

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Sunday 25th
October

Last after Trinity

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

PSALM

PSALM 90:1-6,13-17

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 2.1-8

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22.34-46

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

DAVE TOWLER

PSALM

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER

INGALL

Living legacy

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

Moses comes to the end of his life. He sees the Promised Land, but he will not enter it. It is time to hand over the next stage of the Israelites' journey to Joshua. Moses is remembered for being an amazing prophet of God.

Today, we consider what it means to leave a legacy and how our actions might be impacted now if we think about the importance of the future.

The UN and EU warn against rising religious persecution

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has condemned the growing persecution of people because of their religious beliefs, warning that attacks on places of worship, religious festivals and minority communities are increasing worldwide.

"Such acts are an assault on human rights and human dignity. They must end now," he said.

Mr Guterres called on governments to bring offenders to justice, religious leaders to speak out against violence, and technology companies to tackle online hatred and discrimination.

Meanwhile, the European Union Council has warned that two-thirds of the world's population faces serious threats to religious freedom, despite protections established by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The EU is supporting initiatives across Europe, Asia and Africa to combat religious discrimination and encourage peaceful coexistence between different faiths.

In France alone, 2025 saw 843 reported anti-Christian incidents and 1,646 anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim incidents, alongside a fourfold increase in attacks against Christian clergy and Church representatives.

Both the UN and EU emphasise that everyone, regardless of their faith or beliefs, deserves to live and worship without fear, discrimination or violence. Religious freedom, tolerance and mutual respect must become the norm, not the exception.x

Collect Last after Trinity

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

Come down O love divine

Gradual

Let all the world

Offertory

Thou whose almighty word

Communion

Make me a channel of your peace
Will you come and follow

Recessional

Lord for the years

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Minor Prophetsx

The Minor Prophets are 'minor' not because they lack importance, but due to their length. The 12 prophets, Hosea through Malachi, make up the last books of the Old Testament, and were written from around 770 BC (Jonah) until 433 BC (Malachi).

The prophets fall into 3 time-periods:

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah and Nahum = Assyrian period

Habakkuk and Zephaniah = Babylonian period

Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi = Post-exilic period.

Hosea and Amos spoke to Israel (Northern Kingdom), calling the people to acknowledge their sin and return to God. Joel and Micah addressed Judah (Southern Kingdom), including prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and the church. Habakkuk and Zephaniah spoke to Judah shortly before they were taken into exile into Babylon. Obadiah spoke God's judgment against the Edomites, while Jonah and Nahum both spoke against Assyria and their capital city of Ninevah.

Following the people's return from exile, Haggai exhorted the people not to neglect rebuilding the Temple. Zechariah encouraged them with the promise of the future glory of Zion and of its shepherd king, while Malachi reminded them that if he is rejected, God would judge His people.

The minor prophets remind us that God cared not just for the Jews, but also for the Edomites, Assyrians, Egyptians and all of His creation. For Christians today the challenge remains to take the message of God's grace to all nations in the power of the Holy Spirit:

'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.' (Joel 2:28, 29)

Light Parties - a happier alternative to Halloween

While many of us may buy Halloween-themed confectionary, pumpkins, decorations and even costumes this month, thousands of us have no intention of celebrating Halloween.

Instead, we will be attending Light Parties hosted by our local churches, and our children will enjoy a positive and upbeat alternative to traditional Halloween celebrations.

Scripture Union, the Christian charity that first pioneered Light Parties, reports that around 8,000 churches and youth organisations now request their Light Party Pack each year.

And churches of all the major denominations are in full and active support. The C of E often sets up localised search engines on its website, specifically to help families track down local 'light and bright parties' in their dioceses.

Meanwhile, Methodist, Baptist, and Elim Pentecostal churches also offer Light Parties, to which all are welcome.

Just for the record, a Light Party is a family-friendly Christian event held on 31st October. Instead of featuring ghosts, ghouls and darkness, it celebrates the themes of light and hope in Jesus Christ. Children dress up in bright, colourful outfits, enjoy games such as glow-in-the-dark, eat party snacks and enjoy themselves without any element of fear or oppression. The organisers usually close with a simple, positive message of faith and light.

Future dates for your diary

Sunday
8 November

Remembrance Day



Thursday
26 November

Service of Light and Hope



Saturday
28 November

Advent Fair



Saturday
5 December

**Seth Mcnamee
as Michael Bublé**



Saturday
12 December

Live Nativity

at St. Paul's Methodist Church



Thursday
17 December

Nine Lessons and Carols



Saturday
19 December

Carol singing

at Tesco Sowerby Bridge



Saturday
19 December

Christingle making



Sunday
20 December

Christingle service



Thursday
24 December

Blessing of the Crib, 1.00pm



Thursday
24 December

Midnight Communion, 11.30pm



Friday
25 December

Christmas morning service



Christ Church
Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1821

In your prayers this week....

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



This week's flowers are in memory of This week's flowers are for Nicolas, William and Tony Hornby.

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

Monarchs have their times and their turns, their rises and their ruin. - John Trapp

Deeds are fruit, words are leaves. - Anon

Progress is a tide. If we stand still, we will surely be drowned.
- H Mayfield

From the Parish Prayer list:

Our Country and the world; Current
News items; Villa Street; Wakefield Road;
Walker Lane; Wallis Street; Washer Lane;
Water Street; Watson Bridge

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The 3 'R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - are all about minimising the amount of waste we produce, reusing products as much as we can, and remembering to recycle any materials that can be used for a new purpose.

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



©ANDY ROBB

Next week

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
ALL SAINTS DAY

FIRST READING

REVELATION 7.9-17

PSALM

PSALM 34.1-10

SECOND READING

1 JOHN 3.1-3

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5.1-12

SERVERS

DAVE GILL

GRAHAM LAMB

FIRST READING

DAVE CALLIGHAN

PSALM

PAUL HEALEY

SECOND READING

DAVE GILL

INTERCESSIONS

PETER HENRY

SIDES PERSON

JACKIE GILL & JANET
TURNER

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

Communion

1pm Craft & Chatter

8pm Compline

Wednesday

Thursday

5.30pm Prayer meeting

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

9am-3pm First Aid Training

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Christ Church, CE (VA) Primary School

We are so proud of our Church children who have secured places in the following groups at school:
Worship Team and Eco Council

Look out Revd Tommy and Anthea – who knows what the Worship Team will suggest!!!!

A Service of Light and Hope

Thursday 26th November

Grief has no timetable, and the love we hold for those we have lost never fades.

On Thursday 26th November, we invite you to join us for our Service of Light and Hope, a gentle and reflective occasion offering comfort, peace and an opportunity to remember those who are no longer with us.

This service is for everyone who has experienced the loss of someone they love, whether that bereavement was recent, a year ago, or many years ago. We recognise that grief stays with us in different ways, and that certain moments can bring memories and emotions to the surface.

Through prayer, reflection and moments of quiet, we will come together to remember, give thanks and find hope in the midst of sadness.

Everyone is welcome. You do not have to face the journey of remembrance alone.

A Winning Day for Our Guides!

St Paul's was buzzing with excitement last Saturday as 140 Guides, Brownies and Rainbows gathered for the Sowerby Division Challenge Day.

With Science as this year's theme, each group tackled six or seven different activities, enjoying an afternoon of discovery, teamwork and fun.

We are especially proud that our Guides won the shield for their section! What a fantastic achievement and a wonderful reason to celebrate! Please join us in congratulating them on their success.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Christmas Angels

Please could you consider thinking about starting to knit your Christmas Angels. In the past these have been very much appreciated by members of the public - we give them out during the Carol singing at Tesco and possibly also during a Community Carol sing on the Sowerby Bridge square. Patterns available at the back of Church.



To St Luke, we owe a beautifully written gospel as well as the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician and faithful travelling companion to St Paul. Under house arrest near the end of his life Paul noted, ‘only Luke is with me’. Luke’s gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ, and offers us moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. Women figure more prominently in Luke’s gospel than in any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner. His gospel also features more poor people, more lepers, more ‘sinners’, who are all shown to be ‘inside’ the love of Christ. In Acts, Luke skilfully links sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. He tells of how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke	Acts	Paul	Good	Sinners
Feast	Greek	Compassion	Samaritan	Jerusalem
Day	Physician	Parables	Women	Pagan
Written	Travelling	Prodigal	Poor	Rome
Gospel	Faithful	Son	Lepers	Early Christians



Christ Church

JOIN US AT OUR

Candle Lit CHURCH

FOR A SPECTACULAR
FESTIVE EVENING
OF

MICHAEL BUBLÉ

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Seth AS
Bubl 

AN UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT OF SMOOTH VOCALS,
SWING, CLASSIC HITS AND FESTIVE FAVOURITES
IN THE BEAUTIFUL, CANDLE LIT SETTING
OF CHRIST CHURCH.

SAT 5TH DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM | SHOW STARTS AT 7PM

ADULTS

£10

CHILDREN

£5

FAMILY

£25



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www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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Once connected scan
the QR code below



Auto generated captions
will appear once the
Service starts.



Christ Church

Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1833

Nine Days with St Francis of Assisi

By Sr Janet Fearn FMDM, Redemptorist

Publications, £3.95

On 4th October, we mark 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. So, this month is a good time to recall the man, with all his hopes and dreams, successes and failures. He made mistakes, but he never stopped looking for God and trying to be good. He walked through woodland, singing and playing a make-believe violin – and inspired people to live the Gospel message in poverty, humility, simplicity and joy. Towards the end of his life, blind and in constant pain, Francis praised God in The Canticum of the Creatures. He showed us that we don't need to be big and important to be loved by God.

Smile Lines

Stories

As part of his talk at a banquet, the vicar told some jokes and a few funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at a meeting the next day, he asked reporters covering the event not to include them in their articles. Reading the paper the following morning, he noticed that one well-meaning cub reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation: "The vicar told a number of stories that cannot be published."

Accident

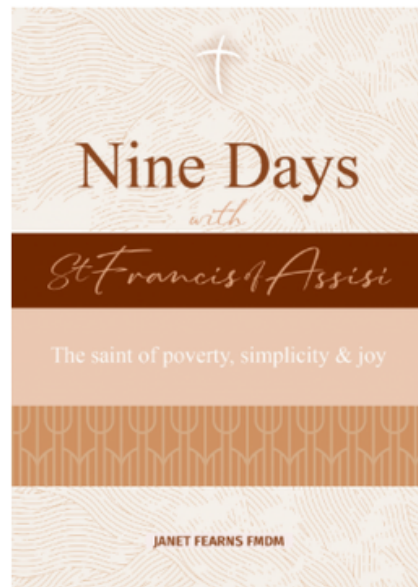
As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray."

From the back seat I heard his earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

Ordinary people Sharing God's love in our world.

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

Living Loving Learning.



Rev. Tommy Daglish

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