

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Going God's way

GENESIS 24:34-38,42-49,58-67

Abraham's servant is sent on a mission to find a wife for Isaac. He enlists God's help, praying that God will make the way clear, and encounters Rebekah who seemingly fits the brief. Rebekah commits herself to God's way by agreeing to leave her family and marry Isaac.

Both the servant and Rebekah want to do things God's way – but how did they decide which way that was? And how do we discover what God's way is for us?

What the PM said to the Archbishop

The Archbishop of Canterbury paid a recent visit to the Prime Minister at Downing Street. They discussed “the importance of social cohesion, inter-faith relationships and celebrating the UK's diverse communities in the face of division, including rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hostility”, according to a spokesperson for No. 10.

They also discussed world events, “including the war in Iran, and its impacts on communities here. They reflected on the millions of individuals around the UK whose selfless acts of service build up the nation.”

Sir Keir is the first explicitly atheist British Prime Minister. But he told Archbishop Mullaly that that it was “important that we talk to each other and we have a proper partnership.”

Sir Keir said: “Government and faith should not be two separate things operating in separate spheres. Many of the values we hold are the same, and therefore we should be trying to work in partnership wherever we can.”

Archbishop Mullaly has called for the need to tackle anti-Semitism, and says that identity in the UK has been “misused to intimidate and divide”. She calls for “a renewal of hope”, “a rejection of hatred and division, and a turning towards one another”.

Sunday 5th July
2026
Trinity 5

FIRST READING

GENESIS 24:34-38,42-49,58-67

PSALM

PSALM 45:10-17

SECOND READING

ROMANS 7.15-25A

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11.16-19,25-30

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

DAVE CALLIGHAN

PSALM

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE TOWLER

SIDES PERSON

ANGELA WILKINS &
REBECCA LUMB

Collect *Trinity 5*

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS *HYMNS*

Processional

Jesus shall reign

Gradual

Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Offertory

I danced in the morning

Communion

The King of Love
Give thanks with a grateful heart

Recessional

Screen

World Cup

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: ‘But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God’s gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there’s an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ’s love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we’ve done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God’s life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our godly muscles we are better able to choose to do what is right in God’s eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, ‘Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!’

People ‘nourish’ the communities they live in - Lord High Commissioner

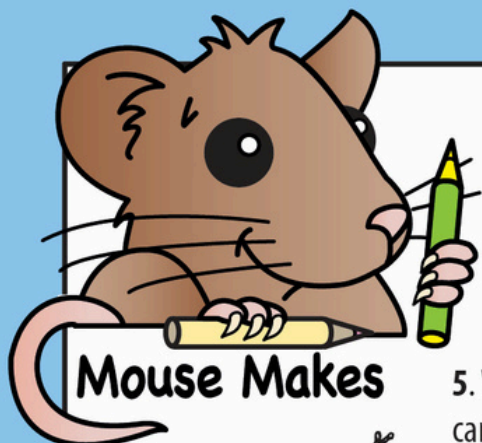
In a time of “global division and conflict, it is our common ground that brings us together”, King Charles’ representative has said.

So said the Lord High Commissioner Lady Elish Angiolini, after visiting projects and organisations across Scotland.

She said they showed signs of the Kingdom of God, and she promised to share with His Majesty “the great unity and purpose” of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Lady Elish said communities across Scotland and elsewhere need the church now more than ever. She said that an important part of her role is to “affirm the connection” between the Church and the communities of Scotland.

“Over the course of the General Assembly, I have had the great privilege of meeting many people who are walking in God’s ways,” she said. “We saw how committed people nourish the communities they live in.”



Mouse Makes

1. What bird makes
it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal
was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect
can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague
came out of the
River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



B I B L E

8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.

In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.

What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20



12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22

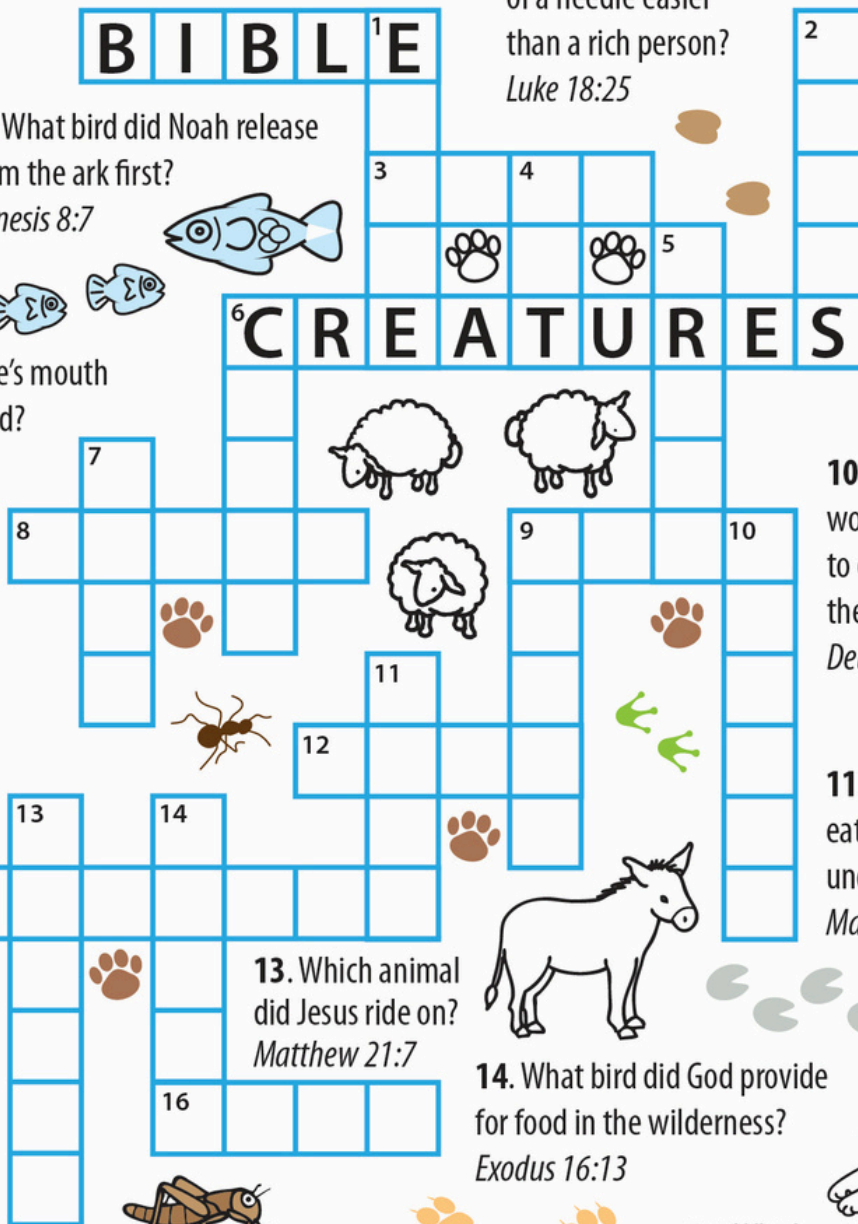
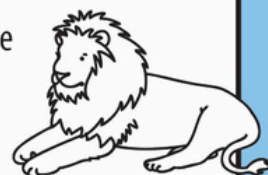
13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7

14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13

15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the
"mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Archdeacon Bill;
Carol Sharp; 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

Christine Lamb

This week we learnt that
Graham's mum, Christine
passed away. Please keep
Graham and his family in
your prayers

Quotes

Holy people have a sense of
inner peace. In their presence,
it is the God of the still, small
voice that one perceives. - T
Harrison

The name of Jesus is not so
much written as ploughed into
the history of the world. -
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

From the Parish Prayer list:

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



Feeling flush?

Fitting a Flushsaver in your toilet could
save 1.2 litres with every flush.

Blessed are those who care for
Creation as God does, for they are
doing God's work in the world.



*The boys on the substitutes' bench knew
their only chance of a sing was if one of
the first team was injured*

Next week

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

DIARY

Monday

School Visit - no morning
prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning
11.30 Mid week Communion
1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

Thursday

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion
St. Pauls will be joining us



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 App Update

We have some fantastic news!

We're delighted to share that Christ Church Sowerby Bridge has won the iKnow Church £500 subscription credit. Everyone who sent push notifications during June was entered into a prize draw, and using a random number generator, our church was selected as the winner. The £500 credit will now be applied to our iKnow account, meaning we won't be billed again until the credit has been used.

During June, we sent 28 push notifications to keep everyone up to date with services, events, and church news. If you're not yet receiving these updates directly on your phone, why not join us?

Speak to Peter after the service, and he'll be happy to help you download the app and get you set up so you never miss important church news and announcements.

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.



Remembering Joan Lightowler

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Joan died peacefully on 13th June.

Joan's funeral will be a private family service, and we ask that you keep Norman and all the family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.



Joan was a much-loved and faithful member of our church family. Before joining Christ Church, she worshipped at Bolton Brow Methodist Chapel, becoming part of our congregation when the chapel closed. Many will also remember Joan from her years working in the office at Christ Church CE School from 1980 until her retirement in 1993.

Her commitment to Christ Church was extraordinary. Joan served as Churchwarden from 2006 to 2016, was a devoted member of the Mothers' Union, and faithfully led our pastoral support, particularly in welcoming and supporting families preparing for baptisms. Her kindness, compassion and gentle encouragement touched the lives of many.

Joan's quiet dedication was especially evident during the Boxing Day floods of 2015, when she and Norman were among the very first to open the doors of Christ Church to serve our community in its time of greatest need.

In more recent years, when Joan was no longer able to attend church, members of our ministry team have had the privilege of taking Holy Communion to Joan and Norman at home, ensuring they remained connected to the worshipping life of the church they loved so dearly.

We give thanks to God for Joan's life of faithful service, generosity and love. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Please continue to remember Norman and all of Joan's family in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead.



Look Back Look Forward

I was on holiday for the first weekend in June, I want to thank everyone who helped cover my absence. Having a break helped me to reflect on the importance of rest. I know we all have busy lives and responsibilities but never feel guilty about the importance of rest. It always gives other ones the chance to allows others to shine, sometimes you're the light and sometimes you're the bushel.

We were also blessed to conduct Kim and Alan's wedding early in June. It was a wonderful day and please do keep Kim and Alan and all our wedding couples in your prayers. Anthea and I along with Angela from St. Paul's did our first "its your move" assembly and it was at New Road School. This is an exciting and scary time of year for so many families so please do reach out and ask any young family you know how they are doing.

We also had our last Messy Church for the school year. I want to thank the children for all their hard work. We had games for them to play – table tennis, air hockey, boardgames etc, and then ordered pizza for the children and parents. Thank you to everyone who help out at Messy Church over the year and who helped promote it. We also had Hymns and Pimm's which was a great day and thank you to everyone involved, the food was lovely and the music was excellent.

Looking forward to July we have "it's your move" for Christ Church and we have a visit from Bolton Brow. I also have the pleasure of speaking at the Year 6 levers assembly. As you may be aware Chrich Church School is breaking up a week early resulting in a 7 week summer holiday. To help families we will be holding a summer club during that extra week on the Monday and Wednesday.

Rev. Tommy



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www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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Auto generated captions
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Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1831

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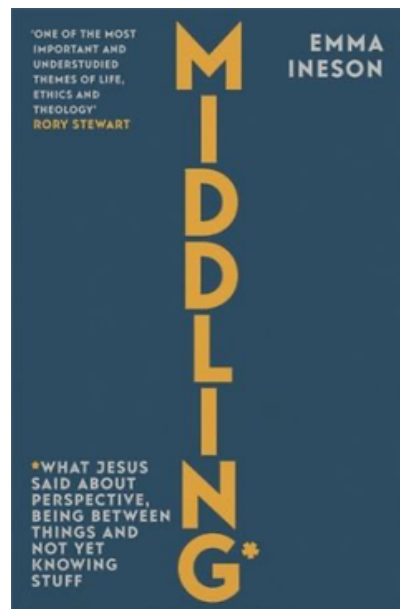
Middling - what Jesus Said About Perspective, Being Between Things and Not Yet Knowing Stuff

By Emma Ineson, SPCK, £12.99

From St Augustine to Shakespeare, and from the wisdom of Scripture to the example of Jesus Himself, many of our greatest voices have praised the virtue of moderation. In *Middling*, Emma invites readers to rediscover the creative, faithful power of living in the middle.

The middle is where most of us spend much of our lives – between certainty and doubt, conviction and compassion, what has been lost and what is yet to be found. Yet we are often taught to apologise for this space, to rush toward extremes or easy answers. *Middling* challenges that assumption, revealing the middle as a place of integrity, nuance, and deep humanity.

Drawing on her experience as a bishop, Emma reflects on the difficult questions faced by leaders and disciples alike: when to speak, when to remain silent, and how to hold tension without losing hope. At the heart of the book is Christ as the ultimate “middle” figure, holding all things together. In choosing to dwell intentionally in this space, *Middling* shows that the middle is not only fruitful – but quietly, profoundly joyful.



Smile Lines

Bucket list

I'm proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.

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