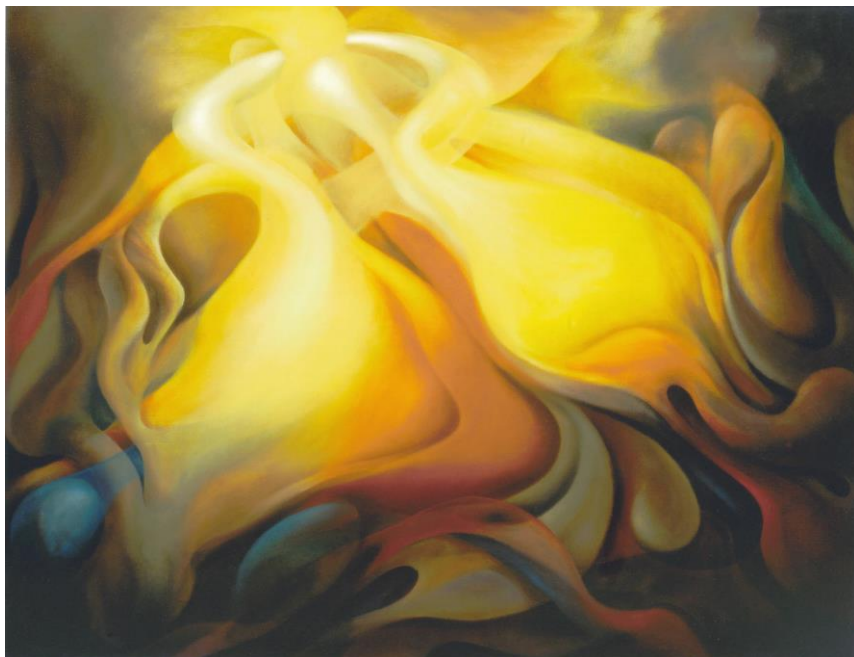




**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury  
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



**Transfiguration  
JULY and AUGUST 2017**

**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> Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parade Service	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> United Service	Alternately CC/SJM
7.30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road

### **Tuesday**

7.30pm	Christian Meditation	St John w St Mark
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### **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

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 Fairtrade status



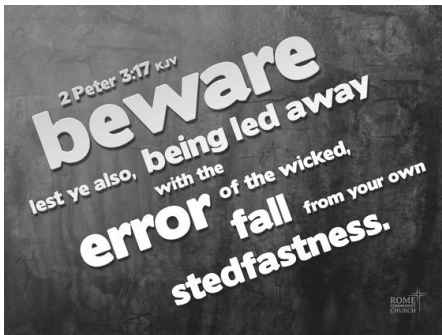
We've just come back from Manchester after seeing a show at the Palace Theatre – one of our pensioner days out. Nothing unusual about that except it's June 1<sup>st</sup> just 10 days after the terrible attack at the Arena. The Metrolink has been running again to Victoria station for only two days and you could still cut the atmosphere with a knife, plenty of people but oh so silent!

It reminded me of a trip in France to Oradour-sur-Glane, a village completely destroyed by the Nazis in reprisal for resistance activity, full of people – sightseers like us – but all in reverent silence or hushed tones.

Outside the station there was a large security presence of police officers from all over the place, especially Merseyside and Wales judging from their vehicles, many of whom were armed. At the doors of the theatre security men were checking tickets and bags before you were allowed to enter the foyer. I've got to admit I found it all a bit threatening; more so than after the many IRA bombings in Manchester.

It made me think again about where do we find our security? Is it as the Arms manufacturers insist - in buying more of their lethal weapons? Is it by carrying a knife to school or on a night out? Is it like us by having an alarm system fitted and working? Is it having a <sup>large</sup> bank balance "to see us through"? Or is like a baby having a teddy and a security blanket? Some might think that by having faith in Jesus it's a security blanket, something soft and woolly.

But they'd be wrong!



The word **secure** is only found twice in the New Testament – in 2 Peter 3:17 and in Paul's letter to the Hebrews 6:19.

Peter is reminding us of the way we should conduct our lives, that we will be scoffed at, and to guard ourselves that we won't be carried away by the errors of evil people and fall from our **secure** position.

Paul tackles head on what that **secure** position is. It's the certainty of God's Promise. And the promise is that he will make the world over anew – completing the work begun in Jesus. Paul likens it to a strong anchor (Jesus) that we are secured to by a great metal cable or chain, and as long as we don't let go of that cable we are anchored to the presence of God. All the winds, tides and storms that might come can't shift us. We are promised that we will be kept safe. We must hang on and be patient through thick and thin. This promise Paul assures us can be regarded as firm and **secure**, holding onto hope and persevering in faith. It's not a security blanket, all soft, woolly, optimistic and with a vague sense that everything will turn out alright. Our Christian faith is trusting God and going on trusting through thick and thin, hard as it may be at times when atrocities occur. God makes an unbreakable promise to make all things anew, a promise that He will keep.

So as the hymn says "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life..."

It will, if we securely hold on to the cable that links us to the anchor that is Jesus.

*We have this  
hope as an anchor  
for the soul.  
firm and secure.*

Hebrews 6:19



Wishing you all a very safe and peaceful summer.

Barbara



THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

## **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

throughout

OCTOBER 2017

*Further details in September's magazine*



## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **BAPTISMS**

April 30	Khoyo Moyo
	Krystal Leigh Dawe
May 21	Jaxon Donnie-Lee Plimley
May 28	Etienne Blake Douglas
June 4	Kian-James Shuttleworth
	Vahab Kavehkar

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

### **FUNERALS**

June 16	Betty Warburton
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### **INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE**

May 28	Mary Rawson
June 11	Joan Grundy

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

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## **CONFIRMATION**

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On July 9<sup>th</sup>, these young people from our congregations will be confirmed at Christ Church by Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton.

Joseph Peat, Jessica Cooper, Charlotte Brown, Louie Standring, Adam Walsh, Grace Gore, William Tyrer, Isaac Robinson and Annabel Baumber.

Adults being confirmed are Vahab Kavehkar and Gemma Hibbert.

Please remember them all in your prayers as they prepare for this moment in their life.

## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY***

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Jul 2	<b>Trinity 3</b> Jeremiah 28: 5-9	Romans 6: 12-23	Matthew 10: 40-42
Jul 9	<b>Trinity 4</b> Zechariah 9: 9-12	Romans 7: 15-25a	Matthew 11: 16-19,25-30
Jul 16	<b>Trinity 5</b> Isaiah 55: 10-13	Romans 8: 1-11	Matthew 13: 1-9,18-23
Jul 23	<b>Trinity 6</b> Isaiah 44: 6-8	Romans 8: 12-25	Matthew 13: 24-30,36-43
Jul 30	<b>Trinity 7</b> 1 Kings 3: 5-12	Romans 8: 26-39	Matthew 13: 31-33,44-52

## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR AUGUST***

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Aug 6	<b>The Transfiguration</b> Daniel 7: 9-10,13-14	2 Peter 1: 16-19	Luke 9: 28-36
Aug 13	<b>Trinity 9</b> 1 Kings 19: 9-18	Romans 10: 5-15	Matthew 14: 22-33
Aug 20	<b>Trinity 10</b> Isaiah 56: 1,6-8	Romans 11: 1-2a,29-32	Matthew 15: 10-28
Aug 27	<b>Trinity 11</b> Isaiah 51: 1-6	Romans 12: 1-8	Matthew 16: 13-20



According to Guinness World Records, the Bible is the best-selling book of all time with over 5 billion copies sold and distributed  
 - how many do you think will have been read?

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

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Jul 2	Mrs A M Peters
Jul 9	Vacant
Jul 16	Vacant
Jul 23	Mrs J Wood
Jul 30	Vacant
Aug 6	In memory of Betty and David Brown
Aug 13	Mr & Mrs A Standring
Aug 20	Mrs B Winterbottom in memory of Fred and Malcolm
Aug 27	Mr & Mrs I Riddick in memory of their parents

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

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*SUMMER SERVICE  
AT THE PRIORY*

### **SONGS OF PRAISE**

Wednesday 12 July

The Priory Highbank Centre, Walmersley Road.

2.30pm

ALL WELCOME

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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- \* Please pray for all those who are to be confirmed at Christ Church on Sunday 9 July at a service led by the Bishop of Bolton.
- \* 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 6.30-7.00pm.
- \* 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.
- \* Porch Boxes are desperately in need of food items to meet the current demand. A box is available at the back of both churches. 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.
- \* Meetings of the Churches Together in Bury take place bi-monthly on the third Monday of the month at various venues around the town, beginning at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 17 July. More details are in the Bulletins / News Sheets. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- \* If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).
- \* 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.
- \* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk



**Christ Church, meeting held on 14 June**

1. Opening prayers were led by Revd. Dave Thompson.
2. The meeting was opened by the vicar introducing the Archdeacon David Bailey who had come to address the PCC on the work of the Task group. The following points were raised by the Archdeacon.
  - a. The task group had met three times with one additional meeting. The members of the task group were named and comprised of members of the PCC and the Diocesan staff.
  - b. The focus points of the task group for discussion were the mission and financial strength of Christ church, the Buildings and the church field.
  - c. It was stressed by the Archdeacon that if we are clear about the first point the others will follow on.
  - d. In order to move forward on the first point it was deemed necessary to have focus groups led by people from the diocese and the PCC. The focus groups were to be the Friends of Walmersley representatives, the church Hall users, the wider community and the congregation.
  - e. The church has had its 2017 Quinquennial inspection recently.
  - f. The point was made that the existing church buildings are not sustainable for the future and we need to talk to the wider community about facilities to serve the community better.
  - g. The Archdeacon stated that it was important for the PCC to try and come to a conclusion on all the above points by the autumn.
  - h. There was then a discussion on various points regarding the focus groups. The vicar distributed around the PCC a sheet that he had prepared to invite people to a meeting with representatives from Manchester Diocese and Christ Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.
3. The minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> May PCC meeting were passed as a true record.
4. It was proposed by Ian Riddick we employ the previous contractor to cut the grass in the church yard, seconded by Barbara Taylor; all in favour.

5. Brian Crow gave an account of the current finances of the church indicating a figure of £8255 in the account.
6. There were items of correspondence on church field grass cutting, lightning conductor inspection and Synod and board of finance reports.
7. Items for action on the Archdeacons visitation report were on-going.
8. Various aspects of Children's ministry were discussed.
9. It was noted that refreshments will be available after the 10.30am confirmation service on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July.
10. The next café church is on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September.
11. It was determined to invite the Revd. Nick Smeeton from the diocese to speak on Vocations at some point in the future.
12. The PCC committees remained as they were in 2016.
13. The vicar noted that we were running a stewardship campaign in October this year finishing at the joint service with St Johns and St Marks in October.
14. The vicar also reported that a new nativity set was to be purchased from a donation received by the church.

## **St John with St Mark, meeting held on 15 June**

Upcoming social dates for summer were confirmed including the Scouts' cream tea on Saturday 22nd July, coffee morning and book fair on Saturday 29th July and summer buffet on Sunday 27th August.

The summer fair took just over £1000, which was down on previous years. A discussion took place over the future date of this event to see if we can avoid clashes with school half terms and other local events. It was also suggested that coffee mornings and book fairs could take place bi-monthly to boost income.

Bury Library Services will stage a consultation meeting on Wednesday 28th June to decide on the future of the library. Any decisions that need to be taken by the PCC over future use of the room will be discussed after this meeting has taken place pending the outcome. The Vicar also suggested that any discussions should form part of our future Mission Action Plan.

Ian again appealed for contributions from groups for the website as some pages have now not been updated for several months and that he was still looking at a potential new provider for the site. Dave advised that he will try to see Adam Cooper with regards to developing the social media pages.

We have purchased some additional hymn books with money left from the legacy of Mona Haworth. These are large print copies and music copies. It was also suggested that we should find ways to make visitors and new people to the Church more aware that we have large print hymn books if required.

A midweek parade service will take place on Wednesday 12th July at 6.30pm in the Hall.

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## ***PARADE SERVICES***

at St.John with St.Mark

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

Church Hall  
6.30pm



and at 10.30 am in both churches:

September 10<sup>th</sup>

October 8<sup>th</sup> - Harvest

November 12<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance

### **Week 1** \_ for our confirmation candidates

Lord, we would grow with you  
New shoots reaching out  
Hands stretched upward  
Like leaves newly formed  
Soaking up your light and warmth



Lord, we would grow with you  
And bring forth fruit  
That is pleasing to you  
Fed by your living water  
Giving sustenance to others  
**Lord, we would grow with you**

*John Birch [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)*

### **Week 2** \_ Steps of faith

We set our feet once again  
on the way walked by Jesus.

These steps of peace may be difficult  
in a terrain that slopes toward violence.  
These steps of justice may prove tiring  
as we walk against the winds of injustice.  
These steps of love may be painful  
with so much hatred to step over and bump up against.



Give us the wisdom, give us the strength  
to take these steps anyway.

Amen

*Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com>*

### **Week 3 \_ Mustard seed faith**



God of miracles  
bless our tiny steps of faith  
that mountains may be moved.

Almighty and loving God,  
take our faith, weak though it is.  
Kindle the sparks of life within us  
and fan a new flame within our hearts.

And so may we set out with renewed purpose,  
resolved to live and work for you,  
in the assurance that you are with us,  
now and always.

*Nick Fawcett Prayers for all Seasons; 1998*

### **Week 4 \_ Walking with Christ**

Heavenly Father, fill us this day with hope and joy  
as we step forward with Christ in faith.

Loving Lord, we thank you for creating us in Christ  
to live out your purposes,  
which you have so lovingly prepared.

We thank you for uniting us with Christ  
to carry out your plans  
which you have made ready for us.

We thank you that walking with Christ  
empowers us for the life of service  
for which we are created.

May our daily walk with Christ  
lead us to live out our faith in action.  
Amen



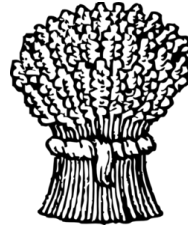
## **Week 5 \_ Stepping out together**

Gracious Lord, send us out together as one with Christ

Lord of the harvest, we praise you  
for those who work alongside us;  
sharing tasks and sharing vision.

Lord of the harvest, we praise you  
for those who walk alongside us;  
pressing onwards for mutual goals.

We thank you for each other;  
our partners in service and purpose.  
Amen



## **Week 6 \_ Walking on water**



Jesus calls us  
to step out on to the water with him,  
to leave the safety of our boats,  
and to walk toward Him in faith,  
joining Him in the work  
He is already doing in our world.

Loving Lord,  
fill us this day with courage  
to step out of our comfort zone  
and forward in faith;  
trusting in your presence  
through all that lies ahead.  
Amen

## **Week 7 \_ Running with faith**

We follow in your footsteps Lord;  
running after you for the joy of the race  
and the prize that lies ahead.

We follow in your footsteps Lord;  
fixing our eyes on Christ,  
trusting in you to lead us home.  
Amen



## **Week 8 \_ Soaring in faith**

I will not stumble  
for your hand will guide  
and in your footsteps I will tread.  
I will not grow weary  
for your spirit sustains  
and my soul shall be renewed.  
I will not be weak  
for your truth strengthens  
and no evil shall defeat me.  
From the depths of the earth  
I shall soar upward  
on wings like eagles,  
spread the news  
throughout the world,  
run the race  
against all odds,  
and shall prevail.

*John Birch [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)*



*Some material from monthly prayers at [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)*



## ***Christian Aid week 2017***

Christian Aid week is the main fundraising event of the year for Christian Aid with churches across the UK and Ireland taking part. Christian Aid week 2017 (14-20 May) focused on the awful plight of refugees which we have seen much of in the media: people like Nejebar. Christian aid works in around 50 countries around the world providing urgent practical and effective assistance where the need is great and tackling the effect of poverty as well as its root causes

This year members from both congregations of our benefice helped to raise a **fantastic £520.90**. Thank you so much to everyone who supported with their prayers, time, talents and generosity; with a special thanks to the volunteers and caterers for the lovely luncheon platter they provided at the beginning of Christian aid week.

Thank you so much for your continued support,  
regards John Brennan

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

Nejebar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker.

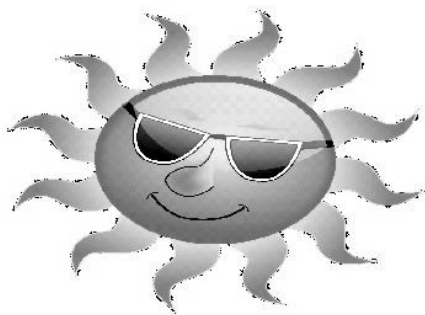
But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six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

Nejebar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

### **You've helped us be there for refugees since 1945**

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home. And we still believe in life before death.





# Summer Praise

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 7pm

Christ Church Walmersley Hall

(Back Room)

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



*"...may they who love you be like the sun when it rises in  
its strength." Judges 5 v 31*



# Bank Holiday Praise

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 7pm

St John with St Mark  
Church Hall

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





## ***Vahab's Baptism***

On Pentecost Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, we were invited to celebrate in grand style as Vahab was baptised by full immersion – a great ancient tradition!

Friends from both St John with St Mark and Christ Church, and also from Bury Baptist Church (whose building we borrowed for the evening) came together to celebrate Vahab's step of faith and say together:

"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: Vahab, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body. **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**"



About 30 people gathered for the celebration and stayed for coffee and cakes afterward. Vahab hasn't stopped smiling since!

Ask someone who was there how they felt about it – lots of people had never had the opportunity to witness a full immersion baptism. It was a very precious celebration!

Many thanks to all who supported Vahab and to Tim and Bury Baptist Church for their hospitality. (We had a second round of cake on Sunday, too)!



Well summer will certainly not be dull in Mothers' Union.

At our first meeting in June we welcomed Janet Taylor who give us a most interesting verbal and visual history of Waddow Hall, the home of girl guiding in the North West. We hope to visit the Hall for a tour with Janet and take afternoon tea in the not too distant future.

A "Strawberry (and Raspberry) Sparkle" evening followed Holy Communion led by Gill Barnett who managed in her short talk to include biblical reference to strawberries!

There are lots of dates for your diaries. Our branch is usually very well represented at events outside the parish. If you need a lift (or can offer one) do please let a member of the committee know.

St Paul Ramsbottom is the host church for Bury Deanery's annual Festival service, on Sunday 2 July, at 2.30 pm.

Members who have already ordered will gather at the Pavilion in Birtle for our summer meal on July 5.

Everyone is of course welcome to join us on 19 July when Margery Spencer will lead a service of Evensong.

Each year members of Ashton deanery make us most welcome at St George, Mossley for a Diocesan Eucharist. This year on 1 August they are celebrating 90 years and the preacher will be Bishop David, who grew up in the parish.

Margaret Shewring will be speaking to us about the virtual baby project on August 2, and bringing some for those who have not had a cuddle before!

The Bolton Archdeaconry Festival will be held, as always, on Mary Sumner Day, 9 August. This year the service is at St Margaret's Prestwich at 7.30pm. Our past diocesan president, now provincial president, one Barbara Taylor, will speak on the theme of the service, which is "serving others".

The speaker at our meeting on 16 August will be Rhiannon Jones. The website of Bury Parish Church describes her thus:

formerly Assistant Curate at Manchester Cathedral, Rhiannon is Associate Rector and joined us in July 2014. She is a Welsh Glaswegian who worked for 8 years for a mission society in Senegal, France, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. She speaks Arabic. She has also worked for a Christian radio charity, and possesses an MA in Communication from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. She trained at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. She cycles everywhere and is recognisable by her hi-vis jacket.

Do hope you will join us during these summer months.

Bob Taylor

Branch Leader



## ***Walking Group***

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Michael Ryan volunteered to lead our walk on 10th June, and I asked if we could do a rerun of a previous outing he had lead in March 2016 (because I had missed it first time). The walk took in Stubbins, Holcombe and beyond, and included guided notes with a brief history of some of the buildings and features we passed.

It was an extremely wet start to the day when we huddled in the car on Parkinson Street at 9.30am. However as it was the intention to drive to Nuttall Park, it had actually improved when we began our walk, so although not perfect, we did actually fare quite well for the remainder of the day.

After leaving Nuttall Park we walked a short distance to the Irwell Valley Way to Chatterton and Stubbins and journeyed through a tunnel under the East Lancashire Railway, which was also the site of the former Stubbins Railway station. We passed the former mill buildings in the village including the Stubbins Vale Mill. As Gill and I had not previously seen this, we climbed up the banking to the mill's Tenter Tower. It was worth the effort to see this former cloth store (c1866).

We continued through the National Trust's Buckden Wood, crossing the river Irwell at times and had our elevenses stop. After our rest we journeyed along the edge of the Holcombe Moor track towards the foot of Holcombe Hill and Holcombe Old Road.

We then dropped down to Bolton Road and along here we discussed a cottage with a plaque making reference to the Female Union Society (c1824) associated with votes and political rights for women. Leaving Holcombe Brook by the Pot Green conservation area we headed towards Summerseat and discussed the nearby proposed Garden City development.

We headed into Summerseat towards the Waterside Bridge and picked up the track back towards Nuttall Park for the journey home.

It was an interesting and informative day lead by Michael, and again I saw areas that I have not previously seen. Not bad really, to say we thought we would never get started at 9.30am!

Best foot forward,  
David Robinson



#### NEXT WALK

Saturday 1st July and led by Paul. This is a local outing, approximately 9 miles, and takes in areas around Elton Reservoir. Meet at 9.30am at St. John with St. Mark Church Hall

All are welcome with the usual essential items and packed lunch etc.

### ***Coffee morning and afternoon***

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Jill Smith's house, 19 Sabden Close BL9 5LR

10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

£2 for coffee/tea, cake and biscuits

Items wanted for a Bring & Buy Stall  
(Special request for Conserves!)

The Proceeds and any Donations will be spent on new equipment such as a new petrol strimmer, etc. for the maintenance of the graveyard at Christ Church.





## ***PRAYER DIARY***

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FOR THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS*

- SUNDAY:** For all our worship services. Those who play organ/keyboards.  
All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes.  
Those who read, lead intercessions and serve in church services
- MONDAY:** Our music ministry. The Study Groups.  
Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry  
Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- TUESDAY:** All the educational establishments in the parish.  
School Governors. Nurserys, Pre-schools, Primary Schools,  
St.John with St.Mark CE School.  
Our pastoral care to all the community.
- WEDNESDAY:** Links with other church communities across the world.  
Mothers' Union. Our care of the church buildings.  
Mission Action Planning
- THURSDAY:** The Sunday School /Junior Church. Café Church services.  
Our work with young people.  
Those preparing to be married in church.  
Our baptism ministry.
- FRIDAY:** Links with our local communities.  
The PCCS and their committees  
Those who provide and arrange church flowers  
Bury Library Service and those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY:** The Vicar, Curate and Assistant Priest. The retired clergy  
The Licensed Readers & ALM.  
Ecumenical Links within the benefice.  
Our ministry to those bereaved.



## ***THE OPEN GROUP***

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The Open Group met on Wednesday 14th June for a talk led by Ian Banks with the title 'Ian's Curiosity Shop' and a large wooden chest greeted us as we entered the library room.

Since our last meeting in May many events have occurred both locally and nationally and we took some time to reflect on those during our opening service. We also remembered Open Group regular Wilf Coote, who had sadly passed away that same day.

Ian opened the meeting by playing some music from the popular 1950's pianist Winifred Atwell. For somebody like myself, who rather ashamedly had not previously heard of this artist, it was apparent that she had a great influence on the music and artists of that era. He then played other vinyls from his collection including a record banned by the BBC in 1957.

Next we had some photographs from Ian's family tree, going back to his great-great-grandparents. Like we heard from Margery last time, Ian has done some research into his family tree, and confirmed Margery's findings that researching your descendants is certainly not straightforward and requires a lot of hard work. The findings took us back to a mariner in Australia.

Out of the chest came various artefacts, including a small frog ornament and perhaps rather appropriately, given that we had just celebrated Trinity Sunday, we were informed how this came to represent the Trinity with its three stages of life.

Two rugs which adorn the home of Ian & June were also brought along and we took some time to study the symbolism of the motifs, including the Tree of Life.

We were also given the history of how an early 17th century map of the UK was originally drawn by an Elizabethan spy and came to be horizontal rather than vertical.

'Ian's Curiosity Shop' was advertised as including 'A Very Old Book' and that turned out to be an early King James Bible, which had been passed down through the generations and was handled extremely delicately with a glove and rested on a cushion.



This led us to a brief talk to close the meeting with a history of this version of the Bible, the various translations and translators and the consequences of the 1631 Wicked Bible with its infamous misprint.

It was an informative and enjoyable evening with the Treasurer's Treasure Chest.

David Robinson

### **SUMMER MEETINGS**

Wednesday 12th July

#### **'Funerals I have known'**

Anecdotes led by our former Incumbent Canon Ian Stamp

Wednesday 9th August

#### **An Evening led by David Andrew**

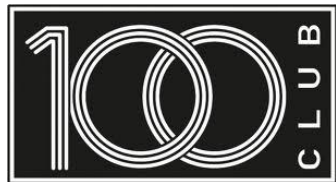
All are welcome to these meetings at 7.30pm in the Library room

### **MAY 2017 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Ian Banks

2nd Prize ~ Barbara Leigh

3rd Prize ~ Roy Nuttall



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**



### ***INTO AUTUMN***

Sunday 3 Sept  
St.John with St.Mark  
10.30am

CAFÉ CHURCH

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

*Brian Bilston*

(Now read it from bottom to top)





## ***Men of the Benefice (MOB)***

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Just a brief update on what has been going on so far in 2017 and what is coming up.

Following a break for Lent in March we resumed on Monday 24th April in The Sundial and Nigel Silvester took us back to his homeland of the Isles of Scilly to talk about some of the 900 or so shipwrecks around the area. We studied a small number of them over the last few hundred years or so, and learnt about some of the crew and passengers on board, and the legacies of these disasters. There was an opportunity to read some books and newspapers on the shipwrecks over a drink or two afterwards.

On Friday 19th May, Geoff Hamilton led a small number of us on an evening walk. We met at 8.00pm at the Lych Gate at Christ Church Walmersley and walked for about an hour past the Tetrosyl site, Pigs Lee Brook & Sales's Farm. It was a lovely spring evening, with views of foxes, rabbits and other wildlife. We carried on to the Lord Raglan, where we stopped for brief refreshment and Geoff shared some notes and history of the area. It was still daylight when we left at 9.30 pm so we walked further through Mount Pleasant back to Christ Church.

A tour of Moorhouses Brewery in Burnley occurred on the evening of Friday 23rd June and on Monday 31st July we will meet at The Sundial on Walmersley Road at 8.00pm for a general socialise with no agenda, so please come along.



## ***Light Lunch***

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The next lunches will be on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## ***Christian Meditation Group***

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It was a blessing for my wife and I, Christine and David McKenna, oblates of the ecumenical World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM), to share the six weeks introduction to Christian Meditation Series, within the peaceful setting of The Lady Chapel in St John with St Mark's Church, Bury.

As we presented the series we also shared in the group's "awakenings", as they discovered not only the WCCM's ecumenical communities "calling" to share the simple contemplative, meditative Christian Tradition known as "The Prayer of The Heart", as rediscovered by the Benedictine monk Fr. John Main and continued by Benedictine monk Fr. Laurence Freeman, but as they discovered that this contemplative practice has its roots in the Christian Desert Fathers and Mothers, further, as a realisation began to emerge within them, of a need in their lives for a time, space and practice that opens them to "Resting in The Lord".

It was a joy to hear that those gathered wished for the **Christian Meditation meetings to continue weekly on Tuesdays, 7:30pm, in The Lady Chapel of St John with St Mark's**, and to proceed with offering it to all who may feel the need of a way to open to a sense of inner peace. In this Christian contemplative practice of "The Prayer of The Heart" no previous meditative experience is necessary, for at every gathering, an opportunity is made for the newcomer to be introduced to its practical simplicity.



In this quiet time and place we put aside and gather together, once a week, we create

a "sacred space" born out of stillness and silence, where we firstly begin to become more aware of who we really are and begin to learn just how much we are accepted, loved, just as we are, just as we are created. We, secondly, in this "sacred space", begin to become more accepting of others, just as they are, to let others BE, as they are created and realise that is OK to just BE TOGETHER, quietly in a fellowship born out of this shared outer and inner stillness and silence. Thirdly, we begin to open more to and become more aware of the silent presence of Jesus, The Christ, within us and to just BE WITH HIM and, as Fr. John Main OSB wrote, "allow him to become more and more a reality in everything we do and everything we are", as we open to Him in our hearts, the centre of our Being.

It continues to be a joy, also, to receive news of how this simple Christian meditation practice is being taken on by schools and how much it is helping our children to live a calmer life. We sometimes do not realise how much of our contemporary, stressful life, with its expectations of them, affects them too. Contemporary life imposes expectations upon us all, it is not age discriminative.

Love, peace and blessings,  
David McKenna.

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CHRISTIAN MEDITATION will now be a regular, weekly gathering on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Chapel.

No experience required, as opportunity is made at each gathering for the seeker, newcomer to Christian Meditation to be introduced to the simple, peaceful practice. Posters with details will be around Church. For more information please see the Clergy or David McKenna, whose contacts are also 07442 534860 or [wccm.bolton@gmail.com](mailto:wccm.bolton@gmail.com)

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### ***Caption competition***

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Entries to the editors or to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk) by 14 August, please

## ***News from our Church School***

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### **ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CE SCHOOL**

"Our school is a safe, welcoming place where the love of God is reflected in the way we respect and care for each other. It is a place where differences are valued, diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated equally. A place where quality teaching ensures we enjoy learning and we work hard to reach our full potential. St.John with St.Mark is a place at the heart of our community, encouraging us to become responsible citizens of the future".

*School website*

There are a still some vacancies on the School Governing Body which usually meets once every term. If anyone is interested in serving on this important committee please speak to the Vicar or Sue Law, the Chair of Governors.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Wednesday 12 July:	School Sports Day
Thursday 20 July:	Governors Assembly
Friday 21 July:	Year 6 Leavers Assembly: School closes at 2.30pm
Monday 4 September:	New School Year opens

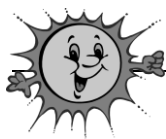
*"We strive to be a place where quality learning and effective teaching are delivered in order to develop a real sense of adventure and wonder."*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HEADTEACHER MR. OLLIS  
AND EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOL

*St.John with St.Mark School, Athlone Avenue, Bury. BL9 5EE*

*Tel: 0161 764 5330*

*[www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk](http://www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk)*



## **EVENTS FOR SUMMER**

11/24 BURY, ST JOHN WITH ST MARK SCOUT GROUP

invite you to a

### ***CREAM TEA***

St John with St Mark Church Hall  
Saturday 22nd July 2.00pm-4.00pm

FRESH SCONES SERVED WITH  
TEA & COFFEE



Tickets will be available from Rosemarie Ashworth during July  
ALL PROCEEDS TO SCOUT FUNDS

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

St John with St Mark Church Hall  
Saturday 29th July from 10.00am

BOOKS

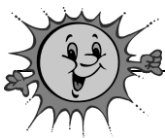
CAKES

TEA, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS

OTHER STALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS





## ***MORE EVENTS FOR SUMMER***

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### JOINT BENEFICE SOCIAL EVENT FOR THE BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND



### ***SUMMER BUFFET***

St. John with St. Mark Church Hall  
27th August after the 10.30am services

Cost is £7.00 and includes a variety of barbecue foods;  
burgers & sausages etc  
and cold buffet food, salads & sweets.

Drinks may be purchased separately from the bar.

A list will be made available at the back of both Churches  
nearer the time for you to sign up.

Please pray for nice weather so we can sit outside.

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### ***Fundraising afternoon tea***

To raise funds for kitchen equipment for  
The Café on the Green, Clarence Park

Wednesday 5 July, 12 noon to 3 pm

Tickets in advance are £4 – available from the café or from Gill Barnett.



## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

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Sat 1	9.30am	Walking group (meet at SJM)
Sun 2		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> after Trinity</b> Services as usual
	2.30pm	Bury Deanery Mothers' Union Festival
	7.00pm	Praise and Prayer
Tue 4	10.00am	Coffee morning (19 Sabden Close)
	1.00pm	Coffee afternoon (19 Sabden Close)
Wed 5		Mothers' Union Summer Meal
Sun 9		<b>4<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Confirmation at CC
Mon 10	7.30pm	Focus group (CC)
Tue 11	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Wed 12	2.30pm	Praise at the Priory
	6.30pm	Parade Service (SJM Hall)
	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Sun 16		<b>5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Mon 17	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury
Wed 19	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 20	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
Sat 22	2.00pm	Cream Tea (SJM)
Sun 23		<b>6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Mon 24	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)

Sat 29	10.00am	Coffee Morning and Book Fair (SJM)
Sun 30		<b>7th after Trinity</b> Services as usual at 8.30am and 9am United Benefice service (SJM)
	10.30am	
Mon 31	8.00pm	MOB (Sundial)

## ***WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST***

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Tue 1	2.00pm	Mothers' Union Diocesan Eucharist
Wed 2	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sun 6		<b>Transfiguration</b> Services as usual
Wed 9	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
	7.30pm	Bolton Archdeaconry Mothers' Union Festival
Sun 13		<b>9th after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Wed 16	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 17	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
Sun 20		<b>10th after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Sun 27		<b>11th after Trinity</b> Services as usual Summer Buffet (SJM hall)
	7.00pm	Summer praise (SJM)

*Please let us have details of your planned events for the calendar and websites.*

On Saturday 10th June four leaders from 3rd Bury St John with St Mark Brownies attended an afternoon tea at Rochdale Town Hall along with 80 other leaders from across our county, this was in recognition of their achievements to guiding. Division Commissioner Angela McAlpine was there to present awards. Well done to all our leaders who put in time & effort to support our girls with Girlguiding.



Laura Duncan, who achieved her DOE Gold Award with Girlguiding

Congratulations

Tracey Brown received her 30 years award



and Mary Howarth received her 40 years award