

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Moses the middleman

EXODUS 17.1-7

The Israelites are journeying in the desert and come to a place with no water. Fearing death, they complain against Moses, questioning whether they should have stayed in Egypt. Moses asks God for help, and God provides a miraculous supply of water from a rock – showing God's presence and provision.

Moses had a difficult role as an intercessor, advocating between the Israelites and God. How might we also be those who point to God's goodness and help those around us encounter God?

Church to mark modern day martyrs in annual commemoration

The Church of England will have an annual commemoration for a group of Christians murdered by Daesh terrorists as a vivid reminder of the persecution of the worldwide Christian Church.

General Synod has approved plans to introduce an annual commemoration for the '21 Martyrs of Libya' – a group of Christian men martyred in 2015 – into the Church's liturgical calendar.

Modern day Christian Martyrs, the 20 Coptic Christians and one Ghanaian were killed after they refused to renounce their faith. They had been targeted specifically for their Christian identity, and they died with the words 'O my Lord Jesus' on their lips.

They have also been recognised as Martyrs by the Coptic Church and are commemorated by the Roman Catholic Church.

General Synod's decision in July marked the first time that the liturgical calendar has been altered since 2010.

Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Chair of the Liturgical Commission, said the commemoration would fix "our gaze on a beach in Libya where the same Lord was confessed by men whose worldly power was small, but whose witness has become immense."

The commemoration will take place on 15th February every year.

Sunday 27th
September 2026
Trinity 17

FIRST READING

EXODUS 17.1-7

PSALM

PSALM 78:1-4,12-16

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 2.1-13

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21.23-32

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

RICHARD SMITH

PSALM

DAVE TOWLER

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE GILL

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL &

KEVIN HENRY

Collect *Trinity 17*

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS *HYMNS*

Processional

We have a gospel to proclaim

Gradual

From heaven you came

Offertory

Come and see the shining hope

Communion

As the deer pants for the water

Lord of the Dance

Recessional

I the Lord of sea and sky

Samuel - the exceptional man who put the crown on David's head

The Bible contains descriptions of many kinds of leaders. These men (and sometimes women) were responsible for the well-being of groups of people. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Joshua led the wilderness wanderers into the Promised Land. Gideon, Ezra and Nehemiah led people to fight against their enemies and improved their moral and spiritual lives.

While these people may be familiar to us, the Bible also mentions other individuals who had different leadership responsibilities.

Some fulfilled their positions readily while others, like Joseph and Esther, gradually became aware of their roles and achieved the purposes God had for them.

As a baby, Samuel was dedicated to the service of God. While a young boy, God spoke directly to him. Samuel grew up gaining favour with both God and men. At an early age, God was with Samuel and made everything that Samuel said come true.

Samuel became the ruler of Israel. His style of leadership was based on godliness, fairness and good organisation. He settled disputes, served as a judge and banned pagan gods from the land.

When Samuel became old, the people became restless. They demanded to have a king to rule over them. God reluctantly agreed. Under God's guidance, Samuel chose Saul. Unfortunately, Saul failed to lead the people in the way of God. So, Samuel was directed by God to anoint David – to be the next king of Israel.

Samuel, it appears, was acutely aware of his responsibility to be a good leader. He was a man of good reputation but his obedience to God brought about difficulty, uncertainty and hardship. He wanted Saul to be a good leader, but Saul failed to live up to his high calling. Samuel was deeply upset and departed from the king's presence. He knew that a bad leader would bring about the nation's downfall.

Nevertheless, Samuel treated Saul with respect and courtesy. He understood the principle of submission to God-ordained authority. He was loyal to Saul, even though he turned out to be a bad leader.

Samuel's grief over Saul's failure is a reminder for us to pray for our leaders on a regular basis (whether or not they fall short in their official capacity!) We need God to provide us with leaders who are trustworthy and honourable. Let's pray for good leaders that they may enhance truth, peace and justice throughout the world.

How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is “possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation.” So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don’t affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things, and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be ‘very good’ (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don’t want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don’t have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let’s encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve 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.

In your prayers this week....

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



This weeks flowers are in memory of Emily Tweedale.

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

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart. - Anon

A man is as big as the things that make him angry. - Winston Churchill

Our whole life is taken up with anxiety for personal security, with preparations for living, so that we really never live at all. - Leo Tolstoy

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



Unplug Before Travelling

Even if electronic devices are shut off or in sleep mode, they still use energy. Being away for too long wastes energy that could otherwise have been plugged off. So, before going on holiday, unplug your devices from the wall sockets to save electricity.

Each UK household spends around £50 - £86 a year to power appliances left in standby mode or unused.

Blessed are those who feed the hedgehogs, who make fat balls for the birds, who build bug hotels and who plant flowers to attract bees.



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Next week

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
TRINITY 18

FIRST READING

EXODUS 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

PSALM

PSALM 19

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3.4B-14

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21.33-46

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

DAVE TOWLER

PSALM

FIONA LAMB

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

LINDA FIRTH & PAULINE
CHESLETT

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

Communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

Thursday

1pm Funeral

5.30pm Prayer Meeting

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10am Gardening Group

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 11 October. Further details in next week's notice sheet.

First Aid training

A member of the congregation will be leading an Emergency First Aid training at Church in the next few weeks. This will take place on a Saturday in October or November, 9.00-3.30 with a break for lunch and comfort breaks. Are you interested? If so please see Anthea for further details. Upon completion each person will receive a certificate which lasts for three years

Tombola and Raffle

Thank you so much for your donations towards the Tombola and Raffle at Rushbearing. We will be having further raffles during the following events and would be very grateful for any donations towards these. Thank you.

Last Night of the Proms - Saturday 17 October

Advent Fair - Saturday 28

Moses the middleman

Exodus 17:1-7

The Israelites are journeying in the desert and come to a place with no water. Fearing death, they complain against Moses, questioning whether they should have stayed in Egypt. Moses asks God for help, and God meets Moses with the elders and provides a miraculous supply of water from a rock – showing that God's presence was with the Israelites and that God provides for them.

Read this week's passage:



Reconciliation is not always straight forward. Try making a paper bridge between two cups with an A4 piece of paper. Will it hold a small item? Now try folding the paper into a concertina, folding length ways. What happens now?



Build a DIY water filter and learn about the importance of finding ways to clean up the world's water supplies.



Plan a fundraiser for WaterAid (or a similar charity) and pray for those who don't have clean water or who live in areas of the world suffering from water shortages.

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord.' Exodus 17:7

After the Israelites test God, Moses names the rock on Mount Horeb 'Massah and Meribah'. 'Massah' means 'test' and 'Meribah' means 'quarrel'. Even though the people can now see that God is still with them, Moses doesn't want them to forget this experience.

It is not easy to be around people who are arguing or angry; in Moses' case, he is afraid the Israelites are so angry they will stone him (v.4). In these situations, we can sometimes be tempted to "sweep it under the carpet" and "cover up the cracks", ignoring the roots of a problem and any lingering consequences or bad feelings, but this is not the way that Moses chooses.

Moses reminds the Israelites that we should be honest about our mistakes, not because we should shame ourselves, but because wilful forgetfulness leads usually to more conflict. The Israelites need true reconciliation with God in order to continue their journey together safely and Moses plays a key role in making this happen.

How do you feel about subjects like penitence and confession? Where do you see a need for greater honesty? How can we be reconcilers today?

First impressions

- When have you felt like you would like to complain to God?
- When you pray, do you expect to hear an answer?
- Are there times when you have been amazed by God's answer to prayer? Have you shared this with others?



Pray



God, thank you for all you give us, help us to remember all you put in our hands, may we be people who share what we have with others, and to show people who you are. Amen.

REFLECT

Take time to reflect on your actions recently; you could journal, doodle, walk a labyrinth, chat with a trusted friend or simply reflect in silence. What have you done or not done? Why did you act in that way? How can you co-operate with God's grace to change your ways?



LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

WITH FRIENDLY BRASS BAND

★ SATURDAY ★
17TH OCTOBER
7.30PM

**CHRIST CHURCH
SOWERBY BRIDGE**

**BRING
YOUR
FLAGS!**

LET'S WAVE THE RED,
WHITE AND BLUE!



TICKETS AVAILABLE
ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITE
OR ON THE DOOR

www.christchurchsb.org.uk



A wonderful evening of music, flags and celebration!





Find us at

www.christchurchsb.org.uk

Donate To Church



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Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1831

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When the Music Fades - Power, Surrender and the Soul Survivor Generation

by Lucy Sixsmith, Canterbury Press, £16.99

A generation was told to surrender everything for Jesus. A generation were told they were history makers and could change the world. But what happens when the music fades? In this powerful reflection, Lucy Sixsmith revisits the experience of growing up in the Soul Survivor generation. From the euphoric highs of worship tents and passionate songs to the quiet reckoning of adulthood, Sixsmith traces her journey through the charismatic culture of Soul Survivor, a movement that promised transformation, belonging, and divine purpose. With clarity, compassion, and wit, she explores the longing for purpose, the dangers of power, and the cost of unquestioning faith. When the Music Fades offers a vital reckoning with the past, and a search for grace in what remains.

Smile Lines

Typeface

I'm working on a new typeface to be used for our Notice Sheet. I call it Baptismal Font.

Payment

Three boys were in the school playground, bragging about their fathers. The first boy said, "My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him £50.

The second boy said, "That's nothing. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100."

The third boy was not impressed. "Big deal. My dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.

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

Living Loving Learning.

