

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



From the heart

GENESIS 45:1-15

Joseph is now a powerful leader in Egypt. Having tested his brothers' motivations, he reveals himself to them and an emotional reconciliation ensues. Joseph sees the hand of God in all that has happened to him.

As Joseph's story concludes, we see him showing great emotion to his brothers and treating them with boundless generosity, which leads to restoration and reconciliation. As we consider these examples, we might question whether we operate 'from the heart' in our response to situations in our lives.

Church is cool place to be

About noon the following day, Peter went up on the roof to pray... (Acts 10 9)
This is a special passage for me, as it was the first one I read as part of Scripture Union reading notes at the age of 13.

It fits in neatly with the theme of how people in Bible times kept cool.

Two thousand years ago, houses were built of traditional materials like stone and wattle. Windows were high up to help reduce smells from outside. Wooden lattice was used in wall openings and doorways usually faced south or east to increase light and warmth from the sun. In the hot months, people spent the evenings on their roof to enjoy the cooler air. This is where St Peter was when he had a vision of God's welcoming to all Jewish people also to all others.

Have you thought of opening your church up as a cool place? Like most things it needs to be planned carefully with ground rules, clarity and safety uppermost. Can people bring their own drinks? Are you offering prayer spaces as well? Who will run it? It may be an option as churches are usually cool and could offer drinks and company. Probably not a good idea on the roof!

Sunday 16th
August 2026
Trinity 11

FIRST READING

GENESIS 45:1-15

PSALM

PSALM 133

SECOND READING

ROMANS 11.1-2A,29-32

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 15.(10-20),21-28

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

CATHERINE PRISTLEY

PSALM

PAUL HEALEY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE MUNDY

Collect *Trinity 11*

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEKS *HYMNS*

Processional

Jesus shall reign

Gradual

Lord of all
hopefulness

Offertory

Shine Jesus, shine

Communion

Will you come and
follow

Bind us together

Recessional

All hail the power of
Jesus' name

What's the Big Idea? - an *Introduction to the Books of* *the New Testament: 2* *Thessalonians*

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians from Corinth, after Silas and Timothy had returned from delivering 1 Thessalonians, in AD 51/52. His purpose in writing this letter was largely the same as the first, as the situation in the church remained largely unchanged. He writes to encourage new believers facing persecution (1:4-10), to correct a misunderstanding concerning the Lord's return (2:1-12) and to deal with the problems caused by some who refused to earn their own living (2:13-3:15).

The theme of the second coming of Jesus dominates 2 Thessalonians as with his first letter. When Jesus comes, He will defeat the 'man of lawlessness'(2:8) and bring justice to oppressed Christians and judge their persecutors and unbelievers (1:5-10; 2:9-15). Paul was challenging the false belief that 'the day of the Lord has come', leaving the Thessalonians shaken and frightened (2:1-2). As they were undergoing intense persecution, they thought that the second coming was imminent. Furthermore, the community contained believers who refused to work. They may have decided to stop working and await the second coming of Jesus. However, they may have been exploiting wealthier Christians' generosity in order to avoid work.

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is one that we can truly share in our own circumstances, as we also live in an uncertain world: 'With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.' (1:11&12)

C of E apologises for *historical adoption* *practices*

The Church of England has recently apologised for its role in historical adoption practices, particularly in mother and baby homes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, said: "We are profoundly sorry for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced – and still carried – by many people because of historical adoption practices in homes affiliated to the Church of England.

"We have heard first-hand the accounts of mothers who were separated from their babies in circumstances where they had very few meaningful choices.

"We know that many women and girls were at times made to carry out menial and manual work as a form of 'correction'. We also recognise where prejudice – including on the grounds of race and disability – shaped and defined experiences and outcomes.

"We are listening to the people affected. We are deeply ashamed that this happened to people in the care of Christian communities. "These practices are in the past and must never happen again. We will not condone or repeat them. Our commitment now is to listen, to lament and to learn, to ensure that this leads to change."



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 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

Music is given us with our existence. Above other arts it can be possessed without knowledge. - Yehudi Menuhin

When both the actors and the audience are confused, the drama is 'profound'. - Anon

Drama critic: a man who gives the best jeers of his life to the theatre. - Anon

From the Parish Prayer list:

All who live & work within the Parish;
Those with no safe place to call home;
Nelson Place; Nelson Street; New Marsh;
Newton Street; Newton Terrace; Norland Road; Norland View; North Lea.



In the car switch your engine off if you pull over or are stuck in traffic for even a minute. It saves you fuel, reduces the nitrous oxide pollution for you and those around you & cuts noise pollution.

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



©Andy Robb

Next week

SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2026
TRINITY 12

FIRST READING

EXODUS 1:8-2:10

PSALM

PSALM 124

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12.1-8

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 16.13-20

SERVERS

PETER HENRY

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

PAUL HEALEY

PSALM

SARAH TOWLER

SECOND READING

PETER HENRY

INTERCESSIONS

HELEN PEDLEY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER

INGALL

DIARY

Monday

10.30am

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

Wednesday

Thursday

11am Mothers Union

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Service of the Word



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.

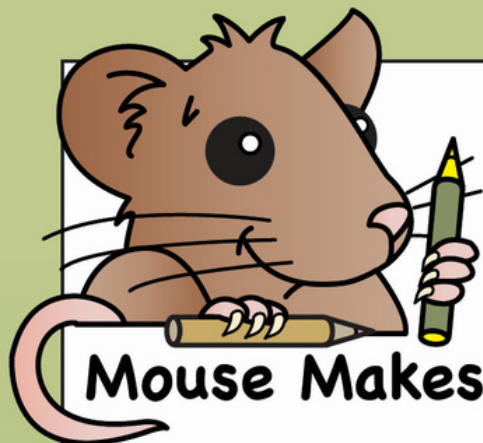
Charlie presented his petition to a full council meeting where the Council parks team has acknowledged the skatepark is in a poor state but there is no money to help with this issue. Council said, "We believe the skatepark is a vital free outdoor facility for young people in our community and we want 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>



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

3. Which sea did Jesus walk beside before he went up on the mountain?

Matthew 15:29

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSLEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

JUDEA

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

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£7.00

CHILDREN

£5.00

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2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN

£20.00

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www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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the QR code below



Auto generated captions
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Service starts.



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Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1833

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The Lion Book of Five-Minute Animal Stories

By John Goodwin, SPCK, £9.99

The best lessons come wrapped in the best stories. And The Lion Book of Five-Minute Animal Stories brings ten timeless tales from around the world to life with humour, heart, and unforgettable animal characters children will adore

Each story teaches valuable lessons about friendship, kindness, courage, honesty, and discovering your unique talents. All delivered with the perfect dose of fun!

Why your family might enjoy this collection:

Ten diverse animal stories from global folklore and literature

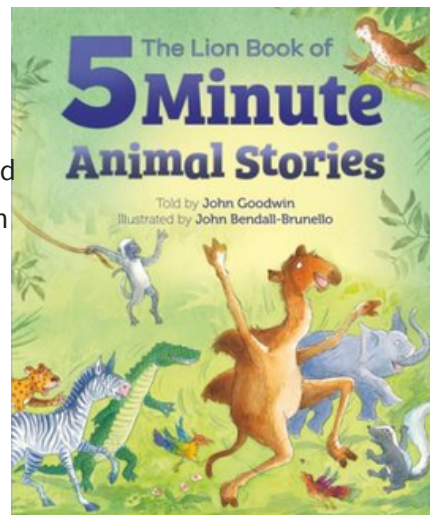
Each story takes just 5 minutes, ideal for busy schedules

Retold with humour and liveliness that keeps kids engaged

Vibrant, detail-rich illustrations.

Ideal for bedtime, classroom, libraries and group reading.

Perfect for ages 3-7



Smile Lines

Sky fright

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was soon bumping around in the sky. One very nervous lady happened to be sitting next to a clergyman and turned to him for comfort. "Can't you do something?" she demanded.

"I'm sorry ma'am," said the reverend gently. "I'm in sales, not management."

Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.

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

Living Loving Learning.