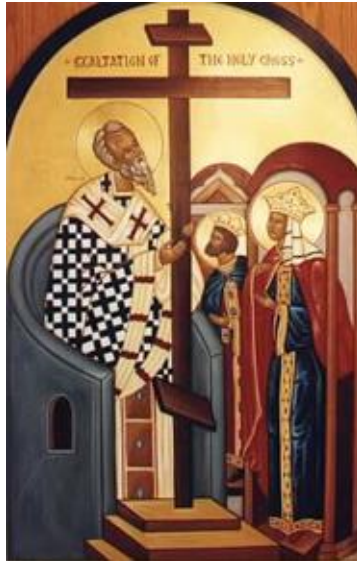




**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury  
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



***Holy Cross Day***

**September 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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I want to start by saying hello and welcome to the September united benefice magazine. The letter nearly did not get written (some of you might be thinking good!) as time just ran away with me again. I was sat having a lovely chat after church discussing various events and dates to sort over the coming year and I received a text off Dave. Can you please send your letter for printing? Letter? Yes check your rota. Ah. Yes, time has flown by and caught me out as usual.



It is nearly a year since I last wrote for the magazine and four years since I started writing the letter - like I said time flies. Last time I wrote I had not long been licensed and since it is just over a year since licensing I thought I would share a few things that have happened to me in that time.

There have been some good times and some sad times as so have many of you have probably had. I have made some good friends and new contacts over the year and seen places and people as a direct result of my service to the Church.

In the year since my licensing we have received a new vicar and friend (nearly trained him) and his family into our family. I am glad to say that I have noticed new people attending church over the past year and some people returning after a break of a few years.

I know there's always a counter balance though. Unfortunately we have also lost friends and colleagues over the past year and as I write this I have just heard of the death of my friend's father.

There's also been some big changes in the ministry team. Elizabeth has moved on, a loss for us, but a great opportunity for her and her journey of faith.

Like I already have said we have a new vicar in place and a year on I hope he feels at home and settled. Barbara has been made a Canon and I hope you all realise what an honour that is for her and us as her family members. And today my daughter Jessica became an acolyte for the first time at the 10.30 service at Saint John and Saint Mark's, watched over proudly by her big brother Daniel.

There are many more places and people and things I have come across in the past year through my ministry in the benefice, wider church and interfaith work but there's too many to list. But although I lose track of time sometimes because I'm busy I wouldn't give any of it up. Everything I do, I do for the glorification of God and the spreading of Jesus' message to the world. And that is where we must take time in our busy lives to stop and remember why we do the things we do.

I have made a small list of good times and sad times in the past year but at the core Jesus has always been there all the time. When standing looking at a friend's coffin I feel Jesus holding his hand on my shoulder and whispering "don't fret, all is well". And when I held my sister's baby for the first time, I felt the Lord enveloping him in love and looking back at me. Jesus is always there with us no matter where we are or how busy we are.

And the trick for us sometimes is to stop being so rushed and running round, to take time to stop and listen and feel his presence and guidance on our lives. Jesus is always there and never leaves us, let's just make sure we don't get so busy and rushed that we leave Jesus behind in our busy lives.

*God is  
with  
you  
always.*

Kindest regards  
Darren

## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER***

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7 **12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

Ezekiel 33: 7-11    Romans 13: 8-14    Matt 18: 15-20

14 **Holy Cross**

Numbers 21: 4-9    Philippians 2: 6-11    John 3: 13-17

21 **St. Matthew**

Proverbs 3: 13-18    2 Corinthians 4: 1-6    Matt 9: 9-13

28 **15<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32    Philippians 2: 1-13    Matt 21: 23-32



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

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- September 7    Mr. J. Clegg  
September 14    Miss P. Hoyle  
September 21    Mrs. V. Blackburn in memory of Norman Blackburn  
September 28    In memory of the Birtwistle and Slater families

### ***The baptism of Connie Mae***



A big thank you to all those who came  
and enjoyed getting wet.

Thanks for all the cards etc,  
and a very big thank you to Janet.

A great day was had by all.

Best Wishes from Kelly, Phil, Edie  
& of course Connie Mae



## FROM THE REGISTERS

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### Baptisms

- Jun 29 Joshua Theo Connor Hall  
Lilly-Mae Hall  
Catherine Clark  
Jul 6 Connie Mae Watson  
Jul 17 Dennis O'Halloran  
Jul 20 Aaron Brindle  
Aug 3 Emilia Matilda Jess Thorpe-Bamford

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

### Confirmations

- Jun 22 James Baumber  
Hannah Egan  
Sean Etheridge  
Samuel Knights  
Alexandra Lock  
Melissa Namugaba  
Ella Walsh



*Confirm O Lord your servant with your Holy Spirit*

### Weddings

- Jul 12 John Taylor and Gemma Taylor  
Aug 2 David Munro and Leanne Tracey

*Those who God has joined let no-one put asunder*

### Funerals

- Jul 23 Connie Cox  
Jul 30 Peter Horrocks

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

## ***IN MEMORIAM: Connie Cox***

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A long standing member of St. John with St. Mark's Church, Connie died at Bankfield Nursing Home, Gigg Lane on 13 July 2014, four weeks after her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Connie was a Bury girl, living on St. Anne's Street, Chesham for the first 25 years of her life. She married Jim at Christ Church, Walmersley in 1947.

They moved to Kendal to run a hotel – Shenstone, just off the A591. Connie and Jim managed the hotel for over 20 years, attracting guests from this country and abroad. The building remains today and is now home to a Financial Services organisation.

In the 1970s, they moved from Kendal to Blackpool where Jim Cox took a job as a sales rep. Sadly ill health took over his life and after a long and debilitating illness he died in 1992.

Connie then returned to her roots, moving into Hampton Grove and joining St. John with St. Mark's Church. Her sociable nature meant that she fitted in well with church life. She joined a home group and took part in many of our church activities. She was always kind to the children in church and would regularly give them gifts and cards on their birthdays.

An unexpected and serious health problem caused her to spend last Christmas in hospital and she moved to Bankfield soon after.

At her funeral in St. John with St. Mark's on 23 July, mention was made that her formal Christian name of Constance personified her life in that this reflected a quality that ran throughout her life – that of constancy.

We give thanks for Connie's life.  
May She Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* From this month the 2015 church diaries will be distributed. They will be given out free of charge but a donation of £1 is suggested if you wish to contribute in this way.

\* Thanks to all those from Christ Church who attended the meeting in July to discuss "A Vision for the Future of Christ Church". The views expressed on that Saturday morning will help the Parochial Church Council decide on the options for the two church buildings as and when any monies are received from any sale of the land on our church field.

\* A time of prayer and worship now takes on Mondays from 2-3pm. This is held at the home of Nigel & Barbara Silvester at 49 Fairlands Road. Everyone is welcome to pop in any time during that hour.



\* Last month's edition of this magazine featured an article about the Near Neighbours Project, organised by the Church Urban Fund. The official launch of this in the Bury area will be held on Wednesday 10 September and a report will be included in next month's issue.

\* St. John with St. Mark's Church Council is still deliberating on the options for the replacement of the west window in church. We have received one estimate so far and are awaiting some other proposals. It is expected that the cost of the work will be several thousand pounds. If anyone wishes to contribute towards this please have a word with myself or one of the Church Wardens.

\* St. John with St. Mark's Church is in need of wine bottles and gift bags for use at future Church Fairs. Bottles need to be green or brown and gift bags can be any size, but must be in good condition. Please pass to Margaret Duckworth or Rosemarie Ashworth.



\* Also in need at St.John with St.Mark's are old spectacles for use in Third World countries. If you have any spectacles no longer required, please pass to Keith Duckworth or any other member of the Scout Group.

\* Study groups will begin week commencing 15 September, at 14 Springside Road on Monday evening, 150 Walmersley Road on Tuesday evening, and Christ Church Hall on Thursday afternoon. Details not confirmed as we go to print, so please check in church and on the websites.

\* 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.

## COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

St John with St Mark Church Hall

Saturday 6th September from 10.00am

BOOKS

BACON SANDWICHES

BRIC A BRAC

TEA & COFFEE

CAKES

OTHER STALLS

ALL PROCEEDS  
TO CHURCH FUNDS



## ***NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 10 JULY 2014

A review of the events to mark the 50th Anniversary of our Church building found that the weekend was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. It is suggested that a further social event may take place later in the year whilst we are still in our 50th Anniversary year. It is possible that past Clergy may be invited. Thanks were also made once again to all those who had helped gain our Child Friendly Church award status, presented by the Bishop of Manchester at our Anniversary service. The certificate is now in a prominent place in the Church building. (Have you spotted it yet?) Dave & Janet reminded us that the award only lasts for 3 years and will then have to be renewed. No room for complacency therefore.

Further discussions have taken place surrounding our west window. Quotes are continuing to come in and are being assessed. All options are still being considered, i.e. brick up half, brick up all. John Peat is arranging for architectural drawings of the window to be made.

#### Other Issues:

- The Health & Safety Officer passed around copies of a new accident reporting form, which we now need to start using.
- The organ cover will now need to be reviewed, as Ella Turner has advised she feels unable to cover two Sundays a month due to commitments elsewhere.
- A suggestion is to be put to Bury Council to simplify the Hall & Library alarm system following recent problems.
- Dave also clarified to the PCC what happens to the donations of food left at our buildings. The food at the back of Church goes to Caritas and the Library donations go to Porch.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Thursday 4th September at 8.00pm.

## ***SPONSORED WALK***

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Sunday 21st September 1pm from Christ Church  
Route approx 8 miles  
Sponsor forms from Jennifer Wood  
Nothing too strenuous, walk at your own pace  
Finish at Falshaws Ice Cream Parlour

## ***ORGAN RECITAL***

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by Geoff Stokes  
at Christ Church  
on Saturday 13 September  
at 7.30 pm  
Tickets available from fund-raising  
committee members or Patricia Stokes



## ***Shoe Box Appeal***

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We are always grateful for all donations for the boxes. We are however short of face cloths, tooth brushes and tooth paste. (If anyone knows of a friendly dentist who we could get some samples off, that would be great). We are also short of shoe boxes themselves.

If you can help in anyway please speak to Kelly Watson at St. John with St. Mark.

Thank You.

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

According to a recent report by the Church Urban Fund, the Church in England reaches approximately 10 million people each year through its community activities, even excluding 'familiar' church activities – Sunday services, Christmas, Easter, Harvest, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

These activities include foodbanks, community events such as lunch clubs or cafés, healthy living activities such as community nursing, exercise classes and healthy eating courses, relationship support, financial education and advice, access to computers/ the internet, and providing opportunities for volunteering.

Among the most frequently used community services were children and youth services, cultural events, and activities for older people. However, churches had also provided support for asylum seekers, for people with addictions, counselling and 'street pastoring'. The activities and community services were more likely to have been used by younger people (18-44) than older ones.



You are Invited to the Bury and Prestwich Launch of  
**The Near Neighbours Programme**

**Wednesday 10th September 2014**  
**9.30am to 11.30am**

**Venue: Longfield Suite, Prestwich,**  
**M25 1AY**

RSVP to [carlo.schroder@bccdd.org.uk](mailto:carlo.schroder@bccdd.org.uk)  
Tel: 07714167923



## ***THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD***

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*The recent conflict in the Middle East highlighted the need for Christians throughout the world to support those affected by the bombings in the region. The Vicar outlines a way in which we can practically help the victims in Gaza. (The details below come from the website of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem)*

The Al Ahli Anglican Hospital is located in Gaza City and occupies a beautiful campus in the city centre. Supported by the Anglican Church, their mission is to glorify God and bear witness to His love as manifested in the life of Jesus Christ. The hospital provides some of the finest medical care available in the region and with the current conflict is facing the difficulty of dealing with an unprecedented number of patients.

Al-Ahli Hospital serves all who seek treatment without prejudice to any religious or ethnic community and irrespective of social class, gender and political affiliation. The facilities are offered in a spirit of love and service. It recognizes the value of its staff and volunteers and promotes equal and compassionate treatment with dignity and respect to all. In a land where hardship is commonplace, the conditions in Gaza stand out, but Al Ahli Hospital generates a beacon of peace and hope for the people it serves.



**PRAYER:** O God of wholeness and healing, we lift up the staff and patients of the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. Strengthen and guide the Management and all the staff as they treat the poor and injured. Bless the patients who receive care with Your healing touch. Give us a renewed awareness of the blessing of health and grant us the courage to support the caregivers in their work.

As fellow members of the worldwide Anglican Church, we in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road, can help those who we only hear about through the media by supporting and praying for the Al-Ahli Hospital.

If you can help please financially, please mark your donation Al-Ahli Hospital, or visit their website [www.jmecca.org.uk](http://www.jmecca.org.uk)

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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### Week 1

As Junior Church and Sunday School meet again after the Summer holidays, we pray for all our young people and for those who give so much time to guide and lead them on their journey of faith. We pray for "Messy Church" that it may continue to attract families for whom attendance at church on Sunday is difficult.

We pray that leaders will come forward to help with the work of the uniformed organisations in both churches.

Lord, may each of us play our part in making our churches welcoming to young people.



### Week 2 "The strength of God's love"

*I found this piece based on Romans 8 which is one of my favourite Bible passages.*

What can separate us from the love of God?

Can sickness or death?

*No nothing can separate us from the love of God*

Can danger or war?

*No nothing can separate us from the love of God.*

Can sadness or despair?

*No nothing can separate us from the love of God.*

Can failure or rejection?

*No nothing can separate us from the love of God.*

Can loneliness or fear?

*No nothing can separate us from the love of God.*

What a wonderful reassurance.

### **Week 3**

*This week has been designated World Peace Week in the Methodist, Baptist and United Reform churches. As we remember the events of 100 years ago and the extent of current conflict around the world we pray for those who suffer as a result of war and that peace may prevail.*

Gracious God,  
We pray for all those who suffer from violence;  
May they know your healing and peace.  
We pray for those who have died and those who are bereaved;  
May they be comforted and sustained by your love.  
We pray for political leaders in Britain and across the world;  
May they seek wisdom and work together for peace.  
May your kingdom come, your will be done  
And the earth be filled with your glory.

**Week 4** *Having just undergone surgery I include this prayer for all those who seek to bring healing.*

Thank you Lord for all surgeons, doctors and nurses and all those who work in hospital and in the community to bring healing to others. May they have the skill necessary to do their work and the temperament to deal with people in stressful situations.

We give thanks for those family members who care for loved ones especially when the illness is long term.

Lord, to all those who suffer in body, mind and spirit, grant your healing peace that they may be free from pain and anxiety. Show each of us how to stretch out the healing hand of friendship to any we know who are suffering.

*Thanks to Margery Spencer who has contributed prayers this month.*

As we look to our Autumn programme, refreshed after our summer breaks, it's good to be reminded of the foundations of our faith and the basis of our belonging to the Mothers' Union. At the recent Bolton Archdeaconry festival, Archdeacon David gave this message for the encouragement of us all.

1 Peter 2:1-10     Luke 20:9-18

I'm enormously grateful for the invitation to preach at the Archdeaconry Festival this year. I'm a member and like to think of myself as a staunch supporter of Mothers' Union, going back to the days of my parish ministry, so for me it is a great opportunity and privilege. I want to encourage Mothers' Union members from this Archdeaconry to be in the vanguard of everything the organisation is doing in the Diocese and also nationally and internationally, and I am proud that our current Diocesan and Provincial Presidents are both from Bolton Archdeaconry. The fact that they are both also from the parish I live in and the branch I belong to makes it even more special for me, but tonight is about Mothers Union in the Archdeaconry – so we'll let the reflected glory shine across the whole area.



I think there is a danger for Mothers' Union and any other Church organisation and for the Church as a whole of generating all kinds of activities and events that may look very worthy but don't really advance what Jesus wants us to do, they don't connect with God's plans and purposes in the world, they can't really be said to build on Christ who is the cornerstone, the sure foundation.

Our readings this evening remind us of how important it is that what we are and what we do is in continuity with Jesus Christ himself. That well-known passage from 1 Peter that describes us – Christians, the Church, MU members – as 'living stones' invites us to become part of a structure, a building, like the famous Jerusalem Temple, that is laid on the foundation of Jesus Christ and whose purpose is to worship and serve God.





But we are not invited to be part of a monolithic structure, an ancient monument, because we are ‘living’ stones – the Church is not an institution (although it sometimes gets classed as one) it’s a living, moving, growing edifice – a movement, a network – which is how we should think of Mothers’ Union as well.



But the most important element in the construction of the Church - of a local church, your MU branch – is that it is built soundly on the cornerstone, who is Jesus Christ: *‘the stone that the builders rejected [that] has become the head of the corner’*.

Luke 20: 9 -18 is a bit of a bloodthirsty tale, but it makes its point by being very easy to understand, certainly for its first hearers. Imagine a vineyard with an absentee landowner, says Jesus. Today he might have said, imagine a London Department Store or a famous football club owned by someone from overseas, who puts his own staff in place and tries to monitor performance from far away, and reap the profits.

He expects to receive those profits when harvest comes but the tenants declare UDI and won’t hand them over. Not quite as far-fetched, I think, as it seems today. It was easier then than now for the tenants to conceal what they were up to – when international communications were slow. The owner had to rely on messengers going back and forth to tell him what was going on. He sent three in turn and each of them got beaten up with increasing violence, and sent packing. In the end he sent his son, his pride and joy, the one who would inherit all his wealth one day. Seizing their opportunity the wicked tenants murdered him, thinking that way the vineyard was surely theirs to keep. The old man wouldn’t dare touch them now, and they could claim what we now call ‘adverse possession’, or if he died without an heir it was theirs anyway.

They were wrong, of course, and Jesus invites his audience to finish the story, *‘What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?’* As the meaning starts to dawn on them, he tells them the answer, *‘He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.’*

*'Heaven forbid,'* his hearers reply. They knew what the story meant. This is one of the easiest parables to understand. Deliberately, on this occasion, Jesus disguises the meaning very thinly. Everyone in those days knew that God's people, Israel, were his vineyard, it was a familiar image in the scriptures. Clearly the owner was God, the tenants in the vineyard were God's people, specifically perhaps their leaders, who weren't being fruitful; God had sent a succession of prophets to them, who they'd rejected, violently, now he was sending his Son who was going to face a worse fate still. The bit that really shocked his hearers, of course, was that the profits, the blessings of his Kingdom would be taken from them and given to others – those who were not the ones first chosen by God. Israel's privileges would be taken away from them.

But the story as it stood left the Son lying dead, as though Jesus was doomed to be a failure. That's where the bit about the cornerstone comes in. The saying about the stone that the builders rejected points of course to his resurrection after his death at the hands of the leadership in Jerusalem.



The one who was rejected is reinstated as the most important component in God's plan B. Jesus becomes the foundation of what God is building now. They had dismissed him from playing a part in what God was doing; God saw it completely differently. He brought Jesus back as the most important building block of all.



The most important building block, the foundation stone, for the new people of God, for the living temple, for the Church, for the Mothers' Union.

Of course, rejection of Jesus, as we know all too well, didn't stop in his own day. Indeed, it goes on as we speak, with degrees of violence that horrify us. The persecution of Christians in many parts of the world, but especially in Iraq at the moment, is an appalling reality just now.

Arguably our own society seems to be engaged in a project of cutting itself off from its Christian roots, so that those of us who seek to follow Christ today have to meet more challenges and face more ridicule than previous generations could have expected.

How vital it is, then, that, what we do in Christ's name, and that includes what we do in Mothers' Union, local, diocesan, national, international, is faithful, relevant and is demonstrably built on the foundation that is Jesus Christ.



Our part in God's building programme is, of course, to bear witness to Jesus Christ, by demonstrating his love, and by sharing the story of that love embodied in his life, death and resurrection.

The Mothers Union has some brilliant ways of its own of doing that; and its branches play a part within our local churches as we do it. I try to keep an eye on what's going on in Cymbal and in Families First, and on our website. The project 'Just up Your Street' is one to get us thinking in branches about making a difference in our local communities and I hope you're getting stuck into that.

But whatever we do, whether it's a project, or just a branch activity or meeting, let's be confident that we *are* building on the foundation – that what we do really does connect with God's plans and purposes in the world. That was, of course, the aim of the founding mother, Mary Sumner, and I know it is the firm intention of the leadership today.



So, Bolton Archdeaconry Mothers' Union, keep building on the foundation, making Christ known in our communities.

Future dates for the diary:

**Sept 3rd Christ Church Walmersley Branch 105th Birthday party** - Please let Tricia Stokes know if you are attending this event.

Sept 5-7th Residential retreat at Foxhill

Sept 10th Diocesan Festival at the Cathedral,  
7.30pm with the Bishop of Middleton

Sept 10 - 12th Making up welcome bags at the Chaplaincy.  
Please consider assisting with this

Sept 15 - 18th Distribution of Welcome bags

**Sept 17th** Branch meeting: **An evening with the Sisters  
from the Caritas Centre**

We welcome everyone to our meetings and look forward to getting to know new faces.

Kathryn Bailey  
Branch leader

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH  
INVITE YOU TO  
***A BUFFET DINNER DANCE***

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC & DANCE, WITH  
DELICIOUS BUFFET

IN ST. JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH HALL  
ON FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER ~ 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH  
AT £7.50 EACH  
*ALL WELCOME*



It was announced on Sunday 20 July that the Bishop of Manchester has invited Barbara Taylor to be a Lay Canon of Manchester Cathedral in recognition of her significant ministry in the diocese and beyond.

The actual date of the installation has not yet been determined but the title can be used immediately.

Everyone at the United Benefice of Walmersley Road wishes to congratulate Barbara on this appointment.



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Join us this Autumn for **Messy Heroes**

Come along on First Saturdays, 4 – 6 pm in Christ Church Hall and you will find a warm welcome for all the family

October 4      Messy Joseph

November 1    Messy Jonah

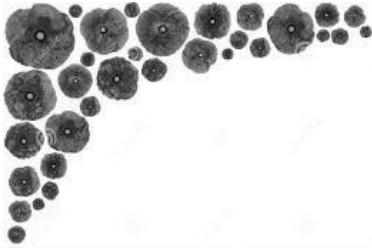
December 6    Messy Joshua

Help would be much appreciated from anyone willing to spread the word, distribute fliers, set up, serve drinks, prepare food, help with crafts, lead singing, clear away and above all share a smile!

Please have a word with Dave, Janet, Kathryn, Barbara T

Ideas for activities or songs for the above sessions to Barbara Taylor, please - [barbaractaylor@lineone.net](mailto:barbaractaylor@lineone.net)

Note: There will be no get-together on September 6<sup>th</sup> – SORRY



## ***A MEDITATION***

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AUGUST 1914

The fields of Flanders are bathed in summer sunshine preparing for the harvest of the autumn.

AUGUST 1914

No one knew what a terrible harvest was to be gathered during the next few years. Men were to be buried in mud. No seeds were to be planted other than the self-sown red poppy.

AUGUST 1914

Many, in fact more than many, fit young men would be trained, given smart uniforms to wear and then told to go abroad to be shot at.

AUGUST 1914

They did not know, they could not tell what pains they'd have to bear, they only could stand straight in line and await the whistle call.

AUGUST 1914

The wives waved cheerio in faith. They did not anticipate the thin paper telegram to say there would be no return. Only their own descent into widowhood.

TODAY AUGUST 2014 TODAY

It is all written up in the history books.

We have watched too much of it on our screens.

We commemorate the date because the century has past.

May the Lord have mercy on us as we realise what was lost and what might have been, and the awful pity of it all. Amen

## **REMEMBERING – WITH FAITH AND HOPE**

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*The Vicar reports on a special interfaith event that looked back to the events of 100 years ago and also looked to the future.*

On the evening of Sunday 10 August, the Bury Muslim / Christian Forum held a Requiem for the First World War at Maqam al-Arbain on Fletcher Street.

The Act of Remembrance was led by representatives of the Christian, Islamic and Jewish faiths. The service consisted of Bible Readings from the Old Testament books of Ecclesiastes, Joel and Lamentations; poems from World War One participants such as Edward Thomas, Wilfred Owen and Rupert Brooke as well as a selection of verses from the Qur'an.

At the end of the service, members of all three faith communities lit candles as everyone prayed that the Lord of Light may guide us into the realms of peace. All the participants then exchanged a greeting of peace with a handshake or a kiss.

The evening took place amidst the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine in the Middle East in addition to the persecution of Christians and other faith communities in Northern Iraq.

It was a sign that at a local level, relationships between members of the local faith communities can be a source of strength and unity and not one of division.

The leaders of the Bury Muslim/Christian Forum hope that a similar event can be held each year during the four year commemoration of WW1.



## ***Thank You***

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As you may know, I spent a few days in Wythenshawe Hospital in May, having heart surgery. I'm doing very well now and have been discharged from the hospital, though I don't think I can (yet!) emulate my younger daughter who recently climbed Scafell Pike (978 m, 3210'). She, with 10 other humans and 12 dogs, was on a sponsored climb to raise money for, above other places, Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who sent a card and remembered me in their prayers. It is a great blessing at a time like that to know that other people are thinking of you. Whilst I was in, one of the C of E Chaplains brought me Holy Communion; it was a particular joy to be ministered to by a priest whom I had helped to train for ordination on the OLM Course.

So if you see me walking around, I am, just possibly, trying to get fit enough for Scafell Pike! I'll let you know if that happens!

Very many thanks,

*Ralph E. Mathison*



## ***Muslim/Christian Forum***

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Meetings of the Muslim/Christian Forum are held regularly for fellowship and study throughout the year.

For further information please contact Gill Smith at Christ Church, or speak to the Vicar.

Details of the meetings are always in the church news sheet/bulletin.





## ***Do you have an hour to spare?***

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We are looking for help with Beavers, 6.00 till 7.00 on a Monday Evening, at St. John's Church Hall. Anyone who is interested please contact Kelly Watson at St John with St. Mark. The person will need to be CRB checked and can also train to be a leader if they so wish.

Thank You,  
Kelly

## ***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).

It will take 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.





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

On Wednesday 9th July the Open Group welcomed Mrs Gillian Smith to give an illustrated talk on Wood Carving and her theme for the evening was centred on 'Box Making'. The old adage of "if you've seen one box you've seen them all" was quickly dispersed as Gillian took us on a journey initially describing the box as having an age old past, as ancient as civilisation itself. When containers did just that – they contained things.

However Gillian then described by illustrations and handing round box specimens she has collected, how progressive imagination and creativity has now made contemporary boxes fundamentally different. Boxes of all shapes and sizes for various usages covered with lovely woodcarvings and various laminates gave members the impression that they were not just a 'box' but had been made as a form of self expression and creative exploration. As a finale to the evening, members were invited to bring along their own boxes and describe to the group what they meant to them. Interesting stories of their previous usages by their ancestors, and that they were all keepsakes and family treasures to be handed on in future times. As one member put it – whether you like boxes or not, we'll all be leaving in one!

Our next meeting ~ Wednesday 10th September  
at 7.30pm in the Library

**'Time for Tea'**  
Led by Pam Kojder



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

## ***Annual Assembly***

of the Greater Manchester Churches Together

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Monday, 13 October 2014  
5 – 9 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME  
at Salford Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford, M3 6DP

Guest speaker: Rt Revd David Walker, Bishop of Manchester

Theme: **HOUSING**



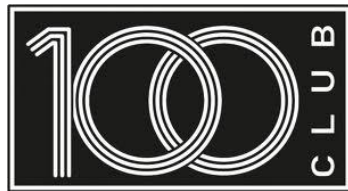
Refreshments available and the event is FREE

Registration essential:  
[sph.gmct@man.ac.uk](mailto:sph.gmct@man.ac.uk) or phone 0161 273 5508

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### **JULY 2014 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Maureen Nuttall  
2nd Prize ~ Geoff Hosking  
3rd Prize ~ Ian Walker



### **AUGUST 2014 WINNERS**

1st Prize – Sheila Edwards  
2nd Prize – June Banks  
3rd Prize – Carol Hawksworth

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

## ***Caption Competition***

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Only a few responses to this photograph. Someone in panto mode came up with: "No - Tell Humpty Dumpty to find his own wall, this one is mine."

But we liked:  
"Will you throw my ball back, please? "

Congratulations once again to Kath Parkinson.

## ***THE LATE SYBIL MILLS***

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The family of Sybil Mills have written to the Vicar announcing that the sum of £575 has been donated to Grace's Place in memory of Sybil. They would like to pass on their thanks to everyone who donated so generously.

In their letter they state: "We feel that the donation to the Children's Hospice funds was a fitting memorial to the life of our mother to whom her own family was so important."

They also wish to reiterate their thanks to all who took part and attended "the moving and memorable funeral service."



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Why not come and join in our activities on Sunday mornings?



At 10.30 am in both churches there is lots going on for our children, who enjoy singing, stories, drama, prayers, crafts and then share what they have learnt with adults in church.

Younger children are always welcome at our services and there are child friendly areas and activities for them too.

## *Some Capitals of the World*

1	Wander	Rome
2	Toy with a knock out	Tokyo
3	BZGAER	Zagreb
4	Sprouts	Brussels
5	Writer of the White Fang	London
6	Where a mouse lived	Amsterdam
7	Little Maureen's milk provider	Moscow
8	BOILSN	Lisbon
9	Tin+b+mistake+a	Canberra
10	Nearly found on a beach "no way"	San Jose
11	Learner mixed up with salty water	Berlin
12	Mother dried e went	Madrid
13	Judgement of -----	Paris
14	Female tennis player+s with god of war	Buenos Aires
15	A general with a VCR	Montevideo
16	An article in a short answer	Athens
17	Don't do this at both ends of a candle	Berne
18	WHATSGOINN	Washington
19	A try before first month	Abidjan
20	Leave with nothing	Quito
21	Against in a pudding	Santiago

Thanks to all who took part in the competition. Eight correct entries were received. Lorenzo, the baker, picked Anne Nuttall's name from a hat. We made £46 for church funds



## **WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER**

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1	10.00 am	Art Workshop starts (CC)
3	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union birthday party (CC)
4	8.00 pm	PCC (SJSM)
5	10.00am	Art Classes start (CC)
6	10.00 am 4.00 pm	Coffee Morning & Book Fair (SJSM) NO Messy Church (CC)
7		<b>12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> Services as usual
8	7.30 pm	PCC (CC)
10	7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Open Group – Pam Kojder (SJSM)
13	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Benefice Boundary Walk (from SJSM) Organ Recital (CC)
14		<b>Holy Cross</b> Services as usual
17	7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Deanery Synod – St Stephen's Mothers' Union – Caritas (CC)
21		<b>St Matthew</b> Services as usual
	1.00 pm	Sponsored Walk (from CC)
26	7.30 pm	Buffet Dinner Dance (SJSM)
28		<b>15<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> Services as usual



*at St John with St Mark's*

***Jessica Dunn***

*served as an acolyte for the first time*

*proudly assisted by brother Daniel*