



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



Come, Holy Spirit

MAY 2017



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 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Service of the Word 5 th Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 nd Parade Service	St John w St Mark
7.30 p.m.	1 st Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road

Wednesday

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

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



Thy Kingdom Come – see page 16 for details or look online at www.thykingdomcome.global Throughout this magazine are ideas for ways in which we can all join in – just look for this symbol.

Safe Refuge and Guiding Light

Well I have been away for a week with the family for a rest and a bit of fun. Or should I say to get dragged around at full speed until I nearly collapse and have to come home for rest from the holiday. I'm pretty sure we have all had that experience.

But among the sea side arcades and ice cream vans and the mandatory chip shops, we always try to find a place for a bit of peace or refuge from the hustle and bustle.

And indeed that is what we did and I would like to tell you about the building and some of its history. The building we found our quiet refuge in is called St Nicholas Chapel and is located very high on top of a hill overlooking Ilfracombe harbour. It's a very small building with quite a steep walk to get to it. But it is well worth the effort with lovely views in all directions.

The Chapel was built as a place of worship around 1321AD for people to come to who were living or working around the old harbour area. It is also thought that the chapel was used as a safe refuge on top of the hill from marauding pirates who used to attack the old Cornwall and Devon coast line.

So this small Chapel on the hill was a place of worship and refuge. Well there is even more to this little Chapel. It also in the middle ages had a light put on its uppermost reach to guide boats into the harbour. And the lighthouse at the top is still in use today. It is thought that the lighthouse maybe the oldest working one in the country.

So if we think about this tiny Chapel it offers open worship, a sanctuary to those in need or shelter and for over six centuries has sent a shining light of guidance out across the dark sky to reassure and bring people home safe. How do we compare?

We have to look at ourselves and wonder are we helping our Church to emit Jesus' light for all to see? And in so doing helping people find faith and the light and love of God? Are we opening and welcome to all who come to us in need and shelter? Do we offer people refuge from the storms that face us in life? And do we accept other people's way of worshipping God or do we want them to conform to our ways and traditions?

This little chapel on the hill has stood the test of time and been a guiding light and sanctuary to people for hundreds of years. I wonder if there are lessons for us to learn and will our Church and faith fare so well over the years to come.

That's where we come in. We are only custodians for our faith and church for a small amount of time. Whether or not it survives over the centuries is the responsibility of us and those who come after us. I just hope we all can try to help the world see Jesus' light through all the darkness of the world and our faith stand the test of time as well as St Nicholas' has.

God bless
Darren



BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

May 7 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2: 42-47 1 Peter 2: 19-25 John 10: 1-10

May 14 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7: 55-60 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14

May 21 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17: 22-31 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21

May 28 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1: 6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17: 1-11

FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

May 7 In memory of the Booth family

May 14 Mr Derek Schofield in memory of his mother, Bessie

May 21 In memory of Jack Wilson

May 28 In memory of Margaret Dutton

If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of flowers please contact Betty Winterbottom

Café Church

4 June at 10.30 a.m.

St.John with St.Mark

CAFÉ COMMUNION for PENTECOST



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

March 5	Charlie Kinsey Dickinson
March 19	Charlotte Elizabeth Lea
April 9	Lily Grace Neary

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

Funerals

March 24	Terry Mason
March 31	Valerie Woodhouse
April 5	Berenice Trivasse
April 13	Mary Rawson

Interment of ashes in the garden of remembrance

March 19	Julia Taylor
March 26	Brian Evans

"I am the resurrection and the life....."

Thank you

I would like to say thank you for all the prayers and messages of sympathy received following the death of Bernard.

Also a special thanks to Dave for all his kind visits throughout Bernard's illness. They were very much appreciated by both of us.

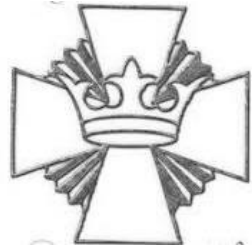
Eileen Dwyer

Golden Jubilee

On Sunday May 21st, 1967, I knelt in front of Bishop Greer and a number of priests in Manchester Cathedral and was ordained to the priesthood.

So on Sunday, May 21st, exactly 50 years on, I shall be celebrating my Golden Jubilee as a priest in God's church. Dave has very kindly put me on the rota to preside at St. John with St. Mark at 10.30 am service that morning, and a very longstanding friend, the Very Rev'd Lister Tonge, the Dean of Monmouth, has accepted an invitation to preach.

I have been happy to have been part of the family at St. John with St. Mark since my retirement from active ministry in 2006, and it would be lovely if many of you could come and join me in giving thanks to God for the past 50 years that morning. I dare say there will be a little celebration in the Parish Hall afterwards!



Ralph

Ascension Day

40 days after Easter Sunday,
we celebrate the day Jesus left this earth
and returned to His Father in heaven.

Thursday 25 May

Services at both
St. John with St. Mark & Christ Church
at 7.30pm

FROM THE VICARAGE

* Thanks to all those who contributed to the events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The Lent Groups were very well attended and they culminated in a wonderful Seder Meal conducted by Rabbi Warren Elf. It was good to see so many people not only from both parishes in the benefice but from St.Joseph's and Seedfield Methodist also.

On Good Friday – despite the rain – the ecumenical walk of witness was a great success and once again showed in our town the commitment to take up our cross and follow the one who died for us.

* Christ Church will be hosting a Confirmation Service on Sunday 9 July at 10.30am, led by the Bishop of Bolton. Anyone interested in being confirmed on that occasion, should have a word with me or another member of the Ministry Team. Any child in Year 6 or above is eligible to be confirmed. Junior Confirmation classes will begin this month.

* 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.

* The next gathering of the Men Of the Benefice will be on Friday 19 May when Geoff Hamilton will be leading an evening walk. Further details will be available on the Bulletins / News Sheets nearer the time.

*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.

* 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) if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged.

* Porch Boxes are desperately in need of food items to meet the current demand. A box is available at the back of church. Please support this worthy cause.

* 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.

* 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



FORMBY 2017

The annual retreat to the St. Joseph's Prayer Centre in Formby will take place from Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th May inclusive.

As with previous years there will be an opportunity for reflection, study and also free time for your own leisure.

The centre is situated in beautiful grounds surrounded by the National Trust pine forest.

The cost of the trip includes accommodation and meals, which are provided at the centre.

If you wish to go then please put your name on the list at the back of Church by Sunday 7th May 2017, or alternatively please contact Ian Banks for more information.



Choose five people you would like to pray for regularly and write their names down on a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on five names, commit to praying for them regularly.

Child-friendly Maundy Thursday

As a first of its kind, it was a privilege to be part of the congregation at 6pm at Christ Church on Maundy Thursday. I was accompanied by my three grandchildren, Tabitha 8, Ephraim 5, Gilbert 3 who were visiting from Somerset. They attend church regularly and so were happy to take part.

They thoroughly enjoyed the service as did all those who attended. There were several opportunities for all to get involved and we particularly enjoyed the 'tray game'. Eight



objects on a tray which were significant items associated with this religious season: bread, wine, water and a

towel(for washing and drying of feet); purple cloth to wrap Jesus; praying hands and grass to represent the Garden of Gethsemane and an X to represent the kiss of betrayal. We had five seconds to remember the items. The children loved it.



Gathering around for the distribution of bread and wine felt apt and inclusive.

And as for the hymn singing – we sang 'Give me oil in my lamp' all the way home!

Cath Hilton



Good times to pray together are those times you do something regularly, like brushing teeth, eating a meal or going to bed.

Lots of ideas for the family at

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/search/resources>

IN MEMORIAM: Mary Rawson

Mary Rawson died at Cameron House Nursing Home on Monday 27 March at the age of 92. Her funeral was held at St.John with St.Mark on Maundy Thursday.

Mary was a stalwart of St.John's who along with her husband John (In Memoriam Summer 2014) contributed so much to the parish for more than half a century. From their home on Seedfield Road they hosted fellowship groups and encouraged a great number of people in their faith.

In his funeral address, Paul spoke of the impact that Mary had on his life. As a young man, Paul attended the study groups and in fact first met his wife Diane there. In recent years Mary supported Paul during his journey to ordained ministry and his role as NSM in the parish and benefice.

Mary's churchmanship was of the Anglo-Catholic variety and she enjoyed worshipping at Holy Trinity, Bury and visiting Mirfield as well as her time at St.John's.

Mary's role was of a supportive presence in the background and Paul likened her to the many ladies called Mary that associated with Jesus in the Bible and spoke of their devotion, loyalty and support.

Mary was received into church on the evening of Wednesday 12 April. It was so appropriate that her funeral should take place in Holy Week – a week that was so important to Mary during her life. Earlier in the year her son Simon had travelled to Bury from his home in Australia to visit her. The funeral service was transmitted live to him down under through Skype. Please pray for Sue, David and Simon and all Mary's family as they grieve for her.

We give thanks to God for the life of Mary Rawson.

May She Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.



Download a booklet of daily prayers for the novena:

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/TKC_Novena2017_JWletter_WEB.pdf

Week One

In the weeks after the death and resurrection of Jesus, his disciples were afraid, anxious and bewildered. In our lives there may well be times when we feel the same.

Lord,

In our doubt, give us your reassurance
In our weakness, give us your strength
In our fear, give us your courage
In our loss, give us your hope.

Help us, Lord, always to trust in you, to walk in your way and to share your love with all we meet. Amen.

Week Two

An Early Morning Prayer

I come before you O Lord
As the sun rises may your hope rise up in me.
As the birds sing may your love flow out of me.
As the light floods into this new day,
May your joy shine through me.
I come before you, O Lord
And drink in this moment of peace,
That I may carry something of your hope, love and joy
Today in my heart.
Amen.

(from Living Prayers)



Week Three

A Christian Aid Week prayer from 1958

Let us pray
for grateful hearts
for sympathetic hearts
for generous hearts
and wills quick to help and persistent in effort.

That our nation and government may give generously for relief of refugees and be ready to help them find new homes and new homelands. That all nations may live free from fear and free from want. Amen.

"It is obvious that the need seen by the founders of Christian Aid sixty years ago remains the same.."

Week Four Thoughts on going into hospital as we all might have to do at some time.

God almighty, it's a different world, coming into hospital. Give me the strength to adjust to being here; give me patience with strange procedures; give me love for those around me; give me some sense of your presence here.

Make me certain that nothing can separate me from your love – neither death nor life nor anything that happens to me here – because your love keeps me day by day in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Trevor Lloyd

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2017

14-20 May

**Christian Aid Week is the single biggest act
of Christian witness in Britain and Ireland**

"We've been there for refugees since 1945.
We won't turn our backs now."

Christian Aid Week 60th anniversary

"British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, we launched Christian Aid Week to help fund this ongoing work." *Christian Aid website*

**Christian Aid will be supporting people like Nejebar and her family who are currently living in Greece in poverty and fear.
(see back page)**

Our churches are holding a **Luncheon Platter** on Sunday 14th May at St John with St Mark church hall Parkinson St 12.15 pm after the morning services.

Tickets £5.00 Adults Child under 12 £3.00

(raffle, wine available to purchase)

. contact: John or Rosemarie to join us.



Ian Banks presented our second Lenten reflection, encouraging us not to be miserable in our observance of Lent. His talk was illustrated with amusing cartoons from Dave Walker, Church Times cartoonist.

At our May meetings Christine Sharp will talk to us about the work Mothers' Union does in prisons (May 3rd) and Janet Taylor is to give a presentation about Waddow Hall, which serves as a conference and activity centre for Girl Guiding (May 17th)

The twice yearly Diocesan council meeting is to be held at Church House, 90 Deansgate on Saturday 6th May. Tea and coffee are served from 9.30 am and the meeting begins at 10 am. These are lively and informative times and there are also opportunities (take a packed lunch with you) to visit the shop and to meet and share ideas with members from across Manchester Diocese. Ask if you would like someone to go with.

Our Deanery AGM will be held on Monday 8th May at **7pm** in the Blackburn Hall, Bury Parish Church. Do come along to find out what is happening in Mothers' Union in Bury.

Meetings are open to all, male as well as female. Hope to see some new faces, you will be most welcome.

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader



"Prayer is at the heart of who we are. It takes us deep into our relationship with our loving God...We are living in troubled, anxious and uncertain times and in such times, our prayers are, quite possibly, more important than ever"

Bishop Andrew Proud, Mothers' Union Central Chaplain

Mothers' Union members throughout the world are taking part in "Thy Kingdom Come". Why not join in a global moment arranged for 12 noon GMT on 31 May. Led by worldwide president Lynne Tembey, from Hull it will be live-streamed, uniting us in prayer.

More details at <http://www.themothersunion.org/ThyKingdomCome>



THY KINGDOM COME

Joining with the family of God the Father to pray "Come Holy Spirit"

Last year more than 100,000 people joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray in the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost.

This year, even more are expected to join in as this initiative has "gone global". From 25 May – 4 June 2017 churches are being encouraged to join in. The aim is simple and threefold:

- **To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father**
- **To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit**
- **That we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ, God the Son**

We begin our celebrations with the Benefice Boundary Walk on Saturday 6 May, where once again we will be stopping at various places on the walk for prayer. This begins at 9.00am (see next page).

During the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost, both our churches will be open during the week beginning Monday 29 May for an hour from 5.30pm for a time of prayer. This will begin with a short service of Evening Prayer.



To mark the end of this Wave of Prayer everyone is invited to a special Service of Prayer for God's blessing on Bury. This will take place on Pentecost Sunday, 4 June at 2.30pm at All Saints Parish Church in Brandlesholme.

Please join in with this global event and pray
"thy kingdom come".

BENEFICE BOUNDARY WALK

Our annual Benefice walk around the Boundary of the two Parishes will take place this year on Saturday 6th May. As last year, we have produced a timetable of where we expect to be at a given time therefore if you do not fancy joining us for the whole thing (13 miles) then you may meet us at a given point and complete a section or two. We may even say a prayer or reflect on the areas we are visiting.

If you are thinking of joining us at any of the spots then please let Paul know in advance just in case the timings go a bit off and we can provide you with an update. A mobile telephone number may be useful so we can update you with a location. Remember you will need good footwear and a packed lunch etc. Let's hope it's a nice day.

Times and Places



9.00am Christ Church Lych Gate

9.30 St. John with St. Mark Church Hall

10.20 Fire Station (not the old one!)

10.30 Tesco Car Park Memorial Garden (near the car wash)

11.30 Top of Chesham Road / Walker's Field

12.30pm Buckhurst

1.40 Lord Raglan Car Park

2.30 Summerseat (Waterside Bridge)

3.30 Brown Cow – Afternoon Refreshment

4.30 St. John with St. Mark Church Hall





PRAYING in PRAISE

Sunday 28th May 7pm

Christ Church Walmersley Hall

(Back Room)

*Come and join us for evening
worship in an informal
setting with coffee/tea and
cake!*



Thy Kingdom Come

DO IT YOURSELF

The cubs of the 11th/12th Scout group based at St. John with St. Mark have been busy working for their DIY badge. They have all been involved in making the bird table using hand and power tools. They also marked out the wood to the dimensions of the drawing given to them.



The cubs involved are
Benjamin, Aayan, Duncan, Harry, Taylor,
Eamonn, Matthew, Daniel and Harrison.
The bird table is now in the church garden.
Congratulations Boys!



People in the Bible pray in all sorts of places. Why not find **safe** but **unusual** places near you and take a photo of someone in your family saying a prayer in those places – for some ideas see:

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/uploads/resources/5._Extreme_Prayera.pdf

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK APCM

As has been customary for the last few years, this was held after the Sunday service on 2nd April 2017. Prior to the meeting Rosemarie Ashworth was elected as Church Warden with Keith Duckworth appointed Deputy. Ray Smith is to take a break as warden after almost 20 years continued service and thanks were recorded to him for the dedication he has provided to our Church. His services will be greatly missed. Ray will continue to serve on PCC.

After approving the Child Protection Policy statement, there was an opportunity to discuss the PCC report.

Ian once again presented a detailed Treasurer's report, explaining the income and expenditure for the last year. Major items of expenditure included the replacement of the remaining panels on the corridor between Church and Hall and the barge boards above the West Window. We were reminded of the importance of considering our own regular giving and also how we give.

In Dave's report, we were reminded how we missed the contribution of faithful members who were no longer with us or active in Church life, and asked who will be the new leaders willing to take on new roles. Dave also remarked how we would miss Nickie Kelley and her involvement in youth work. Nickie has recently moved out of the area.

The three year Deanery Synod terms have now come to an end. However all four existing members agreed to continue and were all elected. There was then the appointment of PCC members and sidespeople and the opportunity to review reports from the various Church groups and organisations, and the events they participated in during 2016.

At the end of the meeting we were informed that Reverend Ralph Mallinson would celebrate 50 years of ordination on Sunday 21st May and would be presiding at that day's service.

The Archdeacon's Visitation takes place at Christ Church Walmersley on Thursday 18th May. First meeting of the new PCC Wed May 3 at 8.00pm.

St.John with St.Mark PCC

Following the APCM, this is the full list of the elected Parochial Church Council

The Revd. Dave Thompson (Chairman)
The Revd. Paul Sanderson The Revd. Gill Barnett
Darren Dunn – *Licensed Reader*
Rosemarie Ashworth – *Church Warden* Keith Duckworth – *Deputy Warden*
June Banks – *Deanery Synod* Ian Banks – *Deanery Synod*
Helen Mallinson – *Deanery Synod* David Robinson – *Deanery Synod*
David Andrew Stuart Ashworth John Brennan
Margaret Brennan Debbie Cooper Heather Whalley
Mary Howarth Ray Smith Marjorie Evans Vicky Senior

If you would like any matter to be raised at a meeting
of your Parochial Church Council, please contact any of the above.
The next meeting is on Wednesday 3 May.

Christ Church PCC

Following the APCM, this is the full list of Parochial Church Council members

The Revd. Dave Thompson (Chairman)
The Revd. Paul Sanderson The Revd. Gill Barnett
The Revd. Don Altham
Margery Spencer – *Reader Representative*
Brian Crow - *Church Warden* Jennifer Wood – *Church Warden*
Barbara Taylor - *Deanery Synod* Sheelagh Beetson – *Deanery Synod*
Cath Hilton – *Diocesan Synod*
Ian Riddick Geoff Hamilton Julie Tyrer
Pam Hoyle Alison Fewtrell Anne Nuttall
David Peters Geoff Stokes Patricia Stokes

If you would like any matter to be raised at a meeting of
your Parochial Church Council, please contact any of the above.
The next meeting is on Wednesday 10 May.

CHRIST CHURCH APCM

There were 24 members of the church present at the meeting held on Tuesday 4 April 2017.

Treasurers Report: the bookkeeper's report was included in the report to the meeting. Nigel Silvester has been the bookkeeper for the last 12 months and is retiring. The parish share for the 2017 financial year is £32,730.32. The accounts have been approved as a true and correct record by Mr Alastair Gillian DipFS ACIB who had indicated his willingness to act again.

Presentation of the Electoral Roll Report: There were 106 persons on the Electoral roll when it closed.

Copies of the written reports are available from the back of church.

Election of Wardens: Jennifer Wood and Brian Crow had been proposed and seconded as wardens. There being no further nominations they were duly elected.

Election of Sidespersons: All those who had agreed to be sidespersons were elected. They were:

Miss P.J. Hoyle, Mrs J. Slater, Mr D.J. Peters, Ms K. Hawkins, Mr I. Riddick, Mr W. Noble, Mr G. Hamilton, Mrs B. Walker and Mr J. Edwards.

The Archdeacon's visitation is at Christ Church Walmersley 7.30pm, 18 May.

Appointment of Verger: the vicar thanked George Fryer for his work over the past years and noted that Jason Edwards had offered to be verger. He was proposed, seconded and elected.

Ratification of Child Protection Policy: The Vicar was the Child Protection co-ordinator in 2016/17. The policy has been approved by the PCC and is included in the Annual Report. It was noted that Cath Hilton had accepted the role of safeguarding coordinator and this was to be approved at the next PCC meeting.

Vicars Remarks: The vicar read certain sections of the Archdeacon's visitation report, following his visit June 2016. It was noted that the first sentence of the Archdeacon's report on the church stated "the condition of the church building is a cause for concern". The vicar then went on to say that Christ Church is ranked 210 out of 259 parishes in the diocese by index of Multiple Deprivation (1= most deprived) i.e. it is in the top 50, whereas St John with St Mark's is in the bottom 50. Further examples from the report

were cited. A copy is filed with the APCM minutes. The vicar went on to discuss the second meeting of the Task Group with the representatives of the diocese, Colin Barson, Heather Ford and Mike Chesterton. The purpose of this meeting was the conduction of a community audit. Colin Barson had offered to work with Christ Church on the setting up of Focus Groups to allow us to move forward with the community audit, which will work with neighbours and partners to clarify what is needed for Christ Church both now and in the future. The vicar again discussed the work done by the architects on the three proposals for the future of Christ Church and outlined the costs of the synopsis of the church renovation costs and the work to be done in the parish magazine. The vicar finished by commending the use of the focus groups to everyone.

AOB: The vicar noted that he had received an offer from Co-op Funeral Services to help in conservation of the churchyard. There was a short discussion regarding what they may do and the question of timing was raised.

At Christmas time there is no Nativity set at Christ Church, the vicar asked that if someone would be prepared to purchase one it would be welcomed.

The vicar also gave thanks to those who had worked on the garden of remembrance and also gave thanks to all who work for Christ Church he stated that your support and your friendship is appreciated.

Alan Spencer suggested a timeline for the parish should be made for the Church Hall.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8.54pm.

Light Lunch

The next lunch will be on Thursday, May 18th at 12.00 noon in the Hall at Christ Church



Everyone is welcome to share food and fellowship – so please bring your friends.

Everyone simply pays what they can, or what they consider to be its value.



THE WALKING GROUP

Our latest walk on 1st April took us to Stoodley Pike and the surrounding area. It was new to some of us but not for others. Five of us assembled at Christ Church Walmersley and Paul drove us to Todmorden, where we parked up by a small sports field on the A6033. We then made our way towards a section of the Rochdale Canal and along there we found the marker point between Lancashire and Yorkshire. We spent most of our day on the Yorkshire side.

After leaving the canal we made an ascent to the Warland Reservoir where we could soon see the Stoodley Pike monument and then shortly after joined a section of the Pennine Way. It was one of those days when the weather was chopping and changing every hour or so and by 11.00am the sun had come out and was quite warm therefore we decided it was a good time to pause for refreshment before continuing our climb to the tower. The tower looks quite a dominating feature as you approach. Once there we decided to have a climb to the base of the obelisk.

Michael's notes he handed to me advised the base can be reached by a stone staircase, which spirals upwards in horrific darkness. I would not like to admit that the darkness was "horrific", however it is true to say that you cannot see your hand in front of your face and have to feel your way up and down the steps with the toe and heel of your boots. It is worth the climb though, and it was only a few steps, as you have a great view of the Calder Valley and nearby Heptonstall.



We descended from the monument and walked for a further mile or so before stopping for lunch.

Our route continued towards the area of Lumbutts and then we picked up a track overlooking Walsden, which eventually led us

back to the Rochdale Canal, which we walked along for about half a mile before arriving back at the car.

This was one of Paul's 'Reccy' walks for the HF group so we weren't quite sure how it would fare. However, the route and distance were pitch-perfect and just as Paul had planned. We covered approximately 11.5 miles altogether.

Best foot forward,
David Robinson

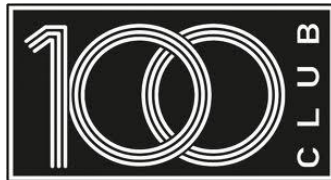
On **Friday 19th May**, Geoff Hamilton will lead the Men of the Benefice in an evening walk starting at The Sundial. We will announce further details about that nearer the time.

MARCH 2017 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ Jacqueline Brooks

2nd Prize ~ Margaret Duckworth

3rd Prize ~ Val Dawson



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



THE OPEN GROUP

There was no meeting of the Open Group in April,
due to the Seder Meal in the Church Hall

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th May,
and led by Margery Spencer for a talk entitled 'The Odd Couple'.

All welcome at 7.30pm in the Library



Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too
I passed around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to him
I thought about that smile
Then I realised its worth
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic
And get the world infected.



Plant Sale and Bacon Butties

Christ Church

Saturday 20th May

Plant Sale with bacon / sausage butties

Tea / coffee

£3.50 10 am – 12.30pm

Introduction to Christian Meditation

The World Community for Christian Meditation in the UK

Meditation can be incorporated into any ones daily life solely for its health benefits of reducing stress, calming the mind, soothing the emotions and promoting a sense of well-being. It is also a spiritual practice found in all the religious traditions.

John Main OSB - *"Meditation is a way of peace and a way to peace...this peace power is the core and foundation of our very being."*

ALL ARE INVITED TO THIS FREE, SIX PART SERIES

TUESDAY EVENINGS 7.30 pm to approx. 8.45 pm

April 25th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, 2017

The Lady Chapel, St John's & St Mark's Church,
Sunny Avenue, Bury, BL9 6PF

There are over 150 WCCM Christian Meditation groups dotted throughout the UK. They are formed out of the gathering of people, once "strangers" to each other, from different backgrounds and circumstances, searching for "something to help them" live more calmly in our busy, stressful, increasingly secular contemporary way of life, which they continue to discover and experience in the simple, peaceful contemplative practice rediscovered by John Main OSB, founder of The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

Expressing your interest in attending this course would be helpful, so that we may prepare the space, handouts etc., for all who may wish to attend.

Contact David McKenna.

Phone No:- 07442 534 860.

Email:- wccm.bolton@gmail.com



THE WOOD STREET MISSION

The Mission is a children's charity based in the centre of Manchester. More than one in 3 local children is living in poverty. We help children and families living in poverty in Manchester and Salford by alleviating the day to day impact of poverty and improving life chances.

News from the Mission about.....

SMARTSTART (formerly the School Uniform Project)

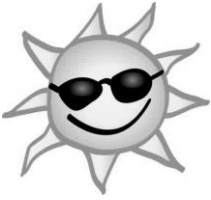
SmartStart gives struggling families non-branded school uniforms, coats, shoes, sports kit and stationery throughout the school year. SmartStart provides families with these items so their children can fit in and achieve at school which is key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Can you help by providing?

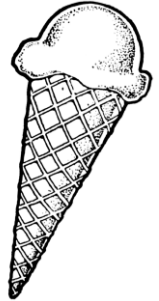
- * Non-branded new school uniform items from high street back-to-school ranges. Jumpers, sweatshirts, cardigans, skirts, trousers, polo shirts in all standard school colours are needed.
- * New school sports kit from high street back to school ranges such as sports shorts, PE skirts, hoodies, joggers, fleeces, trainers and plimsolls.
- * Stationery like pencil cases, pens, folders, jotters, maths sets, calculators and dictionaries.
- * New and good quality second hand dressing up costumes suitable for younger children for pre-school and school events like World Book Day.
- * Useful everyday items like new socks, new underwear, hats, gloves, lunchboxes, school bags and sports bags.

PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK SUMMER FAIR



SATURDAY 3rd JUNE 2017
11am to 2pm
in the Church Hall



Tombolas

Traidcraft

Books

White Elephant

Cakes

Knitted & Household Goods

Cards & Gifts

Jigsaws

Raffle & much more

REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE

Please come along and support this event
and enjoy our friendship.

If you have any new ideas for stalls and attractions, or you do not normally help and would like to be involved (either on the day or setting up on the Friday), please speak to the wardens or clergy in advance.

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

Wed 3	7.30pm	Mother's Union(CC)
	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Thu 4	2.00pm	Thursday Prayers (CC)
Sat 6	9.00am	Benefice Walk (CC)
Sun 7		Fourth Sunday of Easter Services as usual
Wed 10	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Sun 14		Fifth Sunday of Easter Services as usual Christian Aid Lunch
Wed 17	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 18	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
	7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation (CC)
Fri 19		MOB Walk
Sat 20	10.00am	Plant Sale with bacon butties(CC)
Sun 21		Sixth Sunday of Easter Services as usual
	10.30am	Jubilee Celebration (SJM)
24-27		Formby Retreat
Thu 25	7.30pm	Ascension Day
Sun 28		Seventh Sunday of Easter Services as usual
	7.00pm	Praying in Praise (CC)

Christian Aid Week 2017: **standing with refugees like Nejebar**



Nejebar, with her sons Hinayat (left) and Sudai, outside their home in Agios Andreas, Greece

Photo credit:
Christian Aid

Nejebar's story

It is better to die in a camp than to die in a war.

That's what Nejebar thinks.

It's better to travel for months, in rain and snow, with young children. To walk until you injure your feet. To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy. And to leave everything you know behind.

When the alternative is fear and terror, almost anything is better. When the alternative is bombs, bullets and war, almost anything is better.

Nejebar's husband Noor was a teacher in Afghanistan. Imagine the horror the family felt when the Taliban announced they would kill anyone, like Noor, who worked for the government. Almost anything has to be better than that.

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.