

CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



In God's presence

EXODUS 33:12-23

Moses asks God to help him lead the Israelites, and God reminds Moses that God's presence goes with him. Moses then encounters God in a new way – he goes to the mountain and is hidden while God passes by. Moses doesn't see God fully, but catches a glimpse of God's glory.

This week, we will examine the times and places where we might experience God's presence and consider how we can create more space and awareness in our lives to know God more fully.

Aid workers in need of more protection

One thousand aid workers have been killed in the past three years, caught up in various global conflicts.

So reports the Christian relief charity, World Vision. It is calling for stronger protection of humanitarian workers, independent investigations, accountability, and consequences for attacks on humanitarian workers, healthcare facilities, and other civilian infrastructure.

World Vision also wants the humanitarian consequences of drones and other emerging military technologies to be addressed.

World Vision says: "When aid workers are attacked or blocked from reaching people in need, children are left waiting for food, medicine, and protection that may never come. Too often those risking their lives to help are local people and members of the very communities caught in the conflict."

Sunday 18th
October
Trinity 20

FIRST READING

EXODUS 33:12-23

PSALM

PSALM 99

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 1.1-10

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22.15-22

SERVERS

ANTHEA GEE

DAVE GILL

FIRST READING

REBECCA LUMB

PSALM

HELEN PEDLEY

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

TBC

SIDES PERSON

JANET TURNER & JANE MUNDY

Collect Trinity 20

God, our light and
our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see
your goodness in the
land of the living,
and looking on your
beauty may be
changed into the
likeness of Jesus
Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional

We have a gospel to
proclaim

Gradual

To God be the glory

Offertory

Who would true
valour see

Communion

Abba, Father
Be still for the
presence

Recessional

All my hope on God is
founded

St Luke the Evangelist, linking the sacred and the profane

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully
written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts.
He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St
Paul, a companion on some of his missionary
journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of
Christ. His gospel contains some of the most
moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan
and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on
poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up
much of his appeal to the Gentles, for whom
he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's
gospel than any other: look out for the
extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories
of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a
sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good as linking
sacred and profane history, as subsequent
archaeology has shown. A principal theme of
his Acts is how the early Christians moved
away from Jerusalem into the pagan world,
and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons
and artists (due to his picturesque style of
writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes
explained by reference to the sacrifice in the
Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In
England 28 ancient churches were dedicated
to him.

Aberfan - 60 years on

On 21st October 1966 the Aberfan disaster
took place in South Wales. A colliery slag
heap collapsed, releasing a torrent of slurry
onto the village. It engulfed a number of
houses and Pantglas Junior School, killing
116 children and 28 adults. It was a disaster
that shocked the nation. As we reflect on it
today, we are left asking the question, 'where
was God when this happened?'

At the time there was a mixture of strong
emotions: grief and sadness over the loss of
those who had died, and anger against the
Coal Board in allowing the disaster. However,
people gave their energy to support each
another. A local Baptist Minister, Revd
Kenneth Hayes, who lost his eldest son at the
school, responded in this way: 'For 36 hours
he was working non-stop either at the school,
or going around comforting bereaved and
stricken families and kept open house for
many who came seeking news and comfort.'

How should we respond to such an incident?
'Who shall separate us from the love of
Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or
persecution or famine or nakedness or
danger or sword?' (Romans 8:35). Paul
reminds us that even in our darkest times of
loss, God is with us to bring comfort. 'Christ
Jesus who died – more than that, who was
raised to life – is at the right hand of God and
is also interceding for us.' (34). Paul also tells
us that Jesus understands our suffering and is
praying for us. 'If God is for us, who can be
against us?' (31). We can let go of bitterness
and blame, because God is a God of justice.

King Charles III (then Prince of Wales) on the
50th anniversary summed up the
community's response: 'darkest sorrow, but
also the most shining selflessness.'

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; Vanessa Starsmore;
Victor Smyth; Kelly Swift



This week's flowers are in memory of Margaret Boyd

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

Prayer is often conceived to be little more than a technique for self-advancement, a heavenly method for achieving earthly success. - A W Tozer

Some men will spin out a long prayer telling God who and what He is, or they pray out a whole system of divinity. Some people preach till everybody wishes they would stop, and God wishes so, too, most undoubtedly. - Charles Finney

From the Parish Prayer list:

For the work of the Mothers Union and our own branch; Oxford Street; Park Crescent; Park Drive; Park Gardens; Park Road; Park Street; Park View; Park Villas.

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Don't Throw Wearable Clothes Away

The UK produces around 1 million tonnes of textile waste per year. Once in a landfill, they can take hundreds of years to decompose and release greenhouse gases (GHG).

You can make easy alterations and repairs to your clothing to keep them longer or adjust to current trends. Vintage and second-hand outlets will offer more affordable alternative options, often based on the same clothing items.

If you want some new clothing, be sure it's of good quality and lasts a long time. You can also research sustainable brands that limit the impact of production and are transparent about their supply chains.



Next week

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

HELEN PEDLEY

PSALM

DAVE CALLIGHAN

SECOND READING

ANTHEA GEE

INTERCESSIONS

ALYSSA CALLIGHAN

SIDES PERSON

DARRELL & JENNIFER
INGALL

DIARY

Monday

10.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday

10.00am Coffee Morning

11.30am Mid week

Communion

8pm Compline

Wednesday

Thursday

3.30pm Messy Church

5.30pm Bible Study

6.30pm BCP Evening prayer

Friday

Saturday

10:00am Coffee Morning

Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion



Harvest

Thank you for your donations towards Happy Days and toilet twinning at our Harvest service last week. Christ Church School also held their Harvest service in Church on Thursday and donated items to Happy Days. The children were fantastic in their singing and speaking.

Emergency First Aid training

This will take place on Saturday 31 October, 9.00-3.30. There are a couple of places left if you feel this is something you would like to take part in. Please see Anthea or Richard for further details.

Christmas Angels

I know it's only just the beginning of October, but 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.

a	j	e	s	u	s	z	y	y	x	e	l
m	t	v	f	o	l	l	o	w	l	j	w
o	s	e	r	v	a	n	t	i	t	t	e
u	t	r	i	b	l	j	h	n	f	q	p
n	o	y	e	a	l	w	a	y	s	k	y
t	r	t	n	d	j	w	g	t	f	c	c
r	y	h	d	r	a	n	k	r	r	h	h
e	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	a	a
a	m	n	c	t	d	d	t	t	l	r	s
d	z	g	t	o	o	s	v	u	o	g	e
y	g	u	o	o	a	w	a	r	n	e	d
o	p	g	f	m	q	t	w	n	g	c	s

want
return
drank
master
story
good
food
putting

warned
disciples
always
follow
while
friends
everything
amount

long
Jesus
ate
ready
chased
servant
bad
charge

‘He gave us eyes to see them’ - the choir stall

‘Let all the world in ev’ry corner sing My God and King.’ George Herbert’s poem from ‘The Temple’ tells us that ‘the church with psalms must shout. No door can keep them out.’ It is a reminder of the rich tradition of music in our worship that reaches back to the people of the Old Testament praising the Lord. 2 Chronicles 5 paints a vivid picture of musicians and singers gathered to welcome the Ark of the Lord to Solomon’s Temple.

Because music is such an important part of worship, churches have set aside places for the singers to offer praise and petition. Some of the most wonderful choir stalls in the land can be found in Lancaster Priory, the parish church of St Mary. They are 14 in total, the third oldest choir stalls in England dating back to the 14th century. John Ruskin called them the finest in the country. The canopies are richly decorated with foliage and carved heads, and they enclose tapestries from the 1970s that depict saints and shields. Beneath are the seats: misericords with carvings that have survived the vandalism of the Civil War.

We can imagine the medieval monks gathered in these stalls to sing the offices. Today the stalls are a resplendent, harmonious blend of the old and the new – a work of beauty for the eye, just as the music offered there is a work of beauty for the ear. The word ‘choir’ means a dance to God, and the Priory has a fine choir whose chants and hymns dance from side to side of the chancel and resound in the air.

But the music sung there is not just for our enjoyment: its focus is God. Herbert tells us that the songs we create here in our churches on earth have no other destination but the courts of heaven.

Do the Bible and Science contradict each other?

For the Christian, the Bible is God’s Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God’s creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: ‘What size is it?’, ‘How fast does it travel?’, ‘What is it made of?’, and so on. Questions like ‘What’s it for?’, ‘What should I do with it?’, and ‘What’s it worth?’ can’t be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It’s also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren’t intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn’t happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God’s character. If we want to understand God’s intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.



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Christ Church

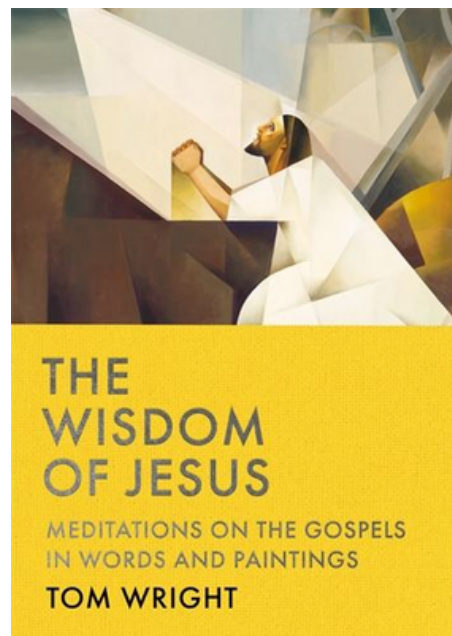
Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1831

The Wisdom of Jesus - Meditations on the Gospels in Words and Paintings

By Tom Wright, Lion Books, £13.99

For 2000 years, people have returned to the words of Jesus for wisdom, comfort, challenge, and hope. His teachings continue to shape lives, cultures, and communities across the world.

Here the renowned theologian, Tom Wright, brings together some of Christ's most profound and memorable sayings, offering insightful commentary that reveals their enduring depth, beauty and relevance for modern life. From happiness and prayer to love, God, and the meaning of true wisdom, these teachings invite readers to see the world – and themselves – in a new light.



Smile Lines

Shampoo

Why I didn't realise this sooner? It's the shampoo I use in the shower that is my problem. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning: 'FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY.' No wonder I have been gaining weight.

The cow and the Bible

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "It's not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."

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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