



**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury  
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



**Summer 2014**



**50p**



## **REGULAR SERVICES**

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### **Sunday**

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Family and Parade 3 <sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion 4 <sup>th</sup> Morning Service 5 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parade Service	St John w St Mark

### **Wednesday**

10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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### **Thursday**

2.00 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

### **Saturday**

4.00 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Messy Church	Christ Church
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Saints days and other services as announced  
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church  
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.



Both churches have the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



## *Dear Friends*

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As I write this in my back bedroom I am surrounded by piles of items of clothing and two empty suitcases. Yes, we are going on holiday in a few days and the preparations are in full swing. We are heading off to Switzerland and wall to wall sunshine cannot be guaranteed so that a variety of clothes for all weathers lies on the bed. Although, for the Spencers, this does not only apply to holidays in



Switzerland, as in past holidays we have had thunderstorms in Egypt, three inches of rain in one morning in Malta, gales in Cyprus, and torrential downpours in southern France. We have come to expect adverse weather conditions on holiday and so wet weather gear is an essential regardless of the destination.



But it might be sunny and warm so we have to pack lightweight clothing just in case - and then something suitable to wear in the evenings for dinner overlooking the lake. The case is rapidly filling. And what takes up an awful lot of room – the shoes – walking boots for rough terrain, sandals (it might be hot), comfortable flat shoes for sightseeing and evening shoes.



And of course we have to pack the medicines – the routine ones we take every day, plus sun protection, allergy tablets, insect bite treatment, pills for upset stomachs, antiseptic cream, pain killers and a variety of plasters and bandages. I can't believe that when we were younger we travelled without what my daughter describes as "a small branch of Boots."

On any holiday some reading matter is essential – nowadays I have to decide between a pile of paper backs or my "Kindle". The "Kindle" means I can take more reading material but I do like the feel of a proper book in my hands and knowing me, the technology would fail and I would be left staring at a blank screen.

I must not forget tickets, insurance papers, money and of course passports, put in an easily accessible place. I do not want to repeat the experience of arriving in Russia and being unable to locate Alan's passport when we approached immigration!



All this preparation for a journey for a holiday of a short period of time. I really must learn to travel light.

This made me think about our Christian journeys, journeys that are never ending, journeys which last a lifetime and beyond. Journeys, like holidays, on which we make new friends, have memorable experiences but on which we may encounter problems.

What do we need to enjoy the journey, to overcome the difficulties which we find along the way, to grow in faith and be at peace with God? We certainly do not need a ticket or money or a passport, not even an anorak or walking boots. Some good reading material, a copy of the Bible, will give advice and reassurance, prayer will provide encouragement when times get tough, and good companions to share the journey will certainly support us and help to keep us on the right track.

One of my favourite passages of the Bible can be found in Romans Chapter 8 in which St Paul reassures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. I have found this very encouraging on my Christian journey – especially when times have been hard, when I have been assailed by doubt – when I have been anxious or afraid – when I have thought the journey was too much for me.

If I needed a motto for my Christian journey, it would have to be the words of the hymn " Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey". I think if I always remembered that as I travelled, my journey would be much easier.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Margaret'.

## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY/AUGUST***

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### July

6 3<sup>rd</sup> after Trinity

Zechariah 9: 9-12

Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 16-19,  
25-30

13 4<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

Isaiah 55: 10-13

Romans 8: 1-11

Matthew 13: 1-9,  
18-23

20 5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

Isaiah 44: 6-8

Romans 8: 12-25

Matthew 13: 24-30,  
36-43

27 6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

1 Kings 3: 5-12

Romans 8: 26-39

Matthew 13: 31-33,  
44-52

### August

3 7<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

Isaiah 55: 1-5

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

10 8<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

1 Kings 19: 9-18

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

17 9<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 21-28

24 St Bartholomew

Isaiah 43: 8-13

Acts 5: 12-16

Luke 22: 24-30

31 11<sup>th</sup> after Trinity

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28



## ***FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH***

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July 6	Mrs. A. M. Peters
July 13	In memory of Sybil and Norman Mills
July 20	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. B Thew
July 27	In memory of Mary and Norman Leake
August 3	In memory of Margery Greenhalgh
August 10	Mr. & Mrs. A Standing
August 17	Mrs. B. M. Winterbottom in memory of Fred and Malcolm
August 24	In memory of Joe and Flo Atkinson
August 31	Mr. & Mrs. I Riddick in memory of their parents



## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **Baptisms**

May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob John Hamilton
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lucas Christopher Coulson Connor Robert Wilson

*In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*

### **Funerals**

June 5 <sup>th</sup>	John Rawson
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### **Interment of Ashes**

May 29 <sup>th</sup>	Sybil Mills
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Raymond Mortimer

*'I am the resurrection and the life' says the Lord*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 am**

Please come and join us for this annual Walmersley event.

It will be held on Christ Church Field  
if dry and warm enough, otherwise in the Church.

Once again it will be led by members of your worship team  
and Tottington Public Band (Brass)  
will be playing traditional hymns.

A collection will be taken to help maintain  
the ministry of Christ Church in this neighbourhood.

As it is Sea Sunday envelopes will be available  
to make a donation to the Mission to Seafarers.



Afterwards, weather permitting,  
we will be having some races for young people  
(and those young at heart!)

Why not bring a picnic to have on the field (or in the Hall)  
and enjoy the fun.

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* What a wonderful weekend we had to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the current church building at St.John with St.Mark's! Not forgetting the special birthdays of the Vicar and his wife. Thanks for all the cards, presents and good wishes.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the smooth running of the church weekend. For those who organised the Summer Fair; attended the evening concert and of course everyone who came to the joint service on the Sunday morning. It was good to host both the choirs from Chesham Community Primary School and our own church school at the Fair. The children sang very well and thanks must go to teachers Mrs Gorton and Miss Carney for their involvement. Thanks also to Paul & Diane Sanderson for arranging the exhibition about the history of St.John's Church building. And also to those who provided the memorabilia for this event.

It was a privilege to be able to welcome Bishop David to St.John with St.Mark for his first visit as Diocesan Bishop. Please see the articles elsewhere in this magazine for more personal thoughts of the weekend.

It was very special at the service for the Bishop to present Janet Lyssejko with her new licence as the Assistant Priest in the Benefice. This recognises her completion of the necessary training requirements as an Ordained Local Minister. Also on that occasion, Bishop David presented the Child Friendly Church Award to both parishes. This is a very significant achievement for which I must pay tribute to the hard work of both Janet and Margery Spencer. The key now is to maintain our work with children and young people in both parishes.



\* On Saturday 12th July between 10am – 12noon in the Church Hall at Christ Church there will be a Social and Fund Raising event with Bacon Sandwiches and Clothes Drop. Please look in your wardrobes and drawers for any clothes that are too big, too small, or just worn out. We can weigh them in and make some money.

If you are unable to carry, contact Jennifer who will pick them up for you.

\* Two special services are taking place at Christ Church in July. On Sunday 13, we are holding our Summer Praise at 10.30am. Two weeks later on Sunday 27 we will again be having a Service of the Laying on of Hands.

\* The Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's every Wednesday evening arranges baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or is an opportunity perhaps for a chat with one of the clergy. We meet between 6.30pm-7.00pm.

\* We are still in need of a Treasurer at Christ Church. If you are interested in this post or would like further information about it, please have a word with me or one of the wardens.

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The PCC invites  
all members of the Congregation  
to discuss

### **A Vision for Christ Church in the Future**

in the Church Hall  
from 10 am to 12 noon  
Saturday, 26 July

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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### July 7

Help me to listen, Lord, to those nearest me, my family, my friends, my colleagues. May I take my thoughts away from myself and give time to them.

Help me to listen, Lord, to those far from me – the plea of the forgotten and the cry of the anguished.



Help me to listen, Lord, for your voice – in activity and boredom, in certainty and doubt, in noise and in silence.

Teach me to listen, Lord.

### July 14

Heavenly Father we give thanks for all who give witness to your glory and to your mighty deeds. We thank you too for all that Jesus did in his time amongst us and for those who give witness to his ministry. We pray that your Holy Spirit will protect them from any danger and strengthen them in all they have been called to do.

We pray for the open air service of Summer Praise at Walmersley this month. May the Good News of Jesus be heard in the hymns, prayers and words that are spoken. We pray for good weather and for a time of sharing as we meet together as your family. May the joy of Christian life touch us all and be taken home with us to witness to those around us.

We pray too for all those who work for the Mission to Seafarers. We pray for all seafarers who feel lonely, abandoned by authority and parted from their families. We ask your blessing on all who work at sea - fishing, merchant carriers, military fleets and those who use the sea for pleasure. We ask your protection on them all.

## July 21

Friends.

Let our friendships be strong, O Lord  
That they may become a blessing to others.  
Let our friendships be open, O Lord  
That they may be a haven for others.  
Let our friendships be gentle, O Lord  
That they may bring peace to others.  
For Jesus' sake, Amen.

## July 28

Lord, we hear your word;  
let us be doers of your will.

Forgive us ,  
when not only the flesh is weak,  
but our spirit is unwilling.

Forgive us,  
when we stray from your work,  
enticed by our own comfort.

Thank you,  
that your grace is sufficient;  
your strength counters our weakness.

Stir us to serve wholeheartedly;  
knowing that our labour for you  
has eternal value.

Heavenly Father,  
help us to sow a future together  
which will enable our work to flourish.  
May we give ourselves wholeheartedly  
to live out our faith through action.

Amen

## August 4

God's Healing Touch

Brings inner Peace

Brings unconditional Love

Brings lasting Joy

Brings Forgiveness

Brings new Life

Brings Hope

Heals Wounds

Heals Sorrow

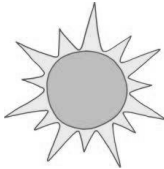
Heals Pain

Heals Hurts

For all these Blessings we thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord

## August 11

Dear Lord we give thanks for the summer with the sun and the rain which produces a beautiful green country for us, which provides us with a bountiful supply of food.



We pray for our friends going on holiday for a relaxing time with fresh air, exercise and an opportunity to spend more time away from work and to be with their families and friends. We pray that they may return fit and well and invigorated to start work again with renewed enthusiasm.

We pray for all our uniformed organisations, Junior Church and Messy Church. May all their leaders and helpers be given stamina, patience, understanding and love to guide our children on their Christian journey.

We pray for students as they wait for A level results this summer. Be with them Lord as they start their independent lives and be with their parents who are left behind.

## August 18

Father God we give you thanks for all that you provide; for all that makes our lives what they are. Help us to recognise, appreciate and put to good use the personal gifts and abilities we have. Show us, we pray, how we can best use these gifts and abilities, not just for ourselves but also in the service of others and of your church. Jesus tells us that from those who have been given much, much will be demanded. Help us, Father, to share what you have given us. Amen.

## August 25

As the summer comes to an end and the new school term begins - a prayer for all those in education within our benefice.

"God of love, inspire by your Spirit all those involved in the work of our schools.

Bless pupils and parents, teachers and governors, caretakers and cleaners, secretaries and supervisors, committee members and administrators.

Grant that, working together for the common good, they may make their schools places where real learning takes place and where all may discover the true meaning of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord."



*Editor's note: I have used dates to avoid confusion but please use as you feel is appropriate. We thank the eight people who have contributed these prayers for our use. If you would like to contribute one or more prayers to future issues please email [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk) or hand to a warden.*



## ***ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP***

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Returning by popular demand, Ian Banks gave a well-attended Open Group meeting a fascinating presentation entitled 'The History of Flowers' on Wednesday 14th May.



Ian concentrated on the development of the tulip flower with its origins in the Ottoman Empire (present day Turkey) and then imported into Holland in the 16th Century. By the 17th Century tulips became immensely popular and the 'Dutch Golden Age' was born with one example being a single tulip bulb being sold for more than 10 times the annual income of a tradesman!

Needless to say this kind of countrywide Tulipmania created what was described as possibly the first recorded economic bubble. Horrendous stories were described with many investors financially ruined and lives destroyed. Ian describes these events of nightmare proportions with intrigue, skulduggery, thievery and countless broken hearts!

As a conclusion and on a more light hearted approach Ian gave a potted and amusing account of Napoleon Bonaparte's wife Josephine's obsession with roses to which she had accumulated the largest collection of roses in the world creating legendary gardens. These were often visited by powerful diplomats and envoys from countries across the world each bringing their own variety of roses to add to Josephine's collection. A very subtle way of Napoleon conducting business with other countries and very different to what we have today! In essence it was clear to see from Ian's input that flowers are the perfect replica of human life from planting...growth...bloom...withering.

## ***More about the Open Group***

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On Wednesday 11th June the Open Group welcomed back Alan Thew to give an illustrated talk on his travels to "The Golden West California & Hawaii". A well attended group was taken on an island hopping tour of Hawaii, which is the only state in the United States that is made up entirely of islands.

Alan explained its admission to the United States was granted by President Eisenhower in 1959. After statehood, Hawaii quickly modernised through construction and a rapidly growing tourist economy. Importantly in maintaining its Hawaiian culture allied to its diverse natural scenery, warm tropical climate, active volcanoes and an abundance of public beaches make it the perfect place for a holiday of a lifetime.

Alan finally took us across the Pacific to visit California on the West Coast of United States. Following a shoreline tour visiting Los Angeles, Las Vegas and San Francisco it illustrated its strong Western culture as a state of paradise and plenty. The 1960's background music of the Beach Boys promoted the image of Californians as laid back, tanned beach goers. A throwback to the days of Flower Power, to which Open Group members will well remember in younger days!

Our next meeting ~ Wednesday 9th July  
at 7.30pm in the Library

**'Woodcarving'**  
Led by Mrs Gillian Smith

*Please remember,  
the Open Group is just that, open to all.  
We would love you to join us for our meetings.*





## ***Child Friendly Church***

The United Benefice of Walmersely Road is celebrating another achievement. It has recently joined a small and select band, being one of the few Benefices in our Diocese where each church in the benefice has been awarded the Child Friendly Church Award.

In December 2013 St John with St Mark was granted their award, followed on the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 by Christ Church. On visits to both of our churches, Steve Dixon (Diocesan Children's Officer) said he was very impressed and that **"It was clear to see all the hard work and dedication that people had put in to apply for the award"**.

There is an awful lot of hard work that goes into being granted the certificate; I can assure you that it is not just given out. Steve Dixon certainly puts you through your paces, asks some very searching questions and challenges all your responses. He leaves no stone unturned!

It takes a lot of time, reflection, reviewing and teamwork by a group of people who are dedicated to our young people. A group of people who work for/with our young people to provide for and empower them, to value/include them and to give our young people a voice. After all, our church is their church too and their voices should be heard.

I was so proud of our Benefice on the 8<sup>th</sup> June when the Bishop of Manchester presented the certificates to Margery Spencer and me. For so many people to be at the joint service to be part of this award was awesome.

So, on behalf of the young people, and the benefice, I give my sincere thanks for all their hard work and dedication to the teams at: **Christ Church** - Margery, Pauline, Emma, Gail and to Barry for his help with Health & Safety.

**St John with St Mark** - Pam, Nickie, Catlin, Darren, Stuart, Kelly and to Keith for his help with Health & Safety.

And to **Dave**, for his support of our Child Friendly Church Teams.



Services may change, occasionally they may be more children orientated. These services may not be to everyone's liking, but the young people deserve to have their voice heard and they deserve to be seen. If we respect the young people, they will respect us.

Peter Kay, the comedian, would say "Young people? They are the future!" Here we know that they are our present.

**Our Benefice should be proud of all that has been achieved in obtaining the CFC Awards, I know I am.**

Blessings.

Janet. xxxxx

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Child Friendly Church is a national initiative with an easily recognisable logo. So when new families move into the area they can easily find a church in which all the family will be made welcome.

These are the criteria under which our churches have been assessed. Now it is down to each member of the congregation, young and not so young, to make sure we implement them.

1. A parish Child Protection policy is in place and being implemented
2. The church buildings offer a safe environment
3. On-going training and support for leaders is in place
4. Nurture groups are provided for children and young people
5. There are opportunities for children to be included in child friendly church services
6. Suitable materials for under fives are available in church
7. Children and young people are seen as equal members of the church community
8. Feedback is obtained from children and young people
9. There is a vision for children's work
10. There are outreach opportunities.

## *Overwhelming*

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In April of 2007, I attended a Bishops Advisory Panel to be interviewed to discern if I was to be recommended for training for ministry. Who recommended me? The Right Reverend David Walker, Bishop of Dudley.

When I started training in September 2007, I was not sure what to expect of the training that was to come. There were times of lows, exhaustion, study nights, study weekends, study weeks away and assignments galore. After the initial training came four years of IME training of which there was a portfolio, reflections, assignments, learning journals, outcome journals and learning outcomes to do. At times I didn't know if I was coming or going. I was still working full time and had to try to find time for family life. But, luckily the hard times have been out-weighted by the support I received from John, Tasha, Fee, my family, my work colleagues, my friends and, of course the family of the congregation here, firstly at St John with St Mark and then also by Christ Church when we became a United Benefice.

When I was Ordained to the Diaconate in 2010 and then to the Priesthood in 2011, I didn't think that these two services could be topped. How wrong I was. The number of people who I could invite to join me in the services in the Cathedral in 2010 and 2011 was limited. At the time I didn't think about it as there was to be a service at my home church the next day to celebrate.

Having completed my seven years of initial training, my portfolio had been assessed and passed and here I was, being presented with my update licence. I was to leave behind being a Curate and was now to be an Assistant Priest.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014, I had come full circle from my Bishops Advisory Panel interview and was now to be presented with my amended licence, by the person who had recommended to the then Bishop of Manchester, Nigel McCulloch, that I should be put forward for training for ministry.

I faced our congregation to re-affirm my pledge to the Queen and then I turned to face the Bishop of Manchester to re-affirm my pledges to him and the church. As kneeled before the new Bishop of Manchester, David Walker, who had previously been in Dudley, I suddenly felt overwhelmed. What made this overwhelming, and such a special occasion, was that I was now able to share it with my whole family of the United Benefice of Walmersley Road. I felt the support of the congregation behind me. Being able to share such a special occasion with everyone I felt such a feeling of being so blessed.

Thank you to you all for your support over the last seven years. I pray that I will continue to serve you all as God has called me so to do.

Blessings.

Rev'd Janet. xxxx



*This prayer was inspired whilst sitting in St John with St Mark's church at the celebration service.*

Thank you Father, that you are our North, South, East and West in our lives, that you keep us on the right course by the gift of your compass of life, the Holy Spirit which helps to direct our thoughts, words and deeds.

May we like the people on the day of Pentecost, continue to use your gifts against life's ups and downs, knowing that gentle blowing breeze safeguarding us through earth, wind and fire. Grant us strength for today and hope for tomorrow to help heal and safeguard those you put in our care in our daily lives. Amen

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At the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations Mona Howarth was presented with flowers and a card on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Just a few days later on her sister in law, Betty Warburton, who attends the Tuesday Teatimers at Christ Church, also celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
What a family celebration

## ***A trinity of birthdays***

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As we prepared to move to Bury in the spring of last year and reading something about the history of the parish, we were amazed to discover that the consecration of St.John's Church took place on the same day as Linda was born and the day before Dave was born.

Over the ten years we have been together (since our 40th birthdays!), we have always held a joint celebration. For our half century we soon realised that it would have to be a triple celebration. It was wonderful to be able to share our special days and the weekend of June 6-8 2014 will live long in the memory.

After a few days of checking the changeable weather forecasts, Friday was a dry day. This enabled us to prepare the Vicarage garden for our party that evening. On the Saturday morning there were two hours of heavy rainfall that would have decimated the party 12 hours earlier.

This rainfall didn't seem to affect the Summer Fair, during which we were so well entertained by the school choirs of St.John with St.Mark and Chesham. The concert on Saturday evening was also entertaining and brought back lots of memories. The service with Bishop David was the culmination of this three-fold event - a trinity of birthdays, a week before Trinity Sunday!

Thanks again for everyone's cards, gifts and good wishes. Our birthdays were a combination of presents and parties, prayer and praise. Here's to the next 50 years.

Dave & Linda



## ***Birthdays!***



At the  
Vicarage  
Linda was the  
first to  
celebrate

but Dave was  
just one day  
behind

4 G7 C C F  
Birth - day to you Hap - py Birth - day to you Hap - py

8 1. Dmin G 2. G  
Birth - day to you Hap - py Birth - day to

11 C



On 6 June 1964, when the new  
building for St John's was  
consecrated, Mona Howarth  
was celebrating her 40<sup>th</sup>  
birthday

# 50 years on

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registers were fascinating



everyone worked hard



the fair was successful



and we had fun with  
all the family





awards were presented

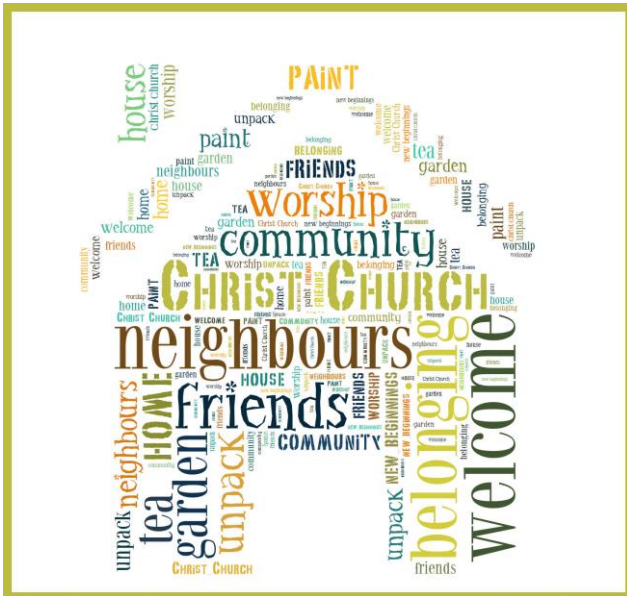
there was a new licence  
for Janet



and cakes to cut

## **Welcome to your new home**

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Christ Church Mothers' Union has recently designed welcome cards intended for anyone who has recently moved into the community. Each contains a handwritten greeting, contact details and either a packet of seeds or a teabag.

If you know of any such person please collect a card from the vestry and a magazine at the back of church for delivery. There is a sheet to fill in so we do not duplicate deliveries. If you would prefer not to actually visit personally, please contact one of the Ministry Team to arrange.

A similar scheme will soon be available at St.John with St.Mark's.





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We had great fun at the last Messy Church. We were celebrating the Church's birthday (actually it was the day before Pentecost) and talking about God sending his Holy Spirit like – a dove, flames of fire, a mighty wind.



We made dove mobiles and door-plates, we decorated buns and put a candle in each, we had great fun blowing bubbles.

We had hoped the weather would be kind and planned to have a barbecue but it chose to rain heavily – the burgers tasted just as good prepared in the kitchen and Dennis was able to keep dry. Jelly (red and orange) followed and some ate their buns, whilst others took them home.

We had the greatest number of children yet and we hope they will all come again next time.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> it would be good if the sun came out for our sports but if not there is a back-up plan. If you are not into races don't worry – these will be sports for everyone, so bring your parents and grandparents, and please don't forget to tell your friends about Messy Church too.

*It is too good to keep it a secret!*

By the way, there will not be a Messy Church in August but we look forward to seeing everyone again on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Please put Messy Church in your diaries for the first Saturday of the month.

## ***Placement Reflections***

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It's a few weeks since I attended my last service at Christ Church Walmersley, being now resettled back at St. Mary's Hawkshaw. So a few reflections of the very special time I spent on placement there.

As a Reader in training it was a privilege to be a part of the fellowship at Christ Church, to be so warmly welcomed and included in all parts of Church life.

The highlights for me were the Lent course, Chocolat – challenging, but also great fellowship and fun too, all rolled into one. I can see Home groups taking off from what I experienced of the enthusiasm there!

The Laying on of Hands service, for me very meaningful and moving to be involved, but also really encouraging seeing God's spirit at work and touching individuals in different ways. Surely an area God wants to move in to bring healing and a deeper sense of his love to the people of Christ Church.

Messy Church was a new experience for me, helping the kids make rainbow pizzas was great fun. Then at the other end of the age spectrum, being able to meet the precious senior folks at Teatimers was very special. To gain a glimpse of what had been important to them in the past, as they talked a little about work, war efforts and so much of life lived, was a real privilege.

To be able to accompany a small group to a service at the Priory over Easter was to see a wonderful opportunity to bring something of God's love to some very sick people. To cover the whole Easter message from the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday to the resurrection of Easter Sunday in one short service was powerful indeed.

So much more I could say, but most important is my thanks to Vicar Dave and all his splendid team and to each one of you in the church fellowship who welcomed me, encouraged and befriended me during my time there. I hope the experience I gained at Christ Church will contribute towards me being a better Reader (1year to go!) I shall remember you all with affection and will surely visit sometime.

Written by Jane Fletcher. 1<sup>st</sup> year Reader in training.

APPEALS FROM  
ST JOHN WITH ST MARK



EMPTY WINE BOTTLES ~  
GREEN OR BROWN COLOURED  
& GIFT BAGS OF ALL SHAPES & SIZES

REQUIRED FOR SOME SIMPLE GAMES AT OUR  
FUTURE CHURCH FAIRS.

PLEASE PASS YOUR BOTTLES TO MARGARET DUCKWORTH  
& BAGS TO ROSEMARIE ASHWORTH  
AT ST JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH.  
THANK YOU!

## *A Devotional Evening*

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The Muslim Christian Forum held a devotional evening at the Ladies Centre of the Noor Ul Islam Mosque where 22 members shared readings that were meaningful to them. The readings and poems were from various sources including the Bible and the Qur'an.

Saqib Shah's choice was a collection of quotations, one of which was my favourite of the evening. I think it is worth reading 2 or 3 times to let the meaning fully sink in.

The quote was first spoken by Ali RA

"Be like a flower that gives its fragrance to even the hand that crushes it"



Other readings included the modern favourite

"Footprints in the Sand" read by Julia Valentine.

Yousaf Kayani shared a prayer that inspires him.

The prayer has always been in a frame on his grandparents wall – he is hoping that they leave it to him in their will!

Rev. Keith Trivasse read a poem by Moniza Alvi which spoke of the dilemma of being torn between the loyalties to two countries – the country of their birth and their new country, Britain.

What the Parables of the Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin meant to him, was shared by Ray Bowles.



Revd. Dave Thompson has a lifetime's interest in lighthouses and brought two of his collection to introduce his reading from the first letter of John where we are told God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

Jade Nuttall brought a poem she had written herself. The poem told of the wonders of nature and what harm man is doing to it.

*Love* YOUR  
neighbor  
*as yourself.*  
MATTHEW 22:39

My readings were two poems I try to live by. Their first lines are "A careless word will kindle strife" and "Pray don't find fault with the man who limps" I linked them to the Bible verses 'Love your neighbour as yourself'; 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us'; and 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone.'

The evening's fellowship ended with prayers, chat and food – pizza, chips, dips and soft drinks. We had a very enjoyable evening.

Jill Smith

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## ***The United Benefice***



We have tried to find a logo which could be used in our churches to represent our unity. This graphic which has appeared on the front of our magazine since February 2012 was, in fact, simply an illustration of a potential layout!

Art is not everyone's forte but if you have an idea or a rough sketch someone would be able to translate that. Please think about this, pray for inspiration, and don't assume that your idea is rubbish!

Contributions to any Warden, please or email [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2014**

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**We raised a wonderful £1159.00.**

Money raised will go towards helping people like Anoon Aleu, who faced a challenge to survive in South Sudan when militias set fire to her house, killing most of her family.

Christian Aid partner Hope Agency for Relief & Development (HARD) heard about the desperate situation and gave them protection equipment and money to build a brick home. She says "we can now live together safely; we can now begin to forget."

Anoon's challenge was overcome with help from Christian Aid and their partner's.

By supporting Christian Aid Week you have helped people rebuild their lives after conflict, as well as fighting poverty and its root causes around the world.

Thank you so much for everything that you did during Christian Aid Week.

John Brennan (Christian Aid co-ordinator)

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### ***Feedback***

This is the first time we have tried a 'bumper issue'. The idea was mooted as editing, printing, delivering, can all be more difficult at this time of year. It is planned also to have a December/January issue.



PLEASE let us have *your* feedback.



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**T**ogether  
**E**veryone  
**A**chieves  
**M**ore

There are many tasks around any church which can be managed by volunteers rather than spending precious financial reserves which may then be spent on work which requires professional expertise. Anyone able to help with these tasks is always welcome.

At Christ Church there is to be a new TEAM which will meet one morning a week and share some fellowship as well as sharing the workload – around the church, churchyard and hall.

If you could spare any time to be part of this TEAM please contact Geoff Hamilton or Ian Riddick.

Thank you

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### **The Five Marks of Mission** of the Anglican Communion



The Mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Over the coming months we are going to look at these Five Marks of Mission one by one and consider how they impact on us individually as well as in our church family.

## ***In memoriam-John Rawson***

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A faithful member of St.John with St.Mark's Church, John Rawson died 20 May 2014. His funeral took place a fortnight later, on 5 June – the eve of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of that building.

It was entirely appropriate that John's funeral should take place then, as he had contributed wonderfully to the well-being of the church for all those 50 years and beyond.

Born in Singapore, John settled in Bury as a youngster and was a member of the Methodist Church in his youth. Moving to the Anglican Church, he served as a church warden, PCC member and Lay Assistant at St.John's for a number of years. From his home on Seedfield Road – a stone's throw away from the building - John was perfectly positioned to be a contact point for much of the parish activities.

John and Mary hosted fellowship groups and encouraged a great number of people in their faith. In his funeral address, Paul spoke of the support he received from John as he pursued his vocation.

In recent years John was a long term resident of Limefield Court, from where he was transferred into hospital on 16 May. John was received into church on the evening of 4 June. The funeral service was a Communion service which thanks to the wonders of modern technology was also "Skyped" to his son in Australia.

We give thanks for John's life and pray for Mary, Sue and all the family.

May He Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.





Taking a retrospective look back to June, we had a Communion Service led for us by Revd Don Altham and followed by our Strawberry Sparkle. A wonderful variety of strawberry themed goodies were available to eat, prepared by Barbara Silvester. There was plenty of opportunity to chat whilst we enjoyed the lovely food.

These next two months are traditionally when people go away for a summer holiday. Holidays allow us a break from the normal routines and enable us to rest, recover and recharge. For some though, getting away is not possible due to individual circumstances and that is why Mothers' Union has AFIA as one of its UK programmes.

Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by Mothers' Union members, to help people who are experiencing stress in their family life. Mothers' Union normally helps with part of the cost of a holiday or with travel expenses, but sometimes can pay for the whole trip. The funds are limited but we will always help as much as we can.



Those hoping to have a holiday don't have to be a member of a church or organisation and can apply for themselves or recommend someone else for a holiday. The holidays take many different forms. Some are specially organised family weeks where a number of families and a team of volunteers go away together with activities and outings arranged.

In some areas holidays might take place in mobile homes owned by Mothers' Union, usually sited near a beach. Some holidays take the form of day trips. We usually try to find the most suitable holiday, because everyone is different.

On average, Mothers' Union helps 2,500 people to have a holiday each year. Families are able to spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.



This year in Manchester Diocese a family of 4 and one of 6 will have Haven caravan holidays. A family of 7 will go to 'New Wine' in July with other members of their church. A single mum, with her 2 children

and another person will be able to go on a Parish weekend and someone with major health problems is able to go on a retreat. All these people will have the opportunity of being refreshed and renewed by having time away from their normal situation.

During the next two months we have a variety of events at our Branch meetings.

An open invitation is extended to the church family for our meeting on July 2nd. We welcome Dr Jenny Cropper, Clinical Psychologist, who will be speaking about her work with diabetic children "Getting the balance right" Please join us in the church hall at 7.30pm

Our summer meal with families and friends is at The Pavilion Restaurant on July 16th and replaces our Branch meeting that night.

We are looking forward to Cath Hilton sharing her experiences of her recent visit to Stella Okoyo in Maseno West in Kenya on August 6th and helping us to further our knowledge and understanding of how Mothers' Union is a world-wide community.

On Aug 20th, Ian Banks will be entertaining us with his thoughts on Nursery Rhymes.



Looking further afield the Bolton Archdeaconry festival is at Christ Church, Walmsley (please note this venue) on August 11th where the Venerable David Bailey, Archdeacon of Bolton will be preaching.

The Diocesan Festival is on September 10th at the Cathedral at 7.30pm.

Our Branch meeting on September 3rd will be a celebration for the 105th birthday of the Branch so we will be having a party!

So a busy summer is ahead of us! We welcome everyone to our branch meetings. Please join us.

Kathryn Bailey

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Mothers' Union -

praying, campaigning, enabling

# ***THE NEAR NEIGHBOURS PROJECT***

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## **Bringing People Together**

Near Neighbours is a project run by the Church Urban Fund designed to bring people together who are near neighbours in communities that are religiously and ethnically diverse. The hope behind the scheme is that they can get to know each other better, build relationships of trust and collaborate together on initiatives that improve the local community they live in.

The project has recently opened in a number of parishes in Bury – of which St.John with St.Mark's is one. It also operates in parts of Rochdale, Oldham, Burnley, Leeds, Bradford and Dewsbury as well as certain other towns in the Midlands and the south of England.

The programme offers small grants between £250 and £5,000, providing seed capital for local groups and organisations who are working to bring together neighbours, to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities in order to improve their communities.

Their website provides an explanation of the ethos behind the work:

Many neighbourhoods in England have a number of different faith and ethnic communities living close to each other, some of these communities rarely interact with one another and instead live parallel but separate lives. Such separation can lead to misunderstanding and a lack of trust or respect for each other, which is not healthy for a local community. These are also often areas of deprivation, with people living there sharing common concerns for a better community. Despite this shared concern they don't come together to talk or act on this as much as they could. Yet it is local people, in local communities, that are the ones who are ideally placed to identify and develop solutions that can improve their own neighbourhood. Thus Near Neighbours bring people together; breaking down misunderstanding and developing trust, and helps them to act to change their communities for the better.

Grants must be for the benefit of those who live or work in the ecclesiastical parish of St.John with St.Mark. To apply for a grant or get further information, please have a word with the Vicar.

## ***'Rag bone! Donkey stone!'***

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Do you remember that cry?  
Sorry – we have no donkey stones to give  
but we will take your cast offs – whatever condition

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Join us on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
between 10am and 12noon  
in Walmersley Church Hall, School Lane, Bury

We will be serving Bacon Sandwiches with  
Tea or Coffee



We would also appreciate  
your old clothes –  
too big, too small, just worn out,  
search wardrobes and drawers.

Anything,  
including bags and shoes,  
will be gratefully received  
as we can sell to raise much needed funds for  
Church Repairs.

If you are unable to bring on the day please contact  
Jennifer Wood to arrange collection

## ***EVENTS FOR JULY***

### **COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR**



**St John with St Mark Church Hall**

**Saturday 5th July from 10.00am**

**BOOKS**

**BACON SANDWICHES**

**BRIC A BRAC**

**TEA & COFFEE**

**CAKES**

**OTHER STALLS**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS**

### **ST JOHN WITH ST MARK SCOUT GROUP HOST A CREAM TEA**

**St John with St Mark Church Hall**

**On the afternoon of Saturday 26th July**

**FRESH SCONES SERVED WITH  
TEA & COFFEE**

Tickets available soon.

Please put the date in your diary

**ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS**



## **SUMMER BARBECUE**



### **BENEFICE SUMMER BARBECUE**

All are welcome to our annual barbecue  
to be held at  
St John with St Mark Church Hall  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August ~ approx 1.00pm

**All the usual barbecue food,  
served with salads & condiments.**

TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE DURING AUGUST  
AT A PRICE TO BE ANNOUNCED, HOWEVER PLEASE  
ADD THE DATE TO YOUR DIARY NOW.

### **June 2014 WINNERS**



1st Prize ~ Vicky Senior  
2nd Prize ~ Archie Wardle  
3rd Prize ~ Nichola Kelley

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

## ***BENEFICE BOUNDARY WALK***

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On Saturday 13th September, Reverend Paul Sanderson will lead us on a walk around the boundaries of the United Benefice of Walmersley Road.

The whole walk is 12-14 miles dependent on the exact route (there are options if it gets muddy underfoot in any parts).

Taking in areas including The Burrs, River Irwell, Bury Town Centre, Chesham, Buckhurst, Deeply Vale, Nangreaves, Summerseat and finishing in The Burrs for refreshment at The Brown Cow.

It is possible to join and leave the walk at different points if you do not want to do the whole thing, therefore if you intend to step in at any point then a mobile telephone number may be useful so we can update you with a location.

Please bring a packed lunch and sensible clothing and more importantly, please pray for some good weather.

Meet at 9.30am at St John's Church Hall on Parkinson Street.

Please speak to Paul if you would like further information.



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### **ORGAN RECITAL**

by Geoff Stokes  
at Christ Church  
on Saturday 13 September  
Tickets available soon

Come and rest your weary legs!





## WHAT'S ON IN JULY/AUGUST

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July

2	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union – Jenny Cropper (CC)
5	10.00 am 4.00 pm	Coffee Morning & Book Fair (SJSM) Messy Church (CC)
6		<b>Third after Trinity</b> Services as usual
7	7.30 pm	Churches Together, Manna House
9	7.30 pm	Open Group – Woodcarving (SJSM)
10	8.00 pm	PCC (SJSM)
12	10.00 am	Clothes Drop (CC)
13		<b>Fourth after Trinity</b> Services as usual
16		Mothers' Union, at the Pavilion
20		<b>Fifth after Trinity</b> Services as usual
21	7.30 pm	Pastoral committee (CC)
26	10.00 am	A Vision for Christ Church in the Future Cream Tea (SJSM)
27		<b>Sixth after Trinity</b> Services as usual
	10.30 a.m.	Service of healing and laying on of hands (CC)

August

3		<b>Seventh after Trinity</b> Services as usual
6	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union – Cath Hilton (CC)
10		<b>Eighth after Trinity</b> Services as usual
11	7.30 pm	Bolton Archdeaconry MU Festival
17		<b>Ninth after Trinity</b> Services as usual
20	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union – Ian Banks (CC)
24		<b>St Bartholomew</b> Services as usual
	1.00 pm	Benefice BBQ (SJSM)
31		<b>Eleventh after Trinity</b> Services as usual

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Please let us know of any dates for September's calendar –  
email [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk) or hand to any Warden

Why not use the magazine to publicise your events or to  
report afterwards?

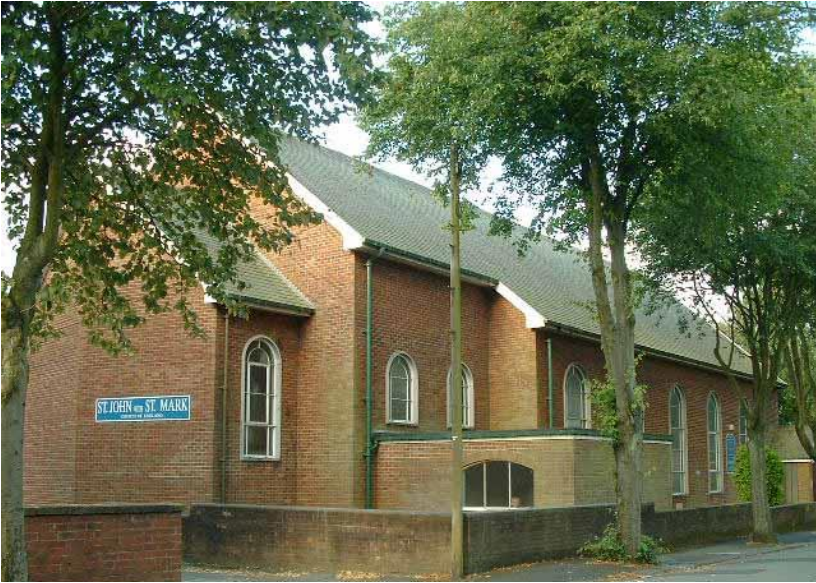
Both churches have websites too and the webmasters will  
always appreciate information

[www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk](http://www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk)

[www.stjohn-stmark-bury.org.uk](http://www.stjohn-stmark-bury.org.uk)

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1964 – 2014



50 years serving Christ and the Community



See inside for more photos  
and thoughts  
from the weekend

