CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Whole life worth-ship

REVELATION 7.9-17

John has a vision of a heavenly place that shows many people worshipping God. There are people from every nation, tribe, people group and language, and they worship day and night.

Today, we are thinking about what it means to be people who worship by giving worth to God in the whole of our lives.

1st November - The First Martyrs, the 'seed' of the Christian Church

The First Martyrs of Rome are recorded in the old Roman Martyrology, which states that:

'At Rome, the birthday is celebrated of very many martyrs, who under the Emperor Nero were falsely charged with the burning of the city and by him were ordered to be slain by various kinds of cruel death; some were covered with the skin of wild beasts, and cast to the dogs to be torn asunder; others were crucified, and then when daylight failed used as torches to illuminate the night. All these were disciples of the apostles and the first fruits of the martyrs whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the apostles' death.'

All Souls Service - A Time to Remember

TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER AT 6.30PM

We warmly invite you to join us for our All Souls Service, a peaceful and reflective time to remember those we have loved and lost.
Through prayer and reflection, we will give thanks for the lives of those who have touched our hearts and find comfort in God's everlasting love.
Whether your loss is recent or many years ago, you are welcome to come, remember and share in this special service of hope and remembrance.

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

Collect All Saints Day

God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age: as we rejoice in the faith of your saints, inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional
Rejoice the Lord is King
Gradual
Lord thy word abideth
Offertory
We have a gospel to proclaim
Communion
Bind us together Lord
Broken for me
Recessional
For all the saints

1st November - All Saints' Day, the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before.

This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection.

The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians. Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love,
And made converse and walk with thee,
And with thy saints here and above,
With whom for ever I must be…
As for my friends, they are not lost;
The several vessels of thy fleet,
Though parted now, by tempests tost,
Shall safely in thy haven meet….
The heavenly hosts, world without end,
Shall be my company above;
And thou, my best and surest Friend,
Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints – a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

*(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.

What are you built on?

"Lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left…" Isaiah 54: 2, 3

How strong and flexible are you, as a person? Did you know that the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco can move up to 20 feet in either direction as its centre? It's built to sway – to absorb and accommodate vast daily stresses and heat. But it always comes back to its true centre, because it is built on a vast system of steel and concrete that sinks down, down into a solid rock foundation far below in the Pacific.

Each of us needs to be anchored like that – onto a sure foundation. Without it, we will be at the mercy of the storms and strong tides of life. Burdens and flying debris from other people's lives will knock us off balance.

That foundation for us is Jesus. How is your relationship with Him? Is it solid? Is it deep enough to hold you steady on your course as 2026 draws to a close? Jesus urges us to 'abide' in Him. It takes time to get to know Him. The Bible is His message to us; prayer is our message back to Him, and more: for if we draw close to Him, He promises to draw close to us, too.

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 in memory of Willie Bottomley.

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 have met only one perfect man, and he was a perfect nuisance! - CH Spurgeon

If you fall, don't give up, get up! - Anon

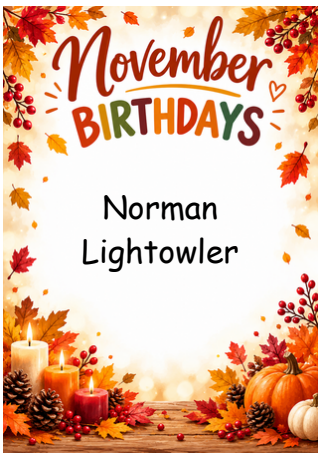
The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won't. - Henry Ward Beecher

From the Parish Prayer list:
For the Church of England; Our Archbishops and Overseas Links; For the shops and businesses within the parish; Areas outside the Parish, where members of our congregation live, including; Brighouse, Cragg Vale, Elland, Greetland, Holmfield, Illingworth, King Cross, Norland, Norton Tower, Northowram, Pellon, Pye Nest, Rishworth, Sowerby, Triangle, Warley, Wheatley



Recycling

1. Check you know what can be recycled in your area -if you're not sure check the council website.
2. Set up simple systems in your home to make it easy to recycle. Where do you need a paper and card recycling bin, what about a compost bucket?





The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance

Next week

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

FIRST READING
AMOS 5:18-24
PSALM
PSALM 70
SECOND READING
1 THESSALONIANS 4.13-18
GOSPEL
MATTHEW 25.1-13

SERVERS
PETER HENRY
DAVE GILL
FIRST READING
GLENIS MCCARTHY
PSALM
PAUL HEALEY
SECOND READING
PETER HENRY
INTERCESSIONS
ALYSSA CALLIGHAN
SIDES PERSON
THE CHURCHWARDENS

DIARY

Monday
10.30am Morning Prayer
Tuesday
10.00am Coffee Morning
11.30am Mid week Communion
8pm Compline
Wednesday
Thursday
5.30pm Bible Study
6.30pm BCP Evening prayer
Friday
Saturday
9am-3pm First Aid Training
10:00am Coffee Morning
Sunday
10.45am Remembrance Sunday - Crow Wood Park
4pm Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance



Remembrance Day

There will be no morning service next Sunday, 8 November. Please join us at the Crow Wood Park Memorial gates for a Service of Remembrance, 10.30am. Our Church service will take place at 4pm on 8 November.

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.

Please save your jar lids

For our November Messy Church we will be making 'Rockin Snowmen'. We are looking for any jam jar, coffee etc. lids. Thank you.

Finance for September

Receipts £2,044.31

Payments £1,610.58

St. Paul's

the Methodist Church are advertising for a Church Community Development worker for the Upper Valleys Methodist Churches. The advert is displayed on the notice board.

Look Back Look Forward

October saw us relaunch both Movie Night and Messy Church. To help shape Movie Night, we asked the pupils of Christ Church School for their film recommendations. Their involvement helped with engagement and gave us some great suggestions. I really enjoyed Madagascar — it certainly got a few laughs out of me.

Messy Church started again with the theme of light. We had a lot of fun, with some marshmallows along the way. We now have a good rhythm to Messy Church, which makes it easier to predict how many people will come.

Looking forward, it will be All Saints' Day when you read this. We will celebrate it during the week, with Remembrance Sunday the following week. This marks the start of a busy month: we have visits from and to New Road School, assemblies at Bolton Brow, and a visit from the Cubs before the end of the month.

At the end of November, we begin Advent with a service of light and hope. Advent is a time of hope, but also a time to remember those we love and see no more. Our service will bring that hope and remembrance together.

Over the past two Sundays, attendance has been much lower, at around 25 adults. Holidays, illness, other engagements and various other commitments help explain this, so I am not worried about these two weeks in themselves: we have 35–40 adults who attend regularly, and that reflects where we are. Looking further ahead, though, I do wonder whether these quieter weeks offer a glimpse of the future. The answer is not to cancel holidays or commitments — everyone is already giving a lot of time and effort to the church — but to welcome new people. Please invite people along and let me know your ideas for engaging with more people. Advent is a great time to extend that invitation.

Revd. Tommy


Christ Church
JOIN US AT OUR
Candle Lit
CHURCH
FOR A SPECTACULAR
FESTIVE EVENING
OF
MICHAEL
BUBLÉ
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
Seth AS
Bublé
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
SCAN TO
ORDER TICKETS

Find us at
www.christchurchsb.org.uk

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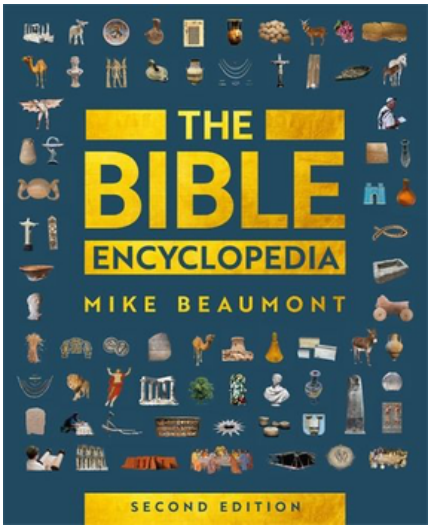
Once connected scan the QR code below

Auto generated captions will appear once the Service starts.

Christ Church
Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1823

The Bible Encyclopaedia

By Mike Beaumont, Lion Books, £24.99



This fully revised second edition of the Lion Bible Encyclopaedia is packed with accessible explanations, full-colour illustrations, maps, timelines, charts, diagrams, and more than 100 new images. It brings the world of Scripture vividly to life.

The book covers how the Bible was written and preserved, the lands and nations of the ancient world, what everyday life looked like for biblical people, and tells more about the beliefs, customs, and traditions that shaped their lives. A dedicated section on Jesus explains who he is, why he came, and his place within the wider biblical story.

Smile Lines

Like God

My grandson was visiting one day when he said, “Grandma, I always think of how you and God are alike.”
Mentally polishing my halo, I asked, “How is that, then?”
“You’re both just SO old,” he replied.

Still waiting

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow’s absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.
He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, “How come after all these years we don’t see you at services anymore?”
The old man lowered his voice. “When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must’ve forgotten about me, and now I don’t want to remind Him!”

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

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