence with them always. We thank God for teachers and adults throughout your school life who have brought you safely to this point.

Amen

Lots of love from Revd Tommy and members of Christ Church, Sowerby Bridge

### **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

### **Financial information for March**

Receipts 2,075.75

Payments 2,941.79



**A prayer for the Middle East**

Lord, we pray for the conflict in the Middle East, and how it is damaging the lives of so many millions of people. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; You break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. Through Your Holy Spirit, move upon the leaders of the nations to de-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6], but You Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in You. Let Your name be exalted among the nations; may You be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

Middle	War	Bows	Fire	Lord	Hope
East	Cease	Shatter	crisis	Our	Kyrie
Conflict	Earth	Spears	many	Rock	in
Pray	Break	Burn	Lives	Fortress	You
Damage		Shields	millions	Deliverer	mercy

# *Humility*

A few years ago, I visited the Smithsonian Museum's Hall of Human Origins. Our guide, the curator of anthropology, was keen to help Christians understand his research. Whatever you make of the evidence for human evolution, the fact remains that other species a bit like us were around before we came on the scene – or in the case of Neanderthals, at the same time.

Part of the exhibit included lifelike reconstructions of the face and hair of several different hominins, displayed on pillars at the right height for each species. So, I could crouch down to 'meet' *Homo floresiensis* or stand tall to look into the eyes of *Homo heidelbergensis*. Most of these – beings? creatures? – were on other branches of the evolutionary tree to us, and we share a common ancestor much further back. I did, however, feel as if I was meeting my forebears.

As I walked between the statues I asked myself, "Why us?" There's evidence that Neanderthals used symbolism as we do, and also buried their dead. Did they have the potential to evolve to a point where they could do similar things to us? The curator explained how, as the ice ages came and went, human beings moved around but other species appear to have stayed put and suffered the consequences – they just weren't ready yet for that big change. As I took in the displays about how we began to gather socially around a fire, make music or write, I felt humbled. We managed to adapt, but we could so easily have disappeared with the rest.

In his book *The Message of Creation*, theologian David Wilkinson shares his view that being made in the image of God has nothing to do with our own cleverness or abilities, but instead it is a gift. God created us on purpose (I believe through the long slow process of evolution) and chose to enter into a relationship with us, making us His representatives on earth.

Thankfully I don't have to figure out how to interact with other human-like hominins today. I do, however, have an equal share in humankind's God-given commission to tend and keep creation. Am I ready to go further than ensuring my own species' survival – not necessarily because we have evolved further than our ice-age ancestors, but because I have one of the 'new hearts' promised in Ezekiel 11:19? Can I work together, in a true spirit of humility, with people from all over the world to ensure the full diversity of life can flourish?

For resources on this question, try the [Faraday Institute](#), [BioLogos](#), and [Christians in Science](#).

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



Find us at

[www.christchurchsb.org.uk](http://www.christchurchsb.org.uk)

## Donate To Church



## Auto Captions

Join our network  
Hebrews Coffee

password: PowerOfPrayer

Once connected scan  
the QR code below



Auto generated captions  
will appear once the  
Service starts.



**Christ Church**

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1821

## *Held in God's Gaze - Keeping Company with the Saints and Mystics* By Jill Duff & Nicholas Heale, SPCK, £15.99

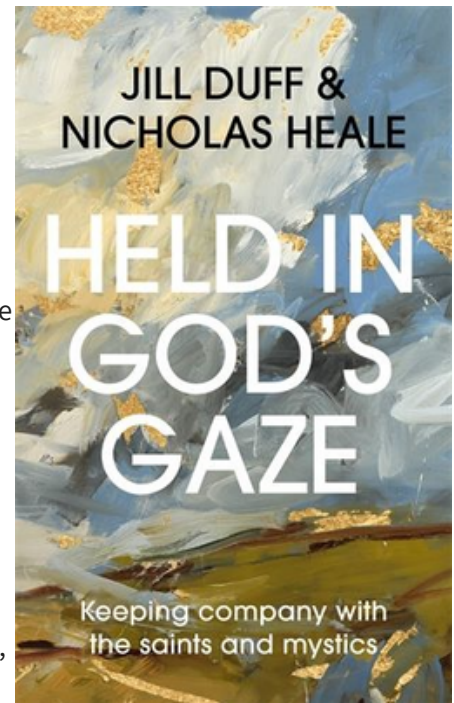
Discover the wisdom, prayer, and spiritual insight of saints and mystics across Christian history. This book is an invitation to share the authors' experience of becoming friends in faith with the saints and mystics.

Those who feature reflect the wide sweep of Christian spiritual heritage: several are from the ancient and Celtic background; several reflect medieval spirituality – including women's spirituality; there are the so-called 'Spanish Mystics', and some from more recent times.

Jill Duff and Nicholas Heale invite readers to share in their experience of friendship with holy figures, from ancient and Celtic saints to medieval mystics, women spiritual leaders, the Spanish Mystics, and modern voices of faith.

Through short, engaging chapters, the authors explore how these saints encountered God through prayer, scripture, and devotion, offering reflections that help readers grow in spiritual maturity. Each chapter concludes with study questions, perfect for individual meditation or group discussion.

Ideal for Christian spirituality enthusiasts, devotional readers, and anyone interested in saints, mysticism, prayer practice, and spiritual growth.



## *Smile Lines*

### **Breakable**

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postmaster.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

**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**

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