

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Navigating the mess

GENESIS 29:15-28

Jacob agrees to work for his uncle Laban to marry his youngest daughter, Rachel. After the seven years are up, Laban tricks Jacob by having him marry Rachel's older sister, Leah – perhaps to ensure that she is honoured according to local customs. Jacob agrees to a further seven years of work to ensure that he can marry Rachel too.

Today's passages help us remember that God understands life is and will be messy. We might not be able to escape the mess, but we can learn to navigate it with God. It might not always be obvious, but God is working in the midst of the mess to bring good out of tricky situations.

Stay overnight in a historic Mid Wales church this summer

Walkers and visitors can once again book overnight stays at St Gwrhai's Church in Penstrowed, Powys, as the 2026 champing season opens.

Champing, a blend of 'church' and 'camping', offers exclusive overnight access to historic churches no longer used for regular services. The church accommodates up to four guests and includes a fully equipped kitchen in the adjacent hall, an indoor toilet, and secure space for bikes. Dogs are welcome.

Located an hour from both Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, the site is well placed for exploring the Cambrian Mountains, which lie 20 minutes away and include nine Dark Sky Discovery sites. The Severn Way — a 215-mile walking route to Bristol — begins nearby, and guided walking groups operate in the area. For more information visit champing.co.uk.

Sunday 26th July
2026
Trinity 8

FIRST READING

GENESIS 29:15-28

PSALM

PSALM 105:1-11,45B

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8.26-39

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13.31-33,44-52

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

FIONA LAMB

PSALM

GLENIS MCCARTHY

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

KEVIN HENRY &

JACKIE GILL

Collect Trinity 8

Lord God, your Son
left the riches of
heaven and became
poor for our sake:
when we prosper
save us from pride,
when we are needy
save us from
despair, that we
may trust in you
alone; through
Jesus Christ our
Lord.

THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Proclamation

New every morning is
the love

Gradual

Lord thy word abideth

Offertory

How great Thou art

Communion

In heavenly love

abiding

Will you follow me

Recessional

God is love

Reflected Faith Series: Intercessions

Last month we reflected on the Creed
within our service. This month, we
consider what comes next.

In the Book of Common Prayer, the
Creed and the sermon appear in a
different order, but in both traditions
intercessions follow. In Common
Worship, they come straight after the
Creed.

By this point, we may feel we have
already prayed a great deal, so what
makes intercessions different?

Intercessions focus entirely on the
needs of others. They are public
prayers, not centred on 'me' but on the
wider world. They gather the concerns
of the Church, the world, our
community, those in need, and those
who have died, along with those who
mourn and as a whole congregation we
bring them before God.

They are not, repeat not, a time to slip
in a couple of adverts for next week's
summer fair and a prayer for enough
volunteers to come forward – please
see Mrs Jones after the service – or to
tell the congregation of someone's ill
health or funeral arrangements!

These prayers usually follow that
order, though sometimes in reverse.
Either way, there is a clear pattern that
helps the congregation engage.

We may begin broadly with the world and
move towards the local and personal, or
start close to home and widen our view.

For example, with a theme such as
farming, intercessions might include
churches in rural communities worldwide,
countries dependent on food production,
government ministers responsible for
agriculture and fisheries, local farmers
and food workers, and those in need or
recently bereaved within the community.

Style matters as much as content. These
are the prayers of the people, so they
should use language that feels natural
and accessible. Often, simplicity works
best.

This month

Listen carefully to the intercessions when
you attend a service. Do they follow a
clear, engaging pattern? Is the language
accessible? Which prayers stay with you
through the week? Who leads them, and
from where?

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 week's flowers are in memory of David Miller

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

Forbidden fruit creates many jams. - Anon

Christians, keep the faith - but not from others! - Anon

God is a little like American Express - don't leave home without Him. - - Anon

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into Him alone they flow back. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - Richard Rolle

From the Parish Prayer list:

For the Environment ; Watson Mill Lane;
West Parade; Wharf Street; Willow
Crescent; Willow Dean Avenue; Willow
Gardens; Willow Hall Drive

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



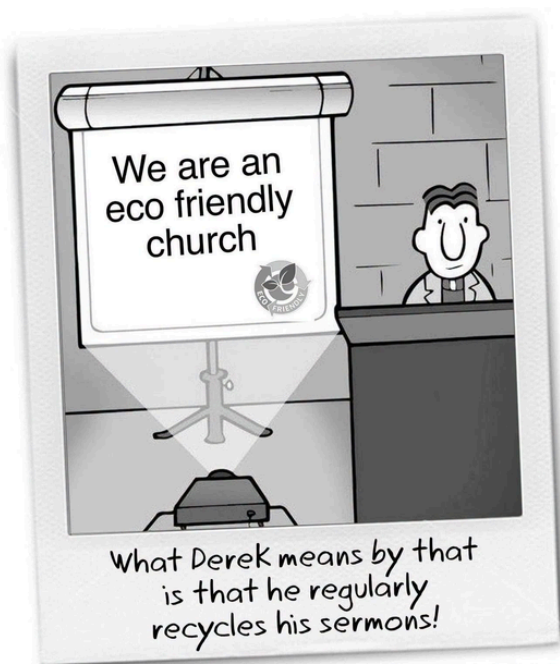
Have shorter showers

By keeping showers to four minutes, a typical household in Great Britain could save £60 a year on their heating bill.

Only run the dishwasher when it's full

The average dishwasher uses 10 litres of water each time so only run it when it's full.

Blessed are the litter-pickers, the composters,
those who buy eco-friendly cleaning products,
those who recycle.



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Next week

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2026
TRINITY 9

FIRST READING

GENESIS 32.22-31

PSALM

PSALM 17:1-7,16

SECOND READING

ROMANS 9.1-5

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14.13-21

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

GLENIS MCCARTHY

PSALM

DAVE TOWLER

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE GILL

SIDES PERSON

LINDA FIRTH & PAULINE
CHESLETT

DIARY

Monday

10.30am 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

10:00am Gardening Grou

Sunday

10.30am All Age Worship



Summer Social Event

Have you seen details about our Summer Social event on Saturday 15th August at Hill crest Bowling Club? See Page 7 or speak to Garry Turner

Rushbearing

We are after loads of things for our Church Stalls, please see page 3 for more details

Financial information for June

Receipts	2,061.62
Payments	1,829.78

The Seven Deadly Sins: Sloth

‘Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.’ (Ecclesiastes 10:18).

This month we are looking at Sloth, the last of the Seven Deadly Sins. This is more than just laziness! The Latin root of the word is ‘acedia’ (‘without care’), meaning it represents spiritual apathy, distraction or indifference in our lives. Sloth can have a significant effect on our spiritual lives, as it enables other sins to gain a foothold eg lust, anger or envy. Another consequence is that we can fail to respond to God’s calling in our lives and his gifts go unused. There is no satisfaction in sloth, as real joy comes when we are ready to step out of our comfort zones for God.

How do we overcome sloth in our lives? Paul writes, ‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord’ (Colossians 3:23). We can ask ourselves some key questions:

Am I living with unconfessed sin? Can I identify sins or habits that are getting in the way of my spiritual intimacy with God?

Have I neglected the spiritual disciplines? In what ways have I neglected spending quality time with God in prayer, reading his Word or being still in his presence?

What fills my mind daily? What are the distractions that occupy my time and thinking eg social media, technology, people or habits? How can I let go of these things to give space for listening to God?

The Holy Spirit can convict us of those things that we need to confess and let go. Are we ready to switch off our screens, seek to help others in need and give time to God?

‘Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.’ (Romans 12:11)

A Scientist Reflects: Suffering and the Image of God

Since the cost-of-living crisis in 2021/22, Food Banks have become a necessity for many desperate families. When they are given food, people reveal a variety of emotions: from relief, happiness and hope, through to quiet sadness, resignation, and desperation. Most often they display a mixture of several of these feelings at the same time.

I believe that our cries for answers at times like this, and our deep longing for things to be better, kinder, more just, less painful and chaotic, are a sign that we are made in the image of God. The Bible describes God creating men and women, instructing them to rule over the earth, and giving them the freedom to choose what they will do. The world God made was described as “very good”, but human wrongdoing caused a rift between people and God, and also between us and the rest of Creation.

From a scientist’s perspective, it seems that the potential for accidents, disease and death – for both animals and humans – may have been part of God’s very good creation, and there was a real threat of famine, albeit far rarer than in our current mismanaged version of creation? How would we have managed life in what Genesis describes as an un-subdued world if our relationship with God hadn’t broken down, and evil hadn’t been unleashed? Maybe painful experiences would have been experienced as challenges that brought us closer to each other and to God, rather than bringing us the experience of suffering (which I would define more particularly as involving distress, isolation and fear)? Of course, these are theoretical questions that no one can answer, but perhaps they are worth exploring.

God has already responded to suffering at a root level by taking it on Himself. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death. We do not yet see the final results of those decisive actions – the end of suffering for all those who trust Him – but we can already feel their impact. For example, many people have experienced the wonderful effect, either in their own lives or by receiving kindness from others, which is described by these words: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Some of the people who receive food are, in the words of one community leader, “really desperate”, but yet they still trust God to meet their needs. My hope is that the worldwide Church will, with God’s help, be part of the answer to their prayers – demonstrating our true status as people made in the image of God.

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

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

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Hebrews Coffee
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the QR code below



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Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1831

Rev. Tommy Daglish

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Sowerby Bridge, HX6 2BJ.

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Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with hope By Wendy Gleadle and Frances Attwood, BRF, £12.99

Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions, and Christians with the condition may also worry about losing their faith and their connection to God. However, there is still hope: those living with dementia can still find meaning in their life and their faith.

Written by two practitioners in this field, *Dementia, God and the Church* aims to show how person-centred

approaches to dementia can provide hope. Wendy Gleadle first examines the difficulties of maintaining religious beliefs as cognition declines, and the implications of this if faith is equally emotional as cognitive. She explores other forms of spiritual awareness, such as relationships, the arts and creativity.

Frances Attwood asks how churches can better support those living with dementia, through examining what they and their families and carers find helpful and want most. Throughout, space is given to first-hand stories of those with dementia, those working with them and those caring for them.

Smile Lines

Who I am

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly sides person greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row please." she answered.

"You really don't want to do that", the the sides person said. "The vicar is boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. The man shook his head. "Well, I'm the vicar's mother," she said indignantly.

Do you know who I am?" he asked. The woman shook her head. "Good," he grinned.

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

