

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Choosing well

GENESIS 25:19-34

Isaac and Rebekah experience infertility before God grants them twins. There's a struggle between Esau and Jacob that starts in the womb and is stoked further by their parents' favouritism. Esau is tricked into giving up his inheritance for a bowl of Jacob's stew.

As the different characters take and give up opportunities, we can question if they chose well. We explore the story and reflect on what we can learn about choosing well in our own lives.

St Swithun (or Swithin), saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15th July, it will then rain for 40 days after that. It all began when Swithun was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door.

If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Sunday 12th July
2026
Trinity 6

FIRST READING

GENESIS 25:19-34

PSALM

PSALM 119:105-112

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8.1-11

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13.1-9,18-23

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

PSALM

RICHARD SMITH

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE
MUNDY

Collect Trinity 6

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Proclamation

Love divine, all loves
excelling

Gradual

As the deer pants

Offertory

To God be the glory

Communion

Longing for light

All heaven declares

Recessional

We have a gospel to
proclaim

Church attendance grows for fifth year in a row

Church of England congregations saw their fifth year of growth in a row in 2025 with steady increases in weekly and Sunday attendance and strong growth in Christmas and Easter services, an early snapshot of official figures shows.

Overall, there were an estimated 1.023 million regular worshippers across Church of England congregations last year, up 1.4 per cent on 2024, according to preliminary returns for the annual Statistics for Mission report.

It is the fifth year in a row in which attendance both on Sundays and across the week have risen – the first time this has been seen since current records have been kept.

Just under two million people (1.96 million) joined services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day last year – up 5.5 per cent – in addition to 4.8 million attendances over Advent, a 2.0 per cent rise.

Easter attendance was up 7.8 per cent to just over one million (1.03 million).

Over a typical week an estimated 707,000 people attended Church of England services, up 0.7 per cent on the previous year, and 15.5 per cent higher than 2021 when attendance rebounded after Covid.

Meanwhile average attendance at Sunday services stood at 590,000 – up 1.6 per cent on the 2024 figure. Despite this recent growth, attendance and participation remain below pre-pandemic levels.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said: “It is so encouraging to see the ways that God is at work in our Church. I give thanks for the clergy, lay people and volunteers who each week make people feel welcome in every parish across our country.”

Debbie Clinton, the Church of England’s Director for Vision and Strategy, said: “From our rural villages to our post-industrial towns, in parishes across the country, churches are reaching out to their communities and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our 2025 statistics are a testament to their hospitality and faithfulness. We praise God for all that He is doing in His Church.”

HELP MAKE OUR **RUSHBEARING** STALLS A SUCCESS!

WE NEED
YOUR
HELP!

Your donations make all the difference!

BOTTLE STALL

WE ESPECIALLY NEED BOTTLES!



At the moment
we have
21 bottles

IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE ALCOHOL!

Anything from water to wine
is acceptable.

★ Anything on special offer
at supermarkets is ideal. ♥

HOLIDAY HAMPER

VERY SHORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS!

So far only
5 items.

We would love
more items to
make a fantastic
holiday hamper!



TOMBOLA & RAFFLE ITEMS

→ Always gratefully received – thank you!

CAKE STALL

WE NEED MORE BAKING!

Cakes, scones, traybakes
and biscuits are always
very popular.

Every bake is
very much appreciated! ♥

EVERY ITEM
MAKES A BIG
DIFFERENCE!

Thank you for
your support! ♥



CHRIST CHURCH
SOWERBY BRIDGE

RUSHBEARING FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 10AM – 4PM

In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Archdeacon Bill;
Lukas Powell; Maralyn Pawson;
Helen Pedley; Christine Russell;
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

Carol Sharp

This week we learnt that
Carol Sharp had passed away
peacefully at Overgate
Hospice Please keep Carols
family in your thoughts and
prayers

Quotes

Prayer is the rope up in the
belfry; we pull it, and it rings
the bell up in heaven. - C Evans

I can take my telescope and
look millions of miles into
space; but I can go away to my
room and in prayer get nearer
to God and heaven than I can
when assisted by all the
telescopes of earth. - Isaac
Newton

From the Parish Prayer list:

Revd. Kathia and congregation of St.
Pauls Methodist Church; Hollas Lane;
Hollins Bank; Hollins Bungalows; Hollins
Lane; Hollins Mill Lane; Holmes Road;
Hope Street; Houghton Towers.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Keep a jug of water in the fridge
Have cool water in the fridge ready to
drink, so you don't need to run the tap
until it turns cold.

Don't wash your car - or use a bucket
Be proud to have a dirty car this
summer! Just washing your windscreen
cuts your water usage dramatically.

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



For the last time! - Which member of the Junior Choir
put bubble mixture in the organ-blower?!

Next week

SUNDAY 19TH JULY 2026
TRINITY 7

FIRST READING

GENESIS 28:10-19A

PSALM

PSALM 139:1-12,23-24

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8.12-25

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13.24-30,36-43

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

RICHARD SMITH

PSALM

FIONA LAMB

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

SARAH TOWLER

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

DIARY

Monday

10am Open for Christ
Church and Tuel Lane
children and families
no morning prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning
11.30 Mid week Communion

Wednesday

10am Open for Christ
Church and Tuel Lane
children and families
5.45 Bible Study

Thursday

12.30 Mothers Union
Summer meal
6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning
Sunday
10.30am Holy Communion



Welcome

This morning we welcome our friends from St. Pauls Methodist Church, who are worshipping with us today

Mothers' Union Summer Lunch

The Mothers' Union will be holding their Summer Lunch on Thursday 16th July at 12.30pm at The Watermill, Halifax.

If you are a member of the congregation and would like to join us, you would be most welcome. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food, friendship, and fellowship together.

If you would like to come along, please let Angela or any member of the Mothers' Union know.

iKnow Church

With the school hoilday upon us, have you put your holidays into Iknow? It really helps when putting the rotas togther, speak to Peter if your unsure how to do this

Christ Church Junior and Tuel Lane Infants Schools

The two schools will amalgamate from September 2026. Due to the late timing in receiving confirmation of this the schools have messaged parents to let them know they will be closing one week earlier than planned eg. Friday 10 July.

PCC have offered to open church on the Monday and Wednesday of week commencing 13 July, 10.00-12.30 for adults to bring their children along and we will provide games, colouring etc. whilst adults, if necessary, continue with their work in church. An adult will have to accompany the children and be responsible for them during this time.

Ruth Saville

Ruth's funeral is at St. Paul's Methodist Church, Sowerby Bridge on Monday 13th July at 12 noon prior to Cremation at Park Wood Elland. Family flowers only and any donations to Overgate Hospice Elland.

p	h	i	l	i	s	t	i	n	e	s	y
m	u	i	m	c	h	o	i	c	e	e	k
c	j	e	a	l	o	u	s	i	b	c	i
k	h	o	j	r	u	i	i	o	k	h	n
a	n	o	e	o	t	f	s	u	t	a	d
f	r	o	s	b	e	i	a	r	w	n	i
o	c	m	t	e	d	g	u	m	a	c	p
l	a	d	y	i	n	h	l	p	i	e	y
d	v	t	h	j	c	t	e	o	t	l	l
b	e	k	i	l	l	e	d	n	e	n	y
t	c	a	t	c	h	r	f	x	d	p	f
k	i	n	g	s	d	a	v	i	d	j	r

choice

robe

family

king

Israel

shouted

kind

army

chance

sheep

disobey

fighter

Saul

waited

catch

killed

chosen

David

notice

jealous

Philistines

majesty

fold

cave

SOCIAL EVENT

CROWN GREEN BOWLING

SATURDAY
15TH
AUGUST
FROM 12 NOON

BRING AND SHARE BUFFET



 **HILLCREST
BOWLING CLUB**

*Open to church members
and their families*



**COME ALONG AND
PLAY BOWLS**
IN A FUN COMPETITION



**OR COME ALONG
AND WATCH
& SUPPORT!**



PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN CHURCH
to take part and play Bowls!



FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO GARRY TURNER

EVERYONE WELCOME – ALL AGES!

Let's have a great day together! ♥



Find us at

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 1831

Rev. Tommy Daglish

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

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vicar@christchurchsb.org.uk

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glenismc@msn.com

Mrs Fiona Lamb 07870168198

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Fantastically Faithful Leaders Who Gave Their All for God

By Paul Kerensa, SPCK, £8.99

Here is a page-turning biography series for children 7 and up, to meet Christians whose courage and leadership changed the world.

Award-winning comedy writer and author Paul Kerensa brings to life eight extraordinary people from history who answered God's call to lead – and changed the world in the process.

They include:

Sojourner Truth: a former slave who spoke out against slavery and for women's rights

Lord Shaftesbury: a social reformer who campaigned to prevent children from being sent out to work

Evangeline Booth: the first female leader of the Salvation Army

Madam C. J. Walker: an African American business woman who was the first female self-made millionaire in the USA

Billy Graham: an evangelist who preached the gospel all over the world and led millions to Jesus

John Glenn Jr: who rocketed into history as the first astronaut to orbit Earth

Elizabeth II: a queen who faithfully served God and her people

Demond Tutu: an Archbishop who helped bring an end to apartheid in South Africa

Whether used as a family read-aloud, for independent reading, a classroom resource, or a Sunday school supplement, this book gives children real-life role models who show what ordinary people can achieve when they trust an extraordinary God.

Smile Lines

Flight path

Windsor Castle, outside of London, is directly in the flight path of Heathrow International Airport. While a group of American tourists was standing outside the castle admiring the elegant structure, a plane flew overhead at a relatively low altitude, making a tremendous noise. One particularly annoyed tourist demanded: "Why did they build the castle so close to the airport?"

Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.

Growing in faith. Living by prayer. Loving God's word.

Living Loving Learning.

