

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Enough!

EXODUS 16:2-15

The Israelites have escaped Egypt and are being led by God in the desert. They are hungry and complain against Moses and Aaron, saying they were better off as Pharaoh's slaves. God hears their complaints and provides manna and quail, with specific instructions to ensure everyone has enough, testing the Israelites' trust in God for their survival.

Today's passages demonstrate that God is a generous provider, even if God's provision isn't always in the way we would expect or choose. How can we learn to trust in God for enough and ensure God's provision is shared fairly?

21st September - St Matthew

St Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

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

Collect Trinity 16

Lord of creation,
whose glory is
around and within
us: open our eyes to
your wonders, that
we may serve you
with reverence and
know your peace at
our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Fight the good fight

Gradual

Lead us heavenly

Father

Offertory

The kingdom of God

Communion

All I once held dear

Amazing grace

Recessional

Lord for the years

Reflected Faith Series - The Peac

Last time we reflected on the time of
'Intercessions' within our service. This month,
we consider what comes next.

In a Common Worship Communion service,
the 'Peace' comes straight after the
Intercessions. There is no such thing with a
Book of Common Prayer (BCP) service.

A time of sharing 'The Peace' is not restricted
to Communion services, but may take place
in other services also.

It does not have to follow the Intercessions,
but instead could also be held towards the
start or end of the service.

Where you place 'the Peace' is significant:
having it at the beginning emphasises the
community coming together, whilst towards
the end of the service might be to emphasise
the importance of being together that
encourages and enables us to take God with
us into our everyday lives.

But why have it at all? Haven't we all come
together to this service to worship the same
God? To be together with others who think
and believe as we do?

Hopefully yes, but sometimes we just need a
visible sign of that very unity and a reminder
that we are a part of this community where
we are, as well as a part of the wider church
across the world.

It is so easy to forget this. To just go on repeat
and not be conscious of this enormous
honour that we have to 'meet together in His
presence'.

'Sharing the peace' - however we do that –
with one another is a demonstrative act of
community. Everyone is included.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you –
And also with you.

This month

Where is 'The Peace' placed within your
service and what do you think is the reason
for that? Does making a physical connection –
however you do that – with those around you
make a difference to your thinking about
'community'?

Matthew and Me (Matthew 9:9-13)

Here I am,
As I am,
As I have been,
Known.

And You see and You call,
Understanding all the tangles
And the turmoil,
Up to speed with all the details,
Still, You call me

To wholeness.
Lifted by Your word
I will obey,
I will follow You
Along the Kingdom path
To another rising.

By Daphne Kitching

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 Sidney Turner and Gordon Howell.

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

I am too blessed to be stressed! - Anon

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. - Anon

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. - Anon

From the Parish Prayer list:

Street Angels; Pub's and clubs within the Parish; Pye Nest Road; Recreation Road; Regent Parade; Regent Place; Rochdale Road; Rose Grove; Rose Grove Lane; Rose Hill

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Check for leaks: Regularly inspect your toilet and faucets for leaks, which can waste a lot of water.

Use the toilet wisely: Avoid flushing items like wet wipes and only flush when necessary.

Blessed are those who look upon the world with God's loving eyes and seek to protect it, nourish it, and enable it to flourish.



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Next week

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

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

Communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

Wednesday

Thursday

5.30pm Bible Study

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

7pm Peoples Emergency

Briefing - The Orange Box

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Tombola and Raffle

Thank you so much for your donations towards the Tombola and Raffle at our recent events. 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 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.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

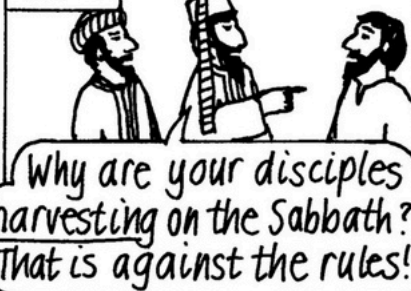
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11

The Pharisees watched Jesus to see if he broke any of God's laws, or the rules they had made up to stop the laws being broken.

Jesus' disciples were hungry so they picked some wheat from a field as they walked.



The Pharisees said to Jesus



But King David broke the rules when he ate the bread that was only for the priests*



And priests are allowed to work in the temple on the Sabbath*



Don't you understand when God says 'keeping rules doesn't make up for not having kindness'?*



If you understood, you would know my disciples did nothing wrong.



The Pharisees followed Jesus to the meeting place



The Pharisees wanted to accuse Jesus of breaking rules, so they asked him a trick question.



If your sheep fell into a ditch on the Sabbath you would lift it out.



People are worth far more than sheep, so it is right to do good on the Sabbath



Hold out your hand.



The Pharisees left and made plans.





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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Join our network
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Once connected scan
the QR code below



Auto generated captions
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Service starts.



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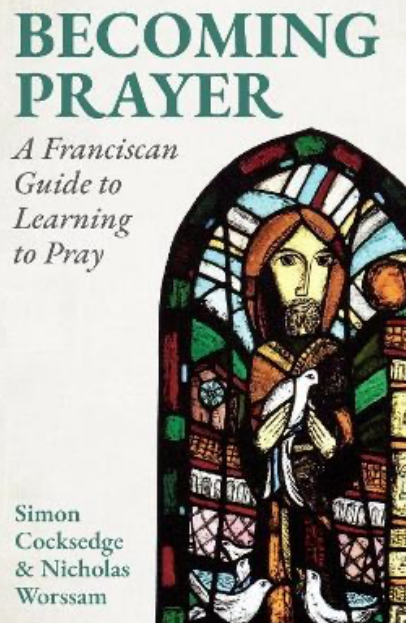
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Becoming Prayer - a Franciscan Guide

**By Simon Cocksedge, Nicholas Alan Worssam, ssf,
Canterbury Press, £13.99**

Inspired by a vivid account of St Francis – where he didn't merely pray but became prayer – *Becoming Prayer* introduces readers to the heart of Franciscan spirituality. Drawing on the enduring wisdom of Francis, Clare and generations of Franciscans, including voices like Richard Rohr and Ilia Delio, it offers a rich and accessible introduction to prayer as a way of life. From moments of thanksgiving and praise to silent contemplation, readers will learn how Franciscans aim to pray not just in church, but in every moment.

Simon Cocksedge and Nicholas Alan Worssam explore communal practices such as the Daily Office and Eucharist, and delve into prayer rooted in Scripture – through the Passion, the Stations of the Cross, and the Rosary. They also embrace the stillness of solitude: night time reflection, silence and the Jesus Prayer. Rooted in a tradition that speaks powerfully to today's world, and published in a milestone year for Franciscans globally, this is an invitation to an ancient yet ever-renewing journey of prayer.



Smile Lines

Crafts

A class of schoolchildren were asked, "Are there any crafts in the Bible?" to which one lad put his hand up and said, "The parable of the sewer?"

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