CHRIST CHURCH, SOWERBY BRIDGE

WEEKLY NEWS



Hope Beyond Goodbye

1 THESSALONIANS 4.13-18

Losing someone we love is one of life's hardest experiences. Grief can leave us feeling lost, with questions about what happens next and how we carry on without those who meant so much to us.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, St Paul reminds us that although we grieve, we do not grieve without hope. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the promise that death is not the end and that those who have died in Christ are held in God's eternal love.

In today's world, where uncertainty, conflict and loss often dominate the headlines, this message is just as powerful as it was nearly 2,000 years ago. Our Christian faith does not take away the pain of saying goodbye, but it offers comfort in knowing that love and life have a future beyond death.

As we remember loved ones who are no longer with us, may we find strength in Paul's words and comfort one another with the hope of being reunited in God's presence.

Remembrance Sunday 2026

This year the national service for Remembrance will be held on 8thNovember, and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:
The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.
The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.
The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.

Sunday 8th November
Remembrance Sunday
3rd before Advent

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

Collect 3rd before Advent

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEKS HYMNS

Processional
O God our help in ages past
Gradual
Eternal Father strong to save
Hymn
Great is thy faithfulness
Remembrance
I vow to thee my Country
National Anthem
Offertory
He who would valiant be
Communion
Make me a channel of your peace
Be still for the presence of the Lord
Recessional
Thy hand O God has guided

Remembrance Sunday

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

Lest We Forget

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of peace is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. 'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.' (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Future dates for your diary

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

Altar Flowers

This week's flowers are in memory of This week's flowers are in memory of Peter Wilkins

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

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.- Aron Kilbourn

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. - President John F. Kennedy

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Major General Douglas MacArthur

From the Parish Prayer list:
Pupils staff and Governors of New Road Primary School; Dale Terrace; Dale View; Dalton Street; Dam Head Road; Dearden Street; Denby Place; Derby Street; Durham House



Make sure your hot water tank is insulated with a thick jacket. It will save you lots of money not to mention reducing your carbon emissions.

Has your loft got loads of insulation? It's one of the cheapest and easiest ways to save energy and will pay for itself in hardly any time.

Blessed are those who tread lightly on the earth that God gave us, for their footprints point others in the right direction.



Next week

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
2ND BEFORE ADVENT

FIRST READING
ZEPHANIAH 1.7, 12-18
PSALM
PSALM 90.1-8 [9-11]12
SECOND READING
1 THESSALONIANS 5.1-11
GOSPEL
MATTHEW 25.14-30

SERVERS
DAVE GILL
ANTHEA GEE
FIRST READING
RITA JAGGER
PSALM
SARAH TOWLER
SECOND READING
DAVE GILL
INTERCESSIONS
PAUL HEALEY
SIDES PERSON
ANGELA WILKINS & JANET TURNER

DIARY

Monday
9.30am School Visit
NO MORNING PRAYER
Tuesday
10.00am Coffee Morning
11.30am Mid week Communion
1pm Craft & Chatter
8pm Compline
Wednesday
Thursday
5.30pm Prayer group
6.30pm BCP Evening prayer
Friday
Saturday
10:00am Coffee Morning
5pm Film Night
Sunday
10.30am Holy Communion



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.

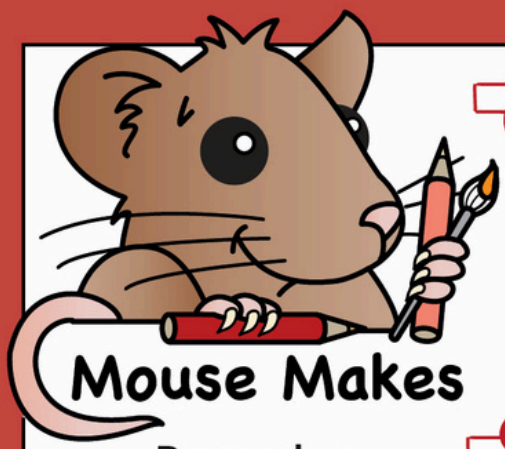
This service is for everyone who has experienced the loss of someone they love, whether that bereavement was recent, a year ago, or many years ago. We recognise that grief stays with us in different ways, and that certain moments can bring memories and emotions to the surface.

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.



Mouse Makes

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

O P R O T E C T
S R E S P E C T U N
B R A V E R Y H E F
E S E C O L O Y A L H T C
I R E M E M B R A N C E R O
M E L E B K O R I M
K G F M Y F U O B M
V A L O U R I U R I U E
R R E R K N F O V L A S T N
I D S I H O N O U R G M E D
G S A C R I F I C E L V
L U S E R V I C E
D A R M I S T I C E
E D E F E N D N



REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE

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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
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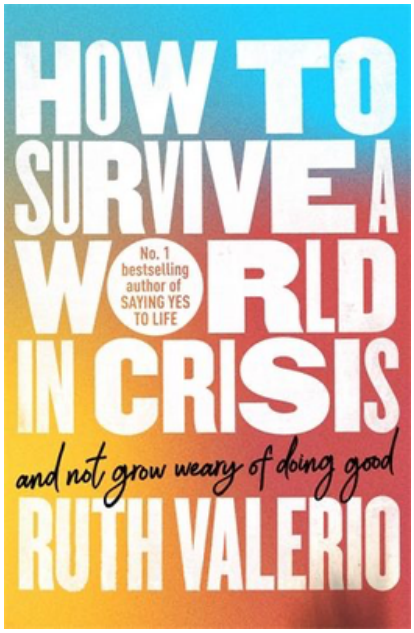
Once connected scan the QR code below

Auto generated captions will appear once the Service starts.

Christ Church
Serving Sowerby Bridge since 1871

How to Survive a World in Crisis (and Not Grow Weary of Doing Good)

By Ruth Valerio, SPCK, £10.99



Our world feels like it's being pulled deeper into crisis – climate and ecological destruction, wars, political and community breakdown, social media overload. It can be easy to despair.

But, combining spiritual wisdom with practical tools, this book can help you build resilience, and sustain hope. For anyone wrestling with climate anxiety, global instability, or a sense of helplessness in the face of suffering, it offers a path forward, so that we 'don't grow weary of doing good'.

Smile Lines

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?'

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: "Isn't he the one who moves diagonally?"

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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