



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



OCTOBER 2016



50p



REGULAR SERVICES

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 st Holy Communion	Christ Church
	2 nd Family and Parade	
	3 rd Holy Communion	
	4 th Service of the Word	
	5 th Holy Communion	
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St John w St Mark
	2 nd Parade Service	

Monday

	Monday@2	49 Fairlands Road
7.30 p.m.	1 st Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road

Wednesday

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

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

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



All we have belongs to you!

September/October is a time when we traditionally think about harvest. Both of our churches and all of the four schools in our Benefice are celebrating harvest at some time or other over this period and both Churches have our Harvest Celebrations at 10.30am on October 9th.

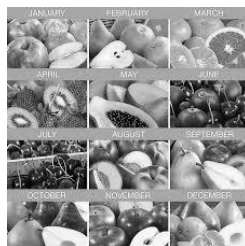
But what do we mean by harvest, and is it only at this time of year? This year has seen Nigel and myself travelling up and down the M6/M5 on three different journeys at different times of the year - April, July/August, and most recently the end of September, into October. A combination of filial duties and attending Spring Harvest. As a passenger I've seen the changes in the fields – early crops being harvested in April and lambs in the fields. Grains and silage/hay being harvested in July and August, and most recently fields being ploughed and early seeds being planted at what we would consider harvest time in late September.

We have been fortunate to have a holiday in Lanzarote – in fact I'm writing this while there ready for the magazine deadline when we return. There, there is a different climate to our own and the seasons hardly seem to exist – it appears to have quite a barren feel about it, but it does have its own micro climate and a lot of locally grown and produced foodstuffs, think tomatoes, bananas, cheese, edible cactus (prickly pears) aloe vera and of course wine. There are plenty of flowering bushes and trees that are quite different from our own, especially to be seen when lifting my eyes heavenwards! Huge seed pods on trees unknown to myself – they weren't in my biology lessons at school! All of these are waiting to be gathered in – each in its own time making 'The Harvest' an all year round occasion. Even in our own country milk and eggs are 'harvested' daily.

If we were housewives of 50+ years ago or an allotment holder of today we would be trying to harvest and preserve the fruits and vegetables for our times of winter when not much grows in our climate – especially 'up north'.

I was particularly struck by one of the 'new hymns' that Dave introduced a few weeks ago from our new hymn books at CCW - number 496 written by Martin Leckebusch.

Long ago you taught your people:
'Part of what you reap is mine –
from your cattle, bring your firstborn,
tithe the crops of field and vine.'
Though beneath the Law's restrictions
we are not compelled to live,
as we reap our monthly harvest,
make us eager Lord, to give.



It took my mind back to a passage from Malachi 3:7b-12 that I read many years ago and which had a profound effect on me and the way I respond financially to God's call on my life – the harvest of my monthly income be it wages, benefit or pension. Returning to God (the church) a portion of what we have harvested is paramount to our Christian selves and healthiness.

At 'Harvest' we have the opportunity to return some of the other or extra 'fruits of our labours' for the relief of those who are struggling be it through drought, famine, war, disaster, health issues etc. by giving money for Tearfund (CCW) and/or non-perishable foodstuffs for food banks (at both churches).

The hymn also reflects on Jesus and certainly would be worth looking at if you have the opportunity. The last four lines of the hymn seem to sum up very well the Christian attitude to money so I'll leave them with you to ponder and reflect on.

Not a tiresome obligation,
not a barren legal due,
but an overflow of worship:
all we have belongs to you!

May we all find blessings in the Harvest time.
Barbara

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

at Christ Church and St.John with St.Mark

HARVEST FESTIVALS – Sunday 9 October

Family & Parade Services – 10.30am in both churches

Donations of Harvest produce welcome.
Gifts will be distributed locally including
via the Porch Project, Caritas and the
Booth Centre.



HARVEST SOCIAL

St.John with St.Mark after the 10.30 am service

THE SPRINGSIDE SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE

At Christ Church: Thursday 20 October at 10.00 am

PRIORY HARVEST SERVICE

Priory Highbank Centre, Walmersley Road, Bury
Wednesday 12 October 2.30pm
Everyone welcome

A PRAYER FOR HARVEST

At Harvest time, with grateful hearts, we bring our offerings to you.
We're mindful of those people, Lord whose blessings are so few.
Far away and closer by are those in need of your touch.
We're sorry for the many times we forget you given us so much.
Thank you for providing us with all we need, and more.
We pray for all the needy people, the hungry and the poor.
As we bring our harvest gifts for communities to share,
Teach us how we each can help to show the world your care.
Help the suffering people, Lord, please hear our Harvest prayer.



Just a taste

Taster Day: St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Formby
Saturday 8th October

For a day for fun, food, and fellowship.

Our programme may look like this (*depending on the weather*)!

- 9am car share from Bury to St Joseph's
- 10am tour of St Joseph's and coffee
- 11am morning reflection
- Lunch
- Walk to the beach or forest
- 3pm afternoon reflection and service
- 4pm return to Bury

We plan to use the most of our time together not forgetting to make the most of the beautiful surroundings and the town of Formby.



The cost of the day is expected to be in the region of £12 per person. Please speak to Ian Banks or Rev'd Gill for more information and **don't forget to sign up!**



BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

- Oct 2 **19 after Trinity**
Habbakuk 1: 1-4, 2 Timothy 1: 1-14 Luke 17: 5-10
2:1-4
- Oct 9 **20 after Trinity - HARVEST**
Deuteronomy 26: Revelation 14: 14-18 John 6:25-35
1-11
- Oct 16 **21 after Trinity**
Genesis 32: 22-31 2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5 Luke 18: 1-8
- Oct 23 **Last after Trinity**
Jeremiah 14: 7-10, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, Luke 18: 9-14
19-22 16-18
- Oct 30 **4 before Advent**
Isaiah 1: 10-18 2 Thessalonians 1: Luke 19: 1-10
1-12

FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

- Oct 2 In memory of Mr & Mrs Tasker
- Oct 9
- Oct 16 Mrs J Wood
- Oct 23 In memory of Mr & Mrs W Dighton
- Oct 30

Anyone who would like to donate flowers for church,
or is interested in helping with flower arranging
please contact Betty Winterbottom



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Aug 21	Millie Rose Boland
Aug 28	Tyler Dunning
Sep 4	Amber Melia
	Felicity Rose Wood-O'Beirne

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

Marriages

Aug 19	Alan Plimley and Alison Etheridge
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"Those who God has joined together let no one put asunder"

Interment of Ashes

Aug 28	Pat Mongey
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"I am the resurrection and the life....."

Thank You!

After my recent stay in hospital and convalescing at home, I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, numerous phone calls, flowers and cards. Thanks also to Dave, Gill and Paul for their visits and to neighbours, carers and Fairfield staff.

God Bless you all.

Ruth Warburton

At Cafe church, at Christ Church, in September, we worshipped God who is ever faithful and unchanging even when our circumstances change or are uncertain. We thought about new beginnings at every stage of life and this reading was especially poignant:

A Reflection: The New Birth

'Turn over a new leaf,' they said. 'Start again,' they said. 'Forget the past and aim for the future.' So I turned, but the leaf wouldn't stay. I tried, but I couldn't get started. I made an effort - I really made an effort - oh, how I made an effort to go forward. But as soon as I turned round, there was the past behind me, mocking, taunting, threatening. So I sat down and wept.

And it was there I met him, the man of sorrows, the healer, the wonderful counsellor. There, amidst my tears, I recognised him.

'Leave the past,' he whispered. 'You can start again,' he said. 'Behold, I am doing a new thing.'

So I beheld; I looked; I listened. I waited for a new thing to spring up. And I wasn't disappointed. Like the early bulbs of the year, first one, then another, then another appeared. As flowers began to blossom, so winter gave way to spring. So, gradually, my past gave way to a new future. New interests replaced old habits. What I had tried so hard to forget became what I could not remember. All things had become new.

(Roots on the Web)

FROM THE COUNCILS

St John with St Mark

Upcoming social dates were confirmed, including the Coffee Morning on 24th September and the Harvest events over the weekend of 7th-9th October. A meeting to plan and discuss the Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 25th September.

We were advised that there had been an increase in booking enquiries through the Website.

Following the Archdeacon's Parish Visit in June, one of the issues was the volume of service records we retain in the building. It is expected that most of these will be transported to John Rylands Library in Manchester for archiving.

The Poppy from the Tower of London, given by the Scout Group, has now been placed on the wall over the Memorial Book. An additional white backing was discussed to make the poppy more noticeable. There has been a mixed reaction at present.

Sixsmiths have recently made a minor repair to the organ following a reoccurrence of a previous problem.

Ian advised us that the Parish Share has increased this year. However on the positive side our income has also increased.

It was highlighted that some of the trees in the Church garden need to be chopped back as they are close to overhanging into neighbouring gardens.

The findings from the Parish Questionnaire were again discussed. This time Gill passed some of the completed ones around the PCC and picked out recurring themes raised. In particular around the quality of the sound system and the worship style at some of the 10.30am services. These findings will continue to form a basis for our discussions going forward.

A new sound system is required for the Hall due to problems with the existing one. This has become more of a priority due to the introduction of more services in the Church Hall and will be looked at.

The new head teacher at St. John with St. Mark School will attend the 10.30am service on Sunday 11th September. Gill has now joined the governing body at the school, replacing Janet Lyssejko.

There will be a Christian Basics course getting under way in October, with another opportunity in Lent 2017.

The Christingle Service at St. John with St. Mark will now be on Monday 28th November.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Tuesday 25th October at 8.00pm.



Bishop of Bolton

In June the Ven Mark Ashcroft was named as the new Bishop of Bolton, and is seen here on Bury Market on the day of the announcement.

Mark met his wife Sally when he spent 10 years living and working in Kenya. Since returning to this country he has been Rector of Christ Church Harpurhey before becoming Archdeacon of Manchester in 2009.

The new Bishop said he was “honoured and thrilled” to take on the new position and said he can’t wait to get to know the people of Bolton, Bury, Rossendale, Salford and the surrounding areas for which he will have particular pastoral responsibility.

He will be consecrated in York Minster on Tuesday, 18 October and anyone wishing to attend should call 0161 448 1976 or contact pa.archmanchester@manchester.anglican.org as soon as possible.

The new Bishop will be welcomed in Manchester Cathedral on Saturday 22nd October. If you would like to be there please have a word with the Vicar.

We prayer for Mark and Sally as they prepare for their new ministry.

FROM THE VICARAGE

* I have been contacted by the Chairman of Bury Choral Society who are looking for new recruits. This is one of the oldest choirs in the country and their motto is "*the study and practice of choral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performances.*"

The choir are looking for any adults who would like the joy of singing alongside professional soloists and usually an orchestra. They are particularly short of men, and specifically tenors.

At least four concerts are performed each year and rehearsals take place every Tuesday evening for two hours from 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Primary School, Cecil Street. Please have a word with me if you are interested in joining.

* The Porch project are always in need for more foodstuff to help local families. Both churches have a box at the back of church to support this worthy cause.

* On Saturday 8 October there is an opportunity to experience the delights of St. Joseph's Prayer Centre in Formby which is the venue for the Benefice Retreat in May.

This taster day offers fellowship, fun, good food and reflection. Transport will be arranged.

Please sign the sheet at the back of church if you wish to attend. Please speak to Revd. Gill for further details.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet every month – usually on the first Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please have a word with me.

* Any enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc should be made at the Parish Office at St. John with St. Mark's Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00.

*Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the wardens.

* Both of our Church Halls are available for a whole range of activities for use by church and community groups. Please however check with the bookings officers (June Banks for St.John with St.Mark and Jennifer Wood for Christ Church) whether the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged.

* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk



The Mission provides practical help to children and their families throughout Manchester and Salford and has been in existence since 1869.

Helping children and families living in Manchester and Salford with everyday items most of us take for granted.

All the families supported are affected by poverty.

Wood Street's mission is to help alleviate the effects of poverty on local children and their families through practical help.

Wood Street's vision is that all children in Manchester and Salford should live a life free from poverty.

News from the Mission about.....

THE SMART START APPEAL

There were 592 visits from families to the Back to School Shop needing help with school kit. Nearly half of the parents asked said they would have to go without buying food or paying the rent in order to get the uniform they needed for their kids. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated school kit or funds to help support local families.

THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

At Christmas we provide children up to the age of 12 with new toys and books. The presents are new as we want the child to feel no different from any other children opening their gifts on Christmas morning. The Christmas presents we give the families are not wrapped as they are given to the parents to present to their own children. We do not want the kids thinking their gift is a charity present.

We also give each family a large food hamper full of everyday food items as well as including a few extra luxuries to help them enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Last year we gave new toys and food to over 2,000 families and 4,500 children. This year we expect the numbers referred to us to be even higher. Help us ensure all local families can join in the fun and festivities



WILL YOU HELP? Find out more at
www.woodstreetmission.org.uk

Or contact them on 0161 834 3140
25 Wood St. Manchester M3 3EF



As I write this article the schools have just returned for the Autumn term, my choir has restarted after the summer break and after the lazy hazy summer days we gear ourselves up for new beginnings. We celebrated this in our Café Church service recently. And so it was a delight to celebrate a new beginning for Ethel Hilton who was admitted as a new MU member at our birthday celebrations. But there is no right time to become a member of the Mothers Union. We welcome new members throughout the year at the right time for you!. But maybe this is the right time to consider joining us and so I have explained what membership is all about.

Mothers' Union is a membership-based organisation. Members are Christians from all walks of life who join together to form the largest lay-led mission group in the world. All the charitable outreach of the organisation is actively carried out by the members, and Mothers' Union's governance, leadership and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their communities worldwide.

But what does it mean to be a member?

Membership of Mothers' Union isn't passive – simply handing over a fee once a year. Membership can be described as a life-style choice – an active involvement in a fellowship that goes right around the world. This fellowship and the deeper engagement with their Christian faith is often described by members as the most valuable part of membership.

Many members commit to active volunteering in local projects run or supported by Mothers' Union that reach out to support marriage and family life in whatever way is most needed by the local community.

Membership of Mothers' Union is open to all Christians baptised in the Trinity – not just Anglicans – with members coming from diverse denominations. All members are committed to supporting the aims and objectives of Mothers' Union and commit to undertake Bible reading, church worship and private prayer in their lives, including supporting their fellow members in prayer.

Above all members discover in membership a wealth of friendship, opportunity to learn, opportunities to deepen their spiritual life, opportunities to serve and to grow. The more Mothers' Union grows the more we can make a positive impact in society to help support parents and families.

Our aims and objectives are:

- To promote and support married life
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity

Our members are not all mothers, or even all women. They are single, married, parents, grandparents, or young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. Mothers' Union provides, for all four million members, a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community - through prayer, financial support and actively working at the grassroots level in programmes that meet local needs.

We have our branch meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month and a small committee meets to plan the programme to include spiritual resourcing, education about wider Mothers' Union projects, local concerns and life within our community and not forgetting fun events! And we love our food!

So look through the forthcoming dates and consider joining us for an evening - no pressure to become a member at all, just get to know us. We welcome you.

Dates for the diary

Oct 3 - Deanery festival - Bury Parish Church 7.30 pm Please support this event.

Oct 5 - The MU shop visits our branch with Christmas cards, diaries and much, much more. We have extended a welcome to all the Bury branches to join us for this occasion.

Oct 8 - Autumn Council at 90 Deansgate from 9.30. **This is a date and venue change**

Oct 19 - Craft night 2 with Linda Thompson - Bring out your inner creativity!

Nov 2 - 'Souper' supper and Communion led by Revd Gill Barnett

Kathryn Bailey
Branch leader



This 2016 initiative by our Archbishops was fantastic, which is why in 2017 it is "going global".

Our response, whilst positive, was minimal as there was little time to plan. We now have until 25 May 2017 – so please get your thinking caps on and consider how we, as a benefice, can **"Join with the family of God the Father to pray 'Come Holy Spirit', that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ."**

Visit www.thykingdomcome.co.uk for more information.



150 Not Out!

We are used to having Readers lead worship and preach along with a variety of other tasks in our church community. Currently we have two Readers, Barbara and Darren and one Reader Emeritus, Margery, but both Don and Paul were Readers before they were ordained.

The title Reader existed in the medieval church as one of the stages through which a priest had to go before ordination but in the Western church lay participation in leading services declined over the next century.

In Elizabethan England, many clergy who had served under the Roman Catholic Queen Mary, resigned or were deprived of their living for their Catholic views. The Church of England was left with a crisis of ministry and Archbishop Matthew Parker and other bishops resorted to licensing lay people to read the service in church.

The Readers had to be "honest, sober and grave laymen who could read the order of service; but could not intermeddle to christen, marry or minister the Holy Communion." They were not allowed to preach and could be fined if they failed to observe these instructions.

Readers never quite died out in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries because there were never enough priests to serve every parish church.

In the early nineteenth century a few Readers remained mainly at the fringes of the church. However in 1839, Matthew Arnold the Headmaster of Rugby School preached a sermon calling for the establishment of a "lower order of subdeacons" who could appeal to the "lower orders" by speaking their language!!

This sermon led to an address to the Archbishop of Canterbury submitted in 1844 calling for the authorisation of lay Readers to take some of the burden of ministry from the shoulders of incumbents.

They were also a little concerned that the Methodists allowed lay preachers and that Methodism would appeal to the working class.

Needless to say, in the Church of England nothing happened quickly and there was prolonged debate, particularly between High Churchmen and Evangelicals.

Eventually in 1866, the bishops regularised the licensing of male Readers and ensured that they received some national recognition and were seen as more than a stop gap in the absence of ordained ministers. After 1866 Readers were able to preach, something that would have been unthinkable in the past but it took many years before women, until the First World War, were allowed to become Readers.

Over 150 years Readers have become more significant in the church taking on a variety of roles in churches, schools, hospitals, hospices and prisons.

Barbara, Darren and I recognise that without the love, support and prayers of the congregations, we would not be able to serve as Readers and we are grateful. Please join us on October 30th as we celebrate Reader Ministry in our churches with a special joint service at Christ Church.

Margery



Quote from John Knowles – Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Chester

1866 – A rapidly changing society – many challenges for the Church: - effective remedy: new Reader ministry

2016 – A rapidly changing society – many challenges for the Church: - effective remedy: renewed Reader ministry.

My favourite story about being a Reader. I was walking through the churchyard at Christ Church in my cassock and surplice and was stopped by a teenager who asked, "Are you one of them lady vicars?" I told him that I wasn't, but he wanted to know what I did and when I told him that I helped at services his reply was " Oh you're like a Vicar's mate then!"

SATURDAY WALKING GROUP



Ralph chose to lead the August walk on Saturday 13th, around his former Parish of Goodshaw and Crawshawbooth. We met at St John with St Mark Hall at 9.30am, and Michael once again volunteered to do the driving bit for us. It wasn't the brightest of days today, but that did not stop us.

Our starting point was at St John the Evangelist Church, built around 1890-1892, but was sadly declared redundant in 2012. We travelled along Pinner Lane before making our way along the edge of Cribden Moor for a short while.

We paused for elevenses at Duckworth Clough Farm, overlooking the Haslingden Halo on Top o' Slate.

Once again, as is now customary for our group, we picked up a section of the Rossendale Way and the local farming communities. We passed an Equestrian Centre and the nearby settlement of Stone Fold.

After our lunch stop around 1.15pm, we continued across the Rossendale Way, leaving at Love Clough along Commercial Street, and walking along Goodshaw Lane. We arrived at Goodshaw Chapel around 2.00pm. The Chapel however is currently closed, undergoing renovation. A little further along the lane, we paused at St. Mary's & All Saints Church. Members of the Open Group may remember these places, as there was a visit here a few years ago.

Continuing into Crawshawbooth Village, we then made our way back to the car.

Despite it being a little strenuous underfoot at times following recent wet weather we all thoroughly enjoyed the walk. Thank you to Ralph for leading us around his former Parish boundary, and for sharing some stories from his time as priest.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

MORE FROM THE WALKING GROUP

We were scheduled to complete the 'Three Reservoirs' walk on 3rd September. The weather decided to have other plans however and therefore Paul contacted us all on the Friday evening to advise that, although there would still be a walk, it would be a slightly more local affair. Six of us (+ 1 dog) gathered at the Lych Gate at 9.30am for a mystery tour. Only Paul knew where we were heading.

We set off towards Ribble Drive and then onto Walmersley Old Road. Shortly after, we were passed by the Vicar in his car at Mount Pleasant. We excused him from joining us as he was working at the time.

Carrying on past the Raglan we walked a short distance before turning left and picking up the track at Whitelaw Road, which eventually leads back onto Manchester Road. Here we crossed and made our way through Nuttall Park and then on towards the Shoulder of Mutton. We paused for a brief eleven o'clock stop at Emmanuel Church, Holcombe. We did not climb Holcombe Hill, but just went along the foot and across the track to the Hare and Hounds. After walking along Holcombe Road we joined the Kirklees Valley continuing towards Woodhill Road and The Burrs, where we finished our walk at the Brown Cow. As our walk finished much earlier than intended we stopped for refreshment before going our separate ways home. It would seem we covered about 8 or 9 miles in just 3 hours.

The change of plan means that the walk which should have taken place in September will now move to Saturday 1st October. So please meet at the Lych Gate (Christ Church Walmersley) at 9.30am for transport to Jumbles when we will try again for the Three Reservoirs. All welcome with the usual packed lunch and other essentials - approx. 10 miles.



Best foot forward, David Robinson

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

A Prayer for today

Lord, I offer you this day
For the work you want accomplished,
For the people you want me to meet,
For the word you want to be spoken,
For the silence you want to be kept,
For the paces you want me to enter
For the work you want to be done.
Lord walk with me today that I may serve you in
all that I do.



Week Two

At this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us every day.

As we thank you for our food we remember all those who do not have enough for even one proper meal each day. Bless all those, Lord, who suffer because of the greed of others. Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly so everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation.



We thank you for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food; for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers. Bless all those, Lord, who do not earn a fair day's pay for their hard work both at home and in other countries. Help us to want to buy local produce and fairly traded goods wherever we can so that everyone can work with dignity and there will be no more poverty.

Week Three A Celtic Prayer

Circle Me Lord

Circle me, Lord.
Keep protection near
And danger afar.
Circle me, Lord
Keep hope within.
Keep doubt without.
Circle me, Lord.
Keep light near
And darkness afar.
Circle me, Lord.
Keep peace within.
Keep evil out.

By David Adam

Week Four

I asked the Lord for a bunch of fresh flowers
But instead he gave me an ugly cactus with many thorns.

I asked the Lord for some beautiful butterflies
But instead he gave me many ugly and dreadful worms.

I was threatened, I was disappointed, I mourned.
But after many days,

Suddenly,
I saw the cactus bloom with many beautiful flowers,
And those worms became beautiful butterflies
Flying in the spring wind.
God's way is the best way.

Chung-Ming Kao, written from prison.





The Open Group were delighted to welcome back our friend Carol Hartley on 14th September. Carol is the local co-ordinator of the Operation Christmas Child Appeal and has led annual meetings for us over the last few years providing us with an update on her work with the shoeboxes and in particular at the Borivos Baby's Home in Belarus.

Before Carol spoke, it was appropriate that David Andrew read us out an article he had seen in a newspaper marking the 30th Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. This was poignant as many people in Belarus, young and old, helped by Carol and her team are still suffering from the effects of that disaster today.

Carol spoke about her most recent visit in April and the people she had met. The talk included a selection of photographs, which were passed around the group. It is evident from the pictures to see the joy on the faces of the children when they open their shoebox, which for us contain everyday items such as toiletries and sweets, but for the children at the orphanage clearly mean so much more. There were pictures of the children wearing their new knitted hats, which they put on straight away.

We were told about other situations Carol had encountered in Belarus, when the team had made a difference, such as arranging for the spectacles of an elderly lady to be mended after they had broken. Something we arrange easily for ourselves here meant the world to the lady, who could then see to read again.

Carol spoke about a girl who came from the Baby's Home who she has become extremely close to. The young lady, now in her early twenties and training to become a nurse, will be married next year. Carol fully intends to be at that wedding.

We were also reminded that it is thanks to people such as ourselves that make this work possible, and Carol is extremely grateful to all of us.

There was a chance for questions afterwards and then an opportunity to purchase Christmas Cards and calendars towards the appeal. Thank you for attending once again Carol.

David



Our next meeting
Wednesday 12th October
at 7.30pm in the Library

'Let's Get Crafty'
Led by Linda Thompson

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



BACON BUTTY MORNING

Saturday, 22nd October from 10 am
in the Church Hall at Christ Church

Enjoy your bacon butty, browse the books
and have a go on the tombola

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES



Come and join us on the third Thursday of every month for a light lunch. A chance to enjoy a chat in the company of friends.

Lunch is served from 12 noon till 1.30 pm.

Christ Church Walmersley Hall – back room.

There is no charge – though a donation toward costs would be appreciated. Any profit will go to charity or church funds.



It would be great to see you !

***Next dates – October 20th; November 17th;
December 15th***

EVENTS FOR OCTOBER



Joint Benefice Social Event

BARN DANCE & SUPPER

St John with St Mark Church Hall

Friday 7th October ~ 7.00pm-10.30pm

Tickets £7 from June, Gill or the Library

HARVEST LUNCH

St John with St Mark Church Hall

Sunday 9th October after the Harvest Parade Service

ORGANISED BY THE SCOUT GROUP

AND TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ROSEMARIE ASHWORTH

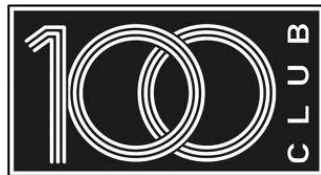


AUGUST 2016 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ Stuart Ashworth

2nd Prize ~ Kelly Watson

3rd Prize ~ Joyce Hopkinson



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

The 2016 Real Advent Calendar

Recently launched!

It is a great way to share the Christmas story

MEANINGFUL FEATURES:

- * Free 28 page Christmas book
- * Charitable Donation
- * Uses quality Fairtrade chocolate
- * 24 festive milk chocolate shapes
- * recyclable box and tray

The 2016 Real Advent Calendar is the UK's only Fairtrade charity Advent calendar; supporting the Funzi Clinic and Traidcraft Exchange and it will soon be in the shops.

Please use the sign up form in church if you would like to order a calendar.



The Meaningful Chocolate Company –
making a big chunk of difference

What about the **Twelve Days of Christmas Truffles** too?

A Belgian Marc De Champagne Truffle for every day of the Christmas Festival. Every box comes with a 16 page guide to the festival and its traditions.

Truffles £8.99, Calendar £3.99

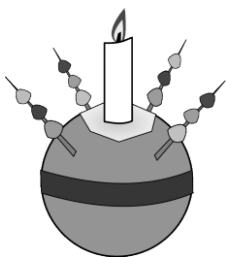
WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Sat 1	9.30am	Walking Group (CC)
Sun 2	10.30am	19 after Trinity Services as usual
Mon 3	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Festival
Wed 5	7.30pm	Mother' Union (CC)
Fri 7	7.00pm	Barn Dance and Supper
Sat 8		Formby Away Day
Sun 9		20 after Trinity
	10.30am	Harvest Festival Other services as usual
	12 noon	Harvest Lunch
Mon 10	7.30 pm	PCC (CC)
Wed 12	2.30pm 7.30pm	Harvest at the Priory Open Group (SJM)
Sun 16		21 after Trinity Services as usual
Tue 18	11.00am 7.30pm	Consecration of Bishop of Bolton Deanery Synod
Wed 19	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 20	12 noon	Thursday Lunch (CC)
Sat 22	10.00am 3.00pm	Bacon Butty morning (CC) Cathedral welcome for Bishop of Bolton
Sun 23		Last after Trinity Services as usual
	7.00pm	Praying in Praise (CC Hall)
Mon 24	7.30pm	Pastoral committee (CC)
Tue 25	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)

Sat 29	9.15am	Diocesan Synod
Sun 30	10.30am	4 before Advent United Benefice Service (CC)
Mon 31	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Sundial)

Forward notices:

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES



MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER

6.30pm

At both churches:
CHRIST CHURCH
& ST.JOHN with ST.MARK

Please bring a toy for a local child in need



SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER

St.John with St.Mark
CHURCH HALL

from 11.00am

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE VARIOUS STALLS



PRAYING in PRAISE

Sunday 23rd October 7pm

Christ Church Walmersley Hall
(Back Room)

*Evening worship in an informal
setting with coffee/tea and
cake!*



Lord, hear our prayer