

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Get ready for God

EXODUS 12:1-14

God gives Moses specific instructions for the Israelites to prepare for the first Passover, protecting them from the plague that will kill every firstborn in Egypt. This is a day that they will remember and celebrate, forever.

The Israelites had to get ready for God to pass over Egypt and for the escape they were about to make. Today, we explore what it means to get ready for God to move in our lives.

Children in care facing ‘enormous challenges’, General Synod hears

The Church of England dioceses have been urged to examine how they might do more to help children in the care system, in a recent debate at the General Synod highlighting the

‘enormous challenges’ facing looked after children and care leavers

Members voted unanimously to back the appointment of a lead bishop to advocate for the more than 80,000 looked after children in England, care leavers and carers. They also called on the dioceses to examine how they might provide support to looked after children.

In the words of one speaker,

“A lead Bishop could amplify the far too often unheard and unseen children and young people and their families, could encourage good practice in dioceses, and ensure that care experienced young people are not overlooked in conversations about housing, education, safeguarding, mental health, and the criminal justice system.

“Most importantly, it would send a powerful message to young people and their families themselves: The Church sees you and values you. The Church is listening.”

Sunday 6th
September 2026
Trinity 14

FIRST READING

EXODUS 12:1-14

PSALM

PSALM 149

SECOND READING

ROMANS 13.8-14

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18.15-20

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

REBECCA LUMB

PSALM

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

SARAH TOWLER

SIDES PERSON

PAULINE CHESLETT &

LINDA FIRTH

Collect Trinity 14

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Ye holy angels bright

Gradual

The Kingdom of God

Offertory

Father hear the prayer we offer

Communion

Longing for light
As we are gathered

Recessional

All hail the power of
Jesus' name.

St Matthew - called just as he was

This month we remember Matthew's call to be an apostle of Jesus and ask what it means for us to follow Christ.

Jesus calls us where we are:

'Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.' (Matthew 9:9).

It was just an ordinary day at Matthew's tax booth, when Jesus called him. He simply got up and followed! Despite Matthew's past, his occupation and what people thought of him, Jesus still called him. Are we ready to follow when Jesus calls us into a relationship with Himself?

Jesus comes to where we are:

'While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' (10,11).

Jesus went to Matthew's home and ate with tax collectors and sinners, demonstrating that He meets people where they are, despite their sin and shame. The Pharisees avoided sinners, because they believed only the perfect could have access to God. When God is at work in the lives of those we don't expect, allow Jesus to open our hearts to embrace what He is doing.

Jesus comforts us where we are:

'On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.' (12).

Jesus came to save sinners and to give hope to the hopeless. The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God's heart of compassion.

However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God's love in action. In what ways can we express compassion towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?

Football ministry programme kicks off

Free football clubs for children will be launched in churches as part of a new outreach programme.

Thirty churches across the country will be supported to start free football sessions for children as community outreach, with a focus on those in low-income areas and estates.

The Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) will invest more than £320k to enable Ambassadors Football, a sports ministry charity, to facilitate the programme by training churches to coach accessible football activities.

Each session will be run by trained volunteers from the church and will include training drills and matches, as well as 'team talks' in breaktimes, and closing with a prayer.

The team talks will explore themes, such as teamwork or sacrifice, and how they relate to football, life and what Jesus said, as well as closing in prayer.

Several of England's football clubs reportedly started in churches, including Everton, Manchester City, Aston Villa and Tottenham Hotspurs.

This new programme builds on existing work by Ambassadors Football, through which 42 churches already run community football outreach projects, with an average attendance of 22 children.

Half of the projects are located in low-income areas, and 70% of the participants do not otherwise attend church.

Look Back Look Forward

August was relatively quiet, the calm before the storm because I always feel the busy time starts once the children go back to school. It has been a good time to reflect on a few things. BCP, Morning Prayer, Mid-Week Communion and Messy Church are all going well. We have decided to freshen up Bible Study and pause All Age. Bible Study will start again maybe on a Thursday before BCP. We may start All Age again, but we will also look at doing a family service during the week. Any other services you would like or ideas that you have please just let me know.

I had a holiday for 2 weeks in August and I want to thank The Wardens, Dave, Lesley and for anyone who filled in and did such a wonderful job. It always feels strange being off but it's great to know that everything is in good hands when I do.

Looking forward there is a lot happening. By the time you read this we will have given out gift bags for the families starting Christ Church School please keep families, children and staff in our prayers as they start this new year.

We would also have had Rushbearing and hope the Church would have been full and that you would have had a chance to take part in all that is going on. It is always good to see so many people having fun and also see the people we have not seen for a while.

The anniversary of the Bolton Brow disaster is this week and on Monday Anthea and I will be at a special service at the school. We will be doing more services at Bolton Brow School throughout the year.

Rev. Tommy

In your prayers this week....

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



This week's flowers are in memory of Barry Myers.

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

We do the works, but God works in us the doing of the works. - St Augustine of Hippo

He who labours as he prays, lifts up his heart to God with his hands. - St Bernard of Clairvaux

Instead of letting a mob of hoodlum tasks surround and trample me to death, I force them into a single file and handle them one at a time. - D Mallough

From the Parish Prayer list:

Pupils staff and Governors of Brow Primary Academy ; Nurseries and child-care providers; Church Bank; Church View; Claremont Street; Claremont Villas; Clay Street; Clement Street; Cleveleys Avenue; Cleveleys Garden

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Use natural light when you can to save energy. Sit by the window. Decorate your home in light colours to maximise natural light.

Blessed are those who start small, for taken all together, their impact will be great.



Cutbacks to the school budget had somewhat restricted after-school activities.

Next week

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
2026
TRINITY 15

FIRST READING

EXODUS 14:19-31

PSALM

PSALM 114

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14.1-12

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18.21-35

SERVERS

GRAHAM LAMB

PETER HENRY

FIRST READING

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

PSALM

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

SECOND READING

GRAHAM LAMB

INTERCESSIONS

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

ANGELA WILKINS & REBECCA LUMB

DIARY

Monday

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

Communion

1pm Craft and Chatter

Wednesday

Thursday

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



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.

Missed the Sermon? Listen Again

Did you know that each week, the sermon from our Sunday service is turned into a podcast? We take the video recording of the sermon from our Sunday service, convert it into an audio podcast, and make it available for you to listen to again — whether you missed church, want to hear the message again, or simply prefer listening while you're out and about.

You can find Sunday at Christ Church Sowerby Bridge on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music/Podcasts and YouTube — just search for:

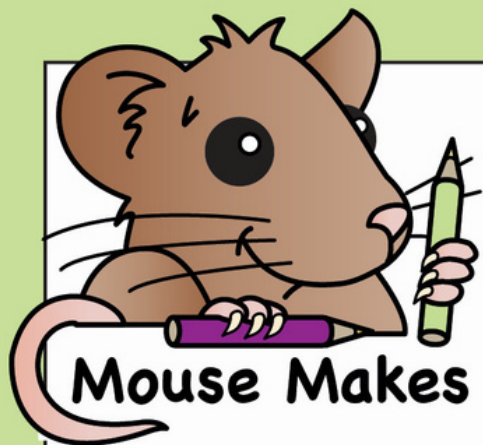
Sunday at Christ Church Sowerby Bridge

You can also find the latest episodes through the iKnow Church app.

One sermon. Lots of ways to listen. Wherever you are.

Thank you

To everyone for yesterdays help and support at this years rushbearing, we will bring you a final figure next week on how well we have done



Mouse Makes

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus ask us to do?

"Go and bear

John 15:16

What happens to the branches that do not remain in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

John 15:6



READ
John 15:1-17

How many times does Jesus use the word **FRUIT**?

What does Jesus command?

To one another.
John 15:12,17

How many times does Jesus command us to **LOVE** one another?

H T H R O W N A W A Y
I R A B I D E W I S B
D U F R U I T F U L U
N E R A J S I A M J R
C V U N F C U T V P N
L J I C W I T H E R S
E O T H O P J E S U S
A Y V W R L C R O N V
N G A R D E N E R E I
O S F J E S I S W S N
E R E M A I N F I R E

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY

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

TICKETS £7.00 ON THE DOOR OR ONLINE

★ www.christchurchsb.org.uk ★

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER CCSB 1131180; SMVC 517369



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www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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the QR code below



Auto generated captions
will appear once the
Service starts.



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1833

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Dementia, God and the Church: Journeying with hope

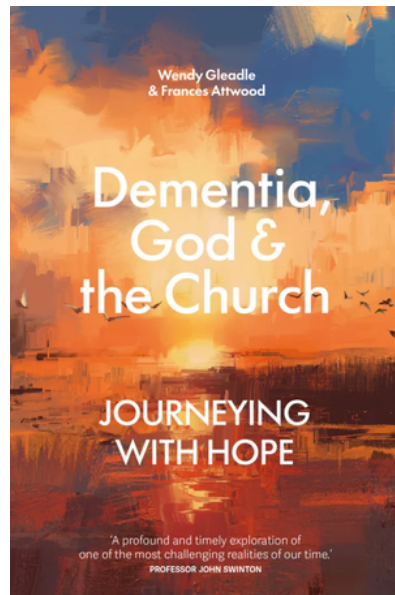
By Anita Cleverly, BRF, £9.99

Dementia is one of today's most feared health conditions, and Christians with the condition may also worry about losing their faith and their connection to God. However, there is still hope: those living with dementia can still find meaning in their life and their faith.

Written by two practitioners in this field, *Dementia, God and the Church* aims to show how person-centred approaches to dementia can provide hope.

Wendy Gleadle first examines the difficulties of maintaining religious beliefs as cognition declines, and the implications of this if faith is equally emotional as cognitive. She explores other forms of spiritual awareness, such as relationships, the arts and creativity.

Frances Attwood asks how churches can better support those living with dementia, through examining what they and their families and carers find helpful and want most. Throughout, space is given to first-hand stories of those with dementia, those working with them and those caring for them.



Smile Lines

Police

A young clergyman, fresh out of theological training, thought it would help him better understand the world if he served as a policeman for a while before taking on a congregation.

He studied hard and passed the exams; passed the physical; and then came the all-important final interview. One question was: "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?"

He promptly responded, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

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