

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Go with God

EXODUS 14:19-31

Having been permitted by Pharaoh to leave Egypt and led by God to the edge of the Red Sea, the Israelites are then pursued by the Egyptian army. Miraculously, God parts the water, enabling the Israelites to cross safely, and the Egyptian army is wiped out by the returning waters – a display of God's power and faithfulness.

Today's passages help us consider how we trust God's leading, even when it seems things aren't going to plan.

11th September - St Deiniol of Bangor, bringing disagreeing bishops together

St Deiniol was a 6th century monk of Wales who came to be the 'first bishop of Bangor'. And a mighty bishop he was, too: Deiniol founded the two monasteries of Bangor Fawr (on the Menai Straits) and Bangor Iscoed (Clwyd), which, according to Bede, became the most famous monastery of British Christianity and came to number over 2,000 monks.

Sadly, they were defeated at the battle of Chester by the pagan Aethelfrith, king of Northumbria. Deiniol is also remembered for his skill in getting disagreeing bishops to come and talk things over at a Synod... surely a skill which his 21st century successors have had to put to great use! He died about 584 AD.

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

Collect Trinity 15

Lord God, defend
your Church from all
false teaching and
give to your people
knowledge of your
truth, that we may
enjoy eternal life in
Jesus Christ our
Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Rejoice! the Lord is
King

Gradual

When I survey

Offertory

I cannot tell

Communion

How deep the
Father's Love
Seek ye first

Recessional

Jesus the name high
over all

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Daniel

This month we return to looking at Old Testament books. The book of Daniel describes his life in Babylon during the sixth century B.C., when he served both Babylonian and Persian rulers.

As a teenager, Daniel and his three friends were deported in 605 B.C. to Babylon, where he lived for over 70 years. They were trained as officials in King Nebuchadnezzar's court for three years. Their names and diets were changed to reflect Babylonian culture and take away their Jewish identity. However, Daniel and his friends showed the superiority of their Jewish diet and gained the favour of the king.

Chapters 1-6 are largely narrative, with Daniel and his friends (renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego) demonstrating that God is in control. The three friends refused to worship the pagan Babylonian gods and were thrown into a fiery furnace. However, they emerged unharmed because of God's miraculous protection. He also delivered Daniel from a den of lions when he refused to worship the Persian king Darius. Daniel also interpreted several visions and dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. The second half of the book (chaps.7-12) consists of a series of visions, which show that God is in control of history.

The book affirms that God is the sovereign ruler of the world and rewards His faithful servants, as expressed by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego: 'If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.' (Daniel 3: 17,18)

C of E welcomes Government consultation on RE in the National Curriculum

The Church of England has welcomed a recent announcement from the Government that they will consult this Autumn on the potential of RE becoming part of the National Curriculum, for the first time ever.

This is part of the implementation of the Curriculum and Assessment Review as outlined in the [Schools White Paper – Every Child Achieving and Thriving](#).

An Expert Advisory Group (involving both National Society for Education and Diocesan colleagues) was brought together earlier in the year to work collectively on these recommendations to the Secretary of State.

The group's work has outlined the core legislative requirements needed to both ensure that the current arrangements for church schools are preserved, and that high-quality programmes of study can be made available through the proposed National Curriculum.

The Rt Revd Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth said: "As Chair of the National Society for Education, I fully welcome this government consultation on RE moving into the National Curriculum.

"This both elevates the importance of the subject as integral to the flourishing of every child in our nation and also preserves long-standing arrangements for church schools which make up a third of the state sector.

The Church of England will respond to the consultation in the Autumn, and the National Society for Education will work closely with its Diocesan partners to further embed the excellent practice in teaching, leadership and curriculum design across its schools.

The Christ Church Virtual Balloon Race

We have run balloon races for a couple of years now and they are always fantastic fun. This year we are embarking on an exciting new journey with balloonlaunch.co.uk, a bespoke virtual racing platform built from scratch right here by one of our own congregation members.

Following conversations about wanting a more interactive race, this new system was created to use real-world atmospheric and wind data. Once released, digital balloons follow true to life drift patterns across the globe, just like the classic releases of old, but completely eco-friendly with zero plastic litter.

Because this is the very first race running on this brand new system, we are proud to support an innovative local venture while raising vital funds for church upkeep. As a pilot event, we also want to provide him with helpful feedback, so please let us know how you find the experience of buying, designing, and tracking your balloons.

There is a £30 prize for the furthest balloon, alongside plenty of bragging rights for best design!
How to get your balloon (£4 each)

Design online: Visit balloonlaunch.co.uk/race/ccsb2026 to customize your balloon with colours, fun accessories, or even upload your own photos.

Scan your own designs: Pick up a paper template sheet at the back of church to paint, colour, or shade by hand. You can scan and upload your finished artwork directly through the website, or bring it to church so your custom creation flies live on the race map.

In person: Pop over to the sound desk after the service to purchase your entry with cash or get help registering.

Will your balloon soar high over the Norwegian fjords or find itself trapped in a stubborn weather pattern over Leeds Bradford Airport? Buy yours before Sunday 27th September to join the race!

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 Mollie Wallace.

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

The humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than a deep search after learning. - Thomas a Kempis

The kingdom of God is not for the well-meaning, but for the desperate. - J Denney

How many Christians live their lives packed up and ready to go?
- J I Packer

Confessing your sins is no substitute for forsaking them. - Anon

From the Parish Prayer list:

Fr. Larkin and Congregation of St. Patricks Catholic Church; Industrial Road; John Street West; Ladstone Towers; Langton Street; Laurel Mount; Leigh Street; Lime Tree Court; Linden Place

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Use a bowl: in the sink when washing dishes, fruit, or vegetables to collect water, which can then be reused for plants

Alternatively- Steam vegetables: instead of boiling them to save water and retain more nutrients.

Blessed are those who remember how God looks at the world after each day of Creation and sees that it is good, very good.



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Next week

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER
2026
TRINITY 16

FIRST READING

EXODUS 16:2-15

PSALM

PSALM 105:1-6,37-45

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 1.21-30

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 20.1-16

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

ANTHEA GEE

FIRST READING

CATHERINE PRIESTLEY

PSALM

RICHARD SMITH

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

PAUL HEALEY

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL& JENNIFER INGALL

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

Communion

Wednesday

Thursday

11am Mothers Union

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

7.30pm Steeton Male Voice
Choir

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Mothers' Union – Everyone Welcome

Our next Mothers' Union meeting is this Thursday at 11.00am in church, and there is a warm invitation for everyone to come along – you don't need to be a Mothers' Union member.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Corinne McDonald, who will be giving a fascinating talk about local hospitals during the First World War.

If you're interested in local history, or would simply like to come and listen, you'll be very welcome to join us.

Rushbearing

Last Saturday we raised **£1,581.10**. Thank you to everyone who gave prizes, time or supported in anyway

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

Steeton Male Voice Choir – Saturday 19 September

Last Night of the Proms - Saturday 17 October

Advent Fair – Saturday 28 November

Peoples Emergency Briefing

An opportunity to watch and discuss a film by national experts about the risks to communities like ours from the climate and nature crisis.

In November 2025, 10 leading UK scientists and experts gave a National Emergency Briefing to MPs and civic leaders at Westminster. They outlined the dangers the UK faces from the climate and nature breakdown.

The People's Briefing is a 45 minute film designed for public viewing and is our chance to hear this evidence in an accessible and supportive context. At a time of increasing misinformation, it powerfully outlines the risks this emergency poses to communities like ours - from food insecurity to health impacts and extreme weather events. After the film, there will be a facilitated discussion to give space to process what we have watched.

Local screenings like this are being organised throughout the country. Join us at this local level to be part of a national discussion.

Friday 25th September, 7-9pm at Orange Box in town. Link here for tickets

https://bit.ly/peb_halifax

Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Refreshments available.

Please note the film is recommended for people aged 16 years and over.

Entrance to the Orange Box is on Westgate near the Piece Hall gate.

This is a free event and we want to reach as many people as possible. If you find you are unable to attend after all please make sure to cancel your booking so your ticket can be used by someone else.

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r	e	h	d	i	r	b	u	h	l	o	v	n
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allowed

healed

harvesting

sheep

kindness

plans

question

wheat

disciples

Sabbath

break

people

rules

trick

Jesus

priests

crippled

bread

Pharisees

David

picked

hand

worth

laws

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 ★

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www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1833

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Enabling Spiritual Care: A guide for care home staff

**by Debbie Thrower, Sally Rees, Catriona Foster,
Julia Burton-Jones, BRF, £9.99**

Drawing from expertise developed through Anna Chaplaincy, this book enables members of care home staff teams to understand and facilitate the provision of spiritual care for residents. It explains the need for religious care, focusing on older people who are Christians, and provides examples of prayers, hymns, and services that can be used.

There are chapters on facilitating worship with groups and individuals, offering end-of-life spiritual care and supporting those who are unable to attend a funeral. There are also sections on self-care and attending to your own spiritual needs. This book focuses on spiritual care from a Christian perspective, but all faiths and belief systems are respected.

Smile Lines

Creation

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So, they picked one scientist to go and tell Him so. The scientist walked up to God and said, "God, we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things by ourselves."

God listened very patiently and then replied: "Very well, how about this? Let's say we have a man-making contest. We're going to do this just like I did, back in the old days with Adam."

The scientist said, "Sure, no problem" and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt.

God looked at him and said, "No, no, no. You go get your own dirt!"

Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.

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

Living Loving Learning.

