

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



God is in this place

GENESIS 28:10-19A

Jacob is alone and on the run, having deceived his father and stolen Esau's birthright and blessing. As he rests for the night, Jacob dreams of a ladder, connecting heaven with earth. Jacob realises that he has encountered God in this spot and marks the place, naming it Bethel.

Today, we explore what it means to know God's presence, even in the midst of troubles and anxieties. And how God's presence can make all the difference to our lives.

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."

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

ANTHEA GEE

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

RICHARD SMITH

PSALM

REBECCA LUMB

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

SARAH TOWLER

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

Collect Trinity 7

Generous God, you
give us gifts and
make them grow:
though our faith is
small as mustard
seed, make it grow
to your glory and
the flourishing of
your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

THIS WEEK'S HYMNS

Processional

All my hope

Gradual

Rock of ages

Offertory

Fight the good fight

Communion

In heavenly love
abiding

Blessed assurance

Recessional

The spirit lives

'He gave us eyes to see them' - Church Pulpits

It is a steep climb of 199 steps that leads the visitor to Whitby from the streets below to the church of St Mary's that stands near the ruined abbey. Having negotiated the climb, the visitor enters the church and is greeted by a glorious array of Georgian furnishings: box pews and a triple decker pulpit with candlesticks and cushions. The clerk would sit at the bottom level to give out the notices, the parson would lead the service in the middle, and then he would ascend to the third level to expound the Word of God.

George Herbert says that for the country parson the pulpit should be 'his joy and his throne.' Sydney Smith had a different slant when he wrote on going into the pulpit of All Saints Church in Foston in 1806: 'When I began to thump the pulpit cushion on my first coming to Foston, the accumulated dust of 150 years made such a cloud that for some minutes I lost sight of the congregation.' Not so at Whitby where the church is cared for and well loved.

Today preachers often remain at ground level, the better to interact with their congregations, but here at St Mary's Church the pulpit is a sign of the importance of teaching the Word: not because the preacher stands eight feet above contradiction, but to allow people to see and hear.

The word 'pulpit' means a platform or raised area to address the gathered family of God. As we look on in the pews, it stands often on our left. But God looks at us from the east end of the church and the pulpit stands at his right hand: a sign that the sermon can be the divinely inspired message of prophet and teacher, and so become living and active in the minds and hearts of its hearers.

Why our 'crumbling infrastructure' is hurting older people

Poorly paved roads, unsafe crossings and poor public toilets are slowing people down.

Especially older people. Rather than getting out and about in their communities, they tend to feel safer staying inside.

But the lack of regular, positive exercise is a danger for them. Such is the verdict of a recent report from MPs serving on the Health and Social Care Select Committee.

The MPs stress that what they call Britain's 'crumbling infrastructure' is leading to many preventable health conditions, ranging from obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cancer, the onset of frailty, dementia and disability.

Figures suggest that 44 per cent of people aged 75 or older are doing less than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per week. In the UK, lack of activity is associated with a staggering one in six deaths and is estimated to cost £7.4bn a year.

So, the MPs are calling for local action to fix streets and crossings, and to put in more toilets and public seating, as well as better national transport.

Layla Moran, the chairman of the health select committee, said: "Staying physically active can help older people to live not just longer, but healthier, happier, more sociable lives."

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 have been provided from the Church Flower Fund, thanks to the generosity of those who contribute throughout the year. We are grateful for your support in helping to keep our church looking beautiful.

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

Christians are the only people in the world who have anything to be happy about. - Billy Graham

Plenty of people wish to become devout, but no one wishes to be humble. - Françoise, Duc de la Rochefoucauld

The tyrant dies and his rule is over, the martyr dies and his rule begins. - Søren Kierkegaard

From the Parish Prayer list:

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides; Youth Groups and Organisations; Patricia Gardens; Peel Street; Perseverance Street; Plainfield; Plane Tree Road; Pleasant Street; Poplar Avenue; Princess Street.

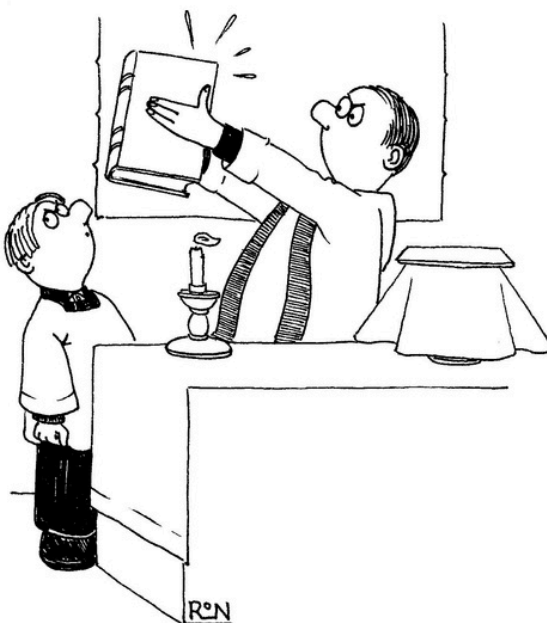
ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Hot tip for houseplants
Bathrooms are warm, humid environments that are great for some houseplants.

Why not collect cool water from your shower before it warms up and give your indoor plants a drink?

Blessed are those who look beyond their local context, not with despair but with the hope of making a difference.



*Fortunately it was a perfect mosquito,
without spot or blemish*

Next week

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 GILL

SIDES PERSON

LINDA FIRTH & PAULINE
CHESLETT

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30 Mid week Communion

Wednesday

Funeral

Thursday

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Happy Days

Thank you for your donations placed in the Happy Days collection bin. Please see the list below as a reminder of the items they are asking for.

Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meals, and UHT Milk. However please feel free to donate anything from the following list: Corned Beef; Sardines; Sandwich pate; tinned veg; Pasta; Pasta sauce; UHT Milk; Cereal; Rice Pudding; Biscuits; Tea Bags, Long Grain Rice; Jam; Washing Tablets; Toiletries (body wash; shampoo; razors; soap; sanitary products. **Please ensure everything has a good date on it**

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

iKnow Church

With the school holiday upon us, have you put your holidays into iKnow? It really helps when putting the rotas together, speak to Peter if you're unsure how to do this

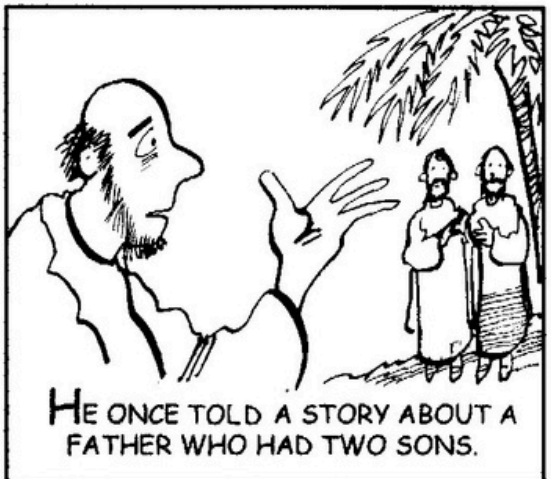
The tale of the Two Sons



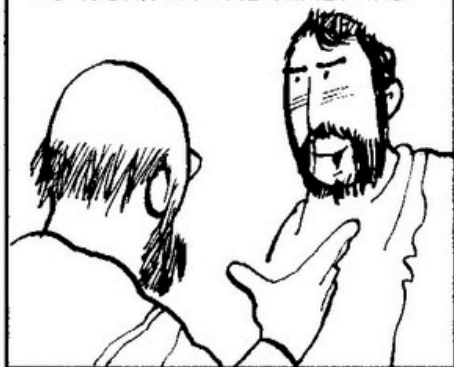
JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.



THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T!' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



....BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.

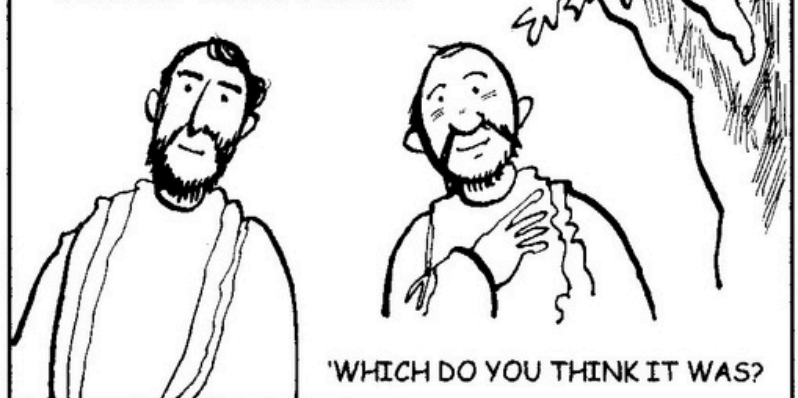


'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?

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

Bruised Reeds and Mustard Seeds - The Gift of the Small Church
By Jody Stowell, Canterbury Press,
£12.99

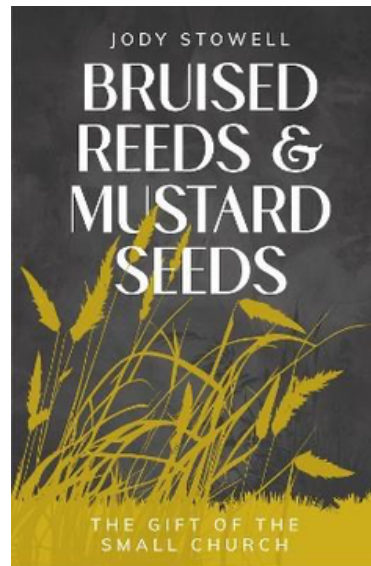
At a time when churches across denominations face a steady decline in attendance, smaller congregations often find themselves overshadowed by the push for growth and numbers. While larger 'Resource Churches' are praised for their expansion, the true value of the smaller church is frequently overlooked. But what if there's a unique gift in these smaller communities?

Jody Stowell invites you to explore how, in the race for growth, we may be missing the deep significance and essential role of smaller congregations. As anxiety about survival and financial security spreads throughout the church, local churches and their leaders bear the burden. Yet within these smaller churches lies a richness, resilience and spiritual depth that is often lost in the noise. This is a call to rediscover the profound worth of smaller congregations and recognise their vital place in the future of faith communities.

Smile Lines

Hymns for professionals

Dentist: Crown Him with many crowns.
Contractor: The church's one foundation
Obstetrician: Come, labour on.
Golfer: There is a green hill far away.
Politician: Standing on the promises.
Librarian: Let all mortal flesh keep silence.
Barrister: In the hour of trial.
Dry Cleaner: O for a faith that will not shrink.
Census taker: All people that on earth do dwell.
Tax officer: We give thee but thine own.
Traffic patrol: Where cross the crowded ways of life.
Credit card user: A charge to keep have I.



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

Rev. Tommy Daglish

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