

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Empowered

EXODUS 1:8-2:10

A new era has begun in Egypt, and the new Pharaoh views the Israelites with fear and suspicion. Baby Moses is in danger but, aided by God, the midwives, Moses' mother and sister, and even Pharaoh's daughter take steps to protect him.

In the struggle and suffering of the Israelites, we see the people standing up for what is right. What issues of injustice might God be encouraging us to stand up against?

Church Social Bowling Afternoon

Last Saturday, members of Christ Church enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of friendship, fun and fellowship at Hillcrest Bowling Club for our Church Social Bowling Event.

The afternoon brought together experienced bowlers and complete

beginners alike, with plenty of encouragement, laughter and good-natured competition throughout. Those not taking part on the green enjoyed cheering everyone on while sharing a lovely bring-and-share lunch, making it a truly enjoyable occasion for all.

Congratulations go to Dave and Malcolm, who emerged as our worthy champions after some closely contested games. Well done to everyone who took part and entered into the spirit of the afternoon.

A sincere thank you to Hillcrest Bowling Club for their warm hospitality, and to everyone who helped organise the event, prepared refreshments, or supported in any way. It was a wonderful reminder of the importance of spending time together beyond our regular worship, strengthening friendships and enjoying each other's company.

Enjoyed the bowling? If the afternoon has inspired you to give crown green bowling a little more of a go, or you are considering becoming a member of Hillcrest Bowling Club, please speak to Peter, who will be happy to provide you with a membership form and more information.

Sunday 23rd
August 2026
Trinity 12

FIRST READING

EXODUS 1:8-2:10

PSALM

PSALM 124

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12.1-8

THIRD READING

MATTHEW 16.13-20

FIRST READING

PAUL HEALEY

PSALM

SARAH TOWLER

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

HELEN PEDLEY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

Collect Trinity 12

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Praise my soul

Gradual

For the beauty of the earth

From heaven you came

Offertory

Lord Jesus Christ

Recessional

And can it be

Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leaved campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years.

They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

Record number of grants awarded for conservation in parish churches

Grants for conservation of historic items and works of art in parish churches more than doubled in 2025 to nearly £600,000, with a record number of grants awarded by the Church of England.

Books from a library where Isaac Newton is thought to have studied, one of the oldest clocks in the country, medieval wall paintings, and even a medieval door are among hundreds of historic features in parish churches – from candlesticks to a Saxon coffin – to receive conservation funding last year.

Grants worth a total of £578,931 were awarded in 2025 by the C of E's national conservation team, up 120 per cent on the £260,000 distributed the year before. The number of grants awarded rose from 124 to 190, in 37 dioceses.

The big increase comes after the National Lottery Heritage Fund announced a £4.69 million award in 2025 for the Church of England's conservation grants scheme, to run over the next five years. The scheme also continues to receive support from various trusts and funds.



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1821

SOWERBY BRIDGE

Rushbearing Festival

CRAFT FAIR



SATURDAY
5TH SEPTEMBER 2026



10AM TILL 4PM



CAFE

Delicious cakes,
hot drinks
and more!



CRAFTS

Beautiful handmade
gifts, crafts
and unique finds!



TOMBOLA

Fantastic prizes
and lots of
fun to be had!



RAFFLE

Brilliant prizes
to be won!

STALLS • GAMES • REFRESHMENTS

and so much more! ♥

Why not call in? ♥

In your prayers this week....

Alyson Healey; Archdeacon Bill; Maralyn Pawson; Helen Pedley; Christine Russell; Vanessa Starsmore; Victor Smyth; Kelly Swift



This week's flowers have been kindly provided by Janet and Garry. While they aren't marking a particular occasion this time, we are grateful for their generosity in helping to keep our church looking beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

If you would like to provide flowers in church, whether in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special occasion, or simply as a gift to the church, please speak to Angela W.

Quotes

Keeping up appearances is the most expensive thing in the world. - Anon

No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come. - Victor Hugo

The only thing worse than an alarm clock that goes off is one that doesn't. - Anon

From the Parish Prayer list:

For the future of our church; St Anns Square; Stanley Street; Station Approach; Station Road; Steps Lane; Stonecroft Mount; Summerland Terrace; Sunny Bank Drive.



Condensers & Humidifiers:

Collect and filter wastewater from the condenser to reuse for other purposes like cleaning or watering plants.

To conserve water with a humidifier, prioritize using distilled water to prevent mineral buildup and ensure efficient operation, empty and clean the humidifier daily to prevent bacterial growth, and ensure proper placement to avoid damp spots and maximize mist dispersion.



Next week

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST 2026
TRINITY 13

FIRST READING

EXODUS 3:1-15

PSALM

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

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12.9-21

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16.21-28

WORSHIP LEADER

REVD. LESLEY ENNIS

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

PSALM

REBECCA LUMB

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

PAUL HEALEY

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL & KEVIN HENRY

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

1.00pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

Thursday

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Rev. Tommy Holiday

With Tommy on holiday, 17th-30th, there will be on morning prayer or Tuesday communion but Alyssa will lead BCP on Thursday. For any help or support whilst Tommy is off, please reach out to our churchwardens

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.

Local boy raising funds

I don't know if you have seen the local boy who is trying to raise funding to renovate/save the skateboarding facility in Crow Wood Park, but I was thinking that, as a Church in the Community, maybe we could contribute something towards this.

Charlie Ryan is a pupil at Bolton Brow Academy and has identified the skateboarding area as dangerous – full of holes, cracked areas. He launched his mission in April and has a petition signed by more than 1,300 people which he presented to Calderdale Council.

He has a clear plan and has the backing of local councillors and MP Kate Dearden who has visited the area and praised Charlie's persistence. Kate has written a letter of support to Sport England as part of the fundraising application.

Charlie presented his petition to a full council meeting where the Council parks team has acknowledged the skatepark is in a poor state but there is no money to help with this issue. Council said, "We believe the skatepark is a vital free outdoor facility for young people in our community and we want to see it improved." The Council have approved the renovation or replacement of the skatepark in principle, unlocking more potential funding options.

Charlie is now trying to fundraise some of the money needed and launched an online collection. By raising a substantial amount, through donations, more grants and match funding are more likely.

As a Church in the Community we will probably be donating something for Charlie's project but if you wish to donate individually please log in online or pass a donation to myself, Anthea.

As part of the bowling social event we held a raffle and will put the money raised at this towards his mission.

If you would like to look at Charlie's page online the link is below. This will take you to his donation page but if you scroll down you can see Charlie's plea. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-crow-wood-skatepark>

The TEN YOUNG WOMEN



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM "PARABLES".



JESUS ONCE SPOKE ABOUT TEN YOUNG WOMEN



THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO A WEDDING - AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE BRIDGROOM.



EACH ONE HAD AN OIL LAMP.



BUT ONLY FIVE OF THEM HAD BROUGHT ALONG SOME SPARE OIL.



LATE AT NIGHT THE BRIDGROOM ARRIVED



FIVE YOUNG WOMEN COULD LIGHT HIS WAY.



THE OTHER FIVE FELT VERY FOOLISH - THEIR LAMPS HAD RUN OUT OF OIL!!



See Matthew 25.1-13

AN EVENING OF

MUSIC & SONG

★★★
A FANTASTIC
NIGHT OUT
FOR ALL
THE FAMILY!
★★★

STEETON MALE VOICE CHOIR

SATURDAY
19TH SEPTEMBER 2026

★ 7:30PM ★

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE,
WHARF STREET, HX6 2LW

ADULTS

£7.00

CHILDREN

£5.00

FAMILY TICKET

2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN

£20.00

TICKETS ON THE DOOR OR ONLINE



www.christchurchsb.org.uk



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER CCSB 1131180; SMVC 517369



Find us at

www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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Auto generated captions
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Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1833

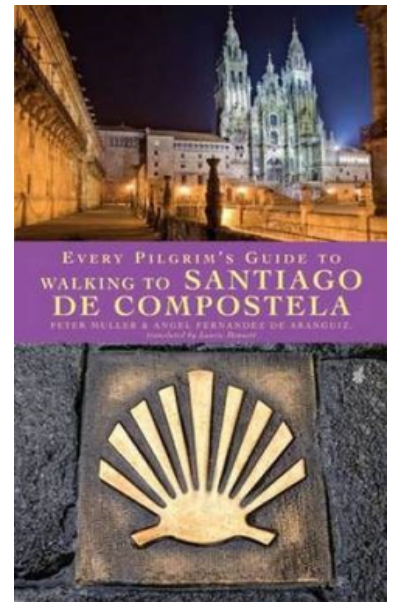
Every Pilgrim's Guide to Walking to Santiago de Compostela

By Peter Muller, Angel Fernandez de Aranguiz, & Laurie Bennett, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Every year, some 200,000 people set out on the world's most famous pilgrimage route – 'the Camino', designated a World Heritage Site in 1993. Actually it is a network of paths, with numerous starting places in France and throughout Europe, and all routes converge to lead along Spain's northern coast to Santiago de Compostela. Here the shrine of St James, the patron saint of pilgrimage, was discovered in the 9th century.

Already the preferred guide for German and Spanish pilgrims, this new English edition is co-published with the Confraternity of St James, the UK's leading organisation for promoting pilgrimage to Santiago.

The book offers a mix of practical information and spiritual inspiration for walkers, a stage-by-stage guide pointing out places of interest along the way; practical tips for walkers; prayers, blessings and spiritual exercises to nourish the pilgrim spirit and deepen the pilgrimage experience. It is illustrated throughout with maps and photographs, and conveniently pocket sized.



Smile Lines

When children write to their minister:

"Dear Mr Minister...

- I know God loves everybody but then He never met my sister. – Arnold, age 8.
- Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. – Pete, age 9.
- My father should be a minister. Every day he gives me a sermon about something. – Robert Anderson, age 11.
- I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? – Patty, age 10.

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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