

18<sup>th</sup> January 2026



## Editorial

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

**Reading: 1 Peter 2 v 4-10**

In 1 Peter 2:4–10, the apostle presents a rich vision of Christian identity rooted in Christ, the “living Stone.” Though rejected by human authorities, Christ is chosen and precious to God. Peter draws heavily on Old Testament imagery to show that the church’s identity flows directly from God’s long-established purposes. Believers who come to Christ are described as “living stones,” being built into a spiritual house. This picture of a growing temple emphasizes both community and purpose: Christians are not isolated individuals, but components of a God-designed structure shaped for worship and service.

Peter also introduces the idea of a “holy priesthood,” echoing the sacrificial role of priests in Israel. Yet the sacrifices believers offer are spiritual lives of obedience, praise, and witness made acceptable through Christ. By contrasting those who believe with those who reject the cornerstone, Peter underscores the decisive importance of faith. Unbelief leads to stumbling, not because God delights in judgment but because rejecting the cornerstone inevitably destabilises life’s foundation.

Verses 9–10 shift into exalted language describing the church as a “chosen people,” “royal priesthood,” and “holy nation.” These titles, once applied to Israel, now encompass all who belong to Christ. This is not mere honorific language; it is deeply vocational. Believers are called to “declare the praises” of the God who brought them from darkness into His marvellous light. Finally, the reminder that they were once “not a people” but now “the people of God” highlights the transforming power of divine mercy. The church is a community formed not by ethnicity or merit but by God’s gracious initiative.

Overall, the passage assures Christians of their secure identity in Christ and calls them to live purposefully as God’s distinct, worshipping, witnessing people.

**Tony Whitehead – Licensed Lay Minister  
(Reader)**



## Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
David & Norma V	Chloe
Barbara S	Rachael B
Brenda & Ken	John H & Debs
Betty	Sue S
Lee A	Vinny H
Stuart & family	Bishop David †
Jackie	Michael F
Isaac	Joanne
Jodie	Brian G
Anne H	David P
Ross	Tania
Belinda K	Irene S
Phil & Sue B	Claire H
Norma M	Re-Ordering Project
Freda	WoW & Beyond WoW
Samantha W	Pause Café

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.



# This week at St Bede

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January

## 10am Healing Service

Worship with us as we continue to reflect on Jesus our foundation and cornerstone. There will also be space in our service for people to come forward for prayer and healing. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

## 6.15pm WOW

Our Worship on Wednesday Service continues this week as we reflect on the Samaritan Woman and her encounter with Jesus. Our youth group **Beyond WOW** also meets this week.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

## 10am Baptism Service

Today we welcome the family and friends of Tilly Jones who is being baptised this morning. Please join us for our all-age service as we reflect on how we can build our lives on Jesus the solid rock.





## St Bede Charity Partner 2026.



### COLLECT

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – [brooks\\_simon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk)

visit our website [www.st-bede.org.uk](http://www.st-bede.org.uk) or scan the QR code below



### RE-ORDERING PROJECT UPDATE

We wanted to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on our Reordering Project Fund.

You may remember in September we held a gift day for people to donate to our Reordering Project.

Since we launched our Reordering Project Fund in September we have received an amazing **£2,973**. As a result our Reordering Project Fund stands at **£5,290**. Thank you so much for your incredible support.

Our church architect is currently drawing up detailed plans for the project so we can move forward to the next stage.

The ongoing costs for the project are great however; so if you wish to donate any money to push our fund even higher, then you can do so by using the Project Envelopes at the back of church or by speaking to Simon Brooks our treasurer if you want to make a further donation.

Over the next few weeks we'll be sharing details of some significant fundraising events we are running this year in order to build up our Reordering Project fund.

### OUR NEXT EVENT

Tickets are now available for our next event on **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**.

Booking is essential so get them while you can! Only £6.50

### CHARITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

We are pleased to announce that this week our PCC chose and adopted **Bolton Hospice** to be our charity partner for 2026.

We will be presenting Bolton Hospice with a charity donation on behalf of ourselves as a church later on this year in a special service where we focus on the work of our charity partner.



### TEXT VERSE FOR 2026

As we move into 2026; we also have a new text card!

Our verse for 2026 is '**Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid, Jesus Christ**' (1 Corinthians 3:11)

This verse reminds us and calls us that we need to make Jesus the sure foundation of who we are and all that we do in our lives.

It is a fitting verse for us at St Bede particularly as we continue to prepare for a major building project in rebuilding and expanding our community room.

Please do pick up your free text verse card at the back of church if you haven't already done so.



# WOW

Worship On Wednesday



Join us for fun, food, songs, games,  
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

**We meet every Wednesday  
6.15pm-7pm  
St Bede Church Community Room**



St Bede Parish Church invites you to our

# Winter Warmer Lunch

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026  
at 12 Noon



Come along for a delicious lunch for only £6.50

When the temperature drops, there is  
nothing better than a hearty lunch to  
lift your spirits!

Booking is essential by emailing  
[fundraising@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@st-bede.org.uk) or in person



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*St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.*

*Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.*

***Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.***

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## **Contacts**

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Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS

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