

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



I will not let you go

GENESIS 32.22-31

Jacob is dreading meeting his estranged brother, Esau. He has all his belongings sent ahead of him so he can meet Esau in peace. At night, he wrestles with a mysterious figure, refusing to let go until he receives a blessing – a powerful encounter that leaves him permanently changed.

Jacob's encounter reminds us that God knows the journey we've been on and invites us to bring every part of ourselves to him, so that, ultimately, we can be close to God and he can bless us.

‘Strong Christian presence in elite football’ - new research

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That is according to a recent study commissioned by Christians in Sport. The study, supported by Eido Research, also revealed the extent of Christian activities taking place within elite football:

75 per cent of clubs within the top six tiers of men's football include Christian players. 40 per cent of clubs regularly host events such as Bible studies and prayer meetings. From a 90 per cent response to the study from Premier League clubs, half reported regular Christian gatherings. More than a third of these activities are player-led.

The research was based on feedback from 134 clubs (164 clubs were contacted).

Dr Graham Daniels, general director of Christians in Sport and a former footballer at Cambridge United, said: "Christianity is not disappearing from professional football; it is far more present than most people realise." Christians in Sport, whose vision is 'reaching the world of sport for Christ', celebrates its 50th anniversary this year

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

Collect Trinity 9

Gracious Father,
revive your Church
in our day, and
make her holy,
strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our
Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

As the deer

Gradual

O God of Bethel

Offertory

Praise my soul

Communion

Broken for me

Longing for light

Recessional

Video

New Bishop of Leeds announced

The new Bishop of Leeds will be the Rt Revd Dr Toby Howarth, it was announced by the Prime Minister's office today, after the King approved his nomination for election. Bishop Toby will be the second Bishop of Leeds, following the retirement of the Rt Revd Nick Baines in November 2025. He has served as Area Bishop of Bradford in the Diocese since 2014 and has been Acting Bishop of Leeds since Bishop Nick's retirement.

Bishop Toby said: "I have a deep sense of joy and longing. Joy to have been called to serve as Bishop of Leeds in this glorious Diocese that I've grown to love over the last twelve years. Joy to be working with such a rich diversity of churches and cathedrals, schools and chaplaincies, faith and community partners, businesses, institutions and statutory services filled with faithful and creative people working in often challenging contexts. Joy to be part of such a committed and talented diocesan staff team.

"But also longing. Longing for us all to experience more and more of God's abundant love in Jesus transforming our lives, our homes and our communities."

Commenting on the appointment, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, said: "Leeds is a remarkable Diocese, shaped by a rich history, extraordinary diversity and a deep commitment to sharing the hope of Jesus Christ in every community. Bishop Toby knows and loves this Diocese so well. I am delighted that he will lead the next chapter of the life and witness of the church in this place.

"Bishop Toby's passion for sharing the good news of the Gospel alongside his profound commitment to interfaith dialogue equip him to serve all those who call these communities home."

Bishop Toby will lead on the next stage of the Diocese of Leeds vision of becoming confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities.

"I am looking forward to working across the Diocese as we take forward that vision together," he said. "Over the next weeks and months, I will be listening to partners and communities both inside and outside the Church to hear how we can best support churches and leaders to be confident in our mission and purpose, to ensure we are efficient, effective and sustainable as a diocese and to be relevantly living and telling the good news of Jesus in our rapidly changing world."

During the autumn, Bishop Toby will be elected to the role of Diocesan Bishop of Leeds following a joint meeting of the Cathedral Colleges of Canons in Ripon and his election will be confirmed by the Archbishop of York at York Minster. Three services of welcome and installation will follow at Bradford Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and Wakefield Cathedral. From September onwards, Bishop Toby will be undertaking a programme of visits to meet and listen to people from churches, organisations and communities around the Diocese.

To mark the announcement today, Bishop Toby climbed Great Whernside, one of the highest points in the diocese, from where there is a view right across this vast, varied and wonderful region.

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 and George Marsh

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

I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love. - Mother Teresa

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully all over the world, answering that of God in everyone. - George Fox

From the Parish Prayer list:

The Bishop of Leeds, Bishop Toby, The Diocese of Leeds, Back Pleasant Street; Back Wakefield Road; Back Wharf Street; Bairstow Lane; Bairstow Mount; Baldwin Yard; Bank Road; Bank Street

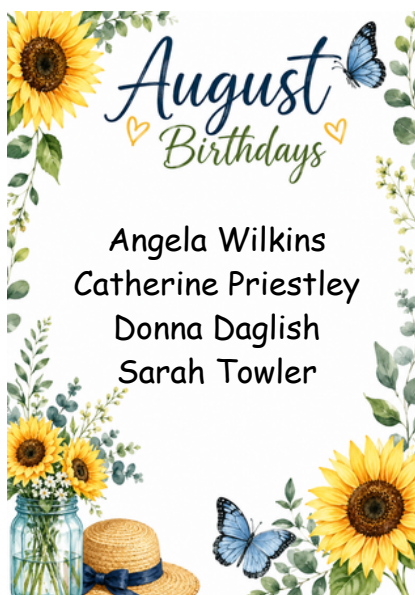
ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



In your garden:

Consider using mulch or bark to retain moisture in the soil: This reduces the need for frequent watering.

Avoid overwatering your lawn: Grass is resilient and can recover from periods of dryness.



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

Next week

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 2026
TRINITY 10
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF
MOTHERS UNION

FIRST READING

GENESIS 37:1-4,12-28

PSALM

PSALM 105:1-6,16-22,45B

SECOND READING

ROMANS 10.5-15

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14.22-33

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

GLENIS MCCARTHY

PSALM

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SECOND READING

RITA JAGGER

INTERCESSIONS

JUSTINE HELLIWELL

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE MUNDY

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30 Mid week Communion

Wednesday

Thursday

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion celebrating 150 years of Mothers Union and with a service of Holy Baptism



Bible Study

are you interested in attending an informal Bible Study in Church on a fortnightly basis? If so please indicate on the sheet at the back of Church the best day/time for you.

Rushbearing

an you spare a small amount of time to help in the café at Rushbearing or donate some food? If so please see the sheets at the back of Church and indicate where/what you are able to help with.

Summer Social Event

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

When the time is wrong

See then that ye walk circumspectly, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5, 15-16)

There is something that really irritates me in church. The clock is wrong. It is always five minutes fast. I do not mean the clock in the tower, that has not worked for years. There is a wall clock at the back of the church. It must have been put there for the service leader to tell when to start.

At our school there was always a bell which sounded when to change lessons. The bell rang and the pupils put away their books and got up to go to the next lesson. This used to really annoy the teacher who shouted, “that is a bell for me, not you!”

I do not know why no-one in our church has put the time right. What are churchwardens doing? Perhaps I am wrong and they have tried. The good thing is that at nine o’clock or five to nine, the leader of matins has the option of giving it another few minutes for others to come in. Or, if I had a meeting I could end five minutes early and no-one would be the wiser!

Note from the Editor

You may hae notice our church clock, well it should now be telling the correct time. There has been issues with the electronics and we’ve had to wait for new parts from Italy. Our thanks goes to Matthew at Lancashire Clocks.

Look Back Look Forward

The beginning of July was a busy time with the school year coming to an end. We had a visit from Bolton Brow reception class to look around Church and talk about Baptism including blessing and Baptising a class doll. They seemed to have a really good day and next school year we will be doing more assemblies at Bolton Brow.

Anthea and I did another it's your move assembly this time with Christ Church School and the children really engaged with it. We then did the Year 6 leavers assembly at Christ Church and handed out the crosses. Please pray for all the children moving to new schools and their parents as they make this adjustment.

With Christ Church closing a week earlier for the summer holidays we held a holiday club during the Monday and Wednesday during that extra week. There was not a lot of people there but those who did attend had a good time and made it worth while. Going forward we will do it again during holidays and ask parents what days and time would work best for them.

We had a funeral in Church as well during July and I ask you to please keep the family of Caran Goodwin in your prayers. Thank you to everyone who helped out at these services.

Morning Prayer and BCP continued in July but Bible study on a Wednesday seems to have come to a natural end. We will ask for a day and time that would work better for people to try and get a Bible study up and running again.

Looking forward to August as it is ordinary time I want to use this time to put things in place and review what we are doing. I am looking for someone to volunteer for an office hour with me to book weddings and check the information and id for couples. I am open to ideas for services/events you would like to see in Church.

I am off two weeks in August as it is someone's 40th. I won't say who but a clue is its D. Daglish, wait that's a bit obvious its Donna D.

Rev. Tommy

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.



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Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1831

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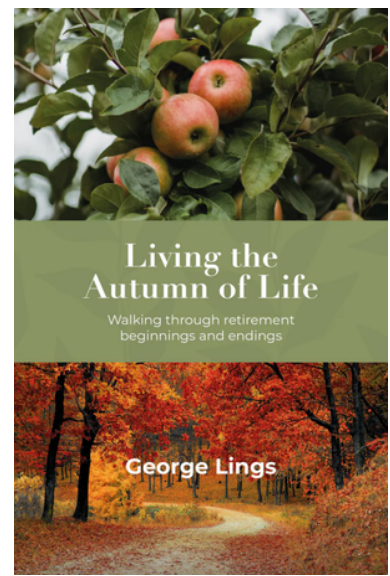
fiona.lamb1@sky.com

Living the Autumn of Life: Walking through retirement beginnings and endings

By George Lings, BRF, £12.99

Autumn is a time of gains and losses: fruit being harvested, and leaves falling. This book charts the experience of living through both realities, drawn from the author's own life and from the views of interviewees.

Informed by historic and contemporary reading, it offers snapshots of later life, taken against a backdrop of ageism in society and church. George Lings reflects on the identity of the 'active elderly', and also considers through a biblical lens the challenges and opportunities that this season brings.



Smile Lines

This month many newly ordained clergy will be settling into parishes across the country. So, with them in mind, we offer some old 'new curate jokes'....

Nearly omnipotent

The curate was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up and hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day!"

Slow

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. "My problem," explained the curate, "is that I sleep very slowly."

Won't go far

The curate went to the building society about his investments, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday."

Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.

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

Living Loving Learning.