



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



**Every day is a new beginning**

**SEPTEMBER 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

### **Monday**

7.30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road
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### **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



## *All One in Christ Jesus*

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Dear Friends

One of my aims each summer is to visit the annual Keswick Convention. Since 1875 Christians have gathered in the picturesque Lake District town to hear bible teaching and take part in inspiring worship. The first Convention was held in a tent on the lawn of St John's Vicarage, Keswick and lasted three days. Today the event lasts for three weeks and attracts Christians from across the world.

Keswick's theme has always been "All One in Christ Jesus". It is an interdenominational gathering that aims to bring believers together irrespective of their individual church background. All those involved in organising the event are united in the belief that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life.



Such a belief is vital for today's church. Too much of the church's history has been occupied with internal disputes. Thankfully in recent years there has been a trend towards working together with other denominations.

Here in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road we minister alongside our fellow Christians in the community. We have shared Lent and study groups with people from churches across the town. St.John with St.Mark's links with Seedfield are growing and historical links with St.Joseph's Roman Catholic Church continue. We have participated with the Freedom Church in different projects and as part of the Churches Together in Bury we are involved in discussions and activities with all the other church communities in the town.

There is always more to be done locally and indeed nationally. The leaders of the Anglican Church and the Methodist Church have in recent months talked about closer links. This is not intended as a merger or a takeover but an opportunity to share in Christian ministry and on occasions to pool our resources to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

We have to acknowledge that there are differences amongst the various denominations – and within them – but far more issues unite us than divide us. These are exciting times for the Christian Church. Will you join us in our shared mission to this community and beyond?

Wishing you all God's blessings,

Dave

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THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

## **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

throughout

OCTOBER 2017

*The Diocesan Stewardship Officer, James Emmerson will be present at both churches on Sunday 1 October as we launch the campaign.*

*He will also preach at the Benefice Service at Christ Church on Sunday 29 October.*

*Look out for the Stewardship packs that every churchgoer will receive.*

Further details in October's magazine



## FROM THE REGISTERS

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### BAPTISMS

June 18 Sam Shenton  
July 2 Sophie Shaw

### CONFIRMATIONS

July 9 Annabel Baumber, Joseph Peat, Isaac Robinson, Grace Gore,  
Gemma Hibbert, Andrew Ridding, William Tyrer, Jessica Cooper,  
Adam Walsh, Vahab Kavehkar, Louie Standing, Charlotte Brown

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

### WEDDINGS

July 1 James Harper & Leeanne Thomas  
July 22 Andrew Ridding & Gemma-Louise Hibbert  
August 5 Jason Heapy & Donna Gallagher

*"Those who God has joined together let no one put asunder"*

### FUNERALS

June 16 Betty Warburton  
June 23 Stuart Senior  
June 27 Jean Barritt  
June 29 Wilf Coote

### INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

June 25 Betty Warburton

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



## CAFÉ CHURCH

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

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

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Sep 3	12 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Romans 12: 9-21	Matthew 16: 21-28
Sep 10	13 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity Ezekiel 33: 7-11	Romans 13: 8-14	Matthew 18: 15-20
Sep 17	14 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity Genesis 50: 15-21	Romans 14: 1-12	Matthew 18: 21-35
Sep 24	15 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity Jonah 3:10-4:11	Philippians 1: 21-30	Matthew 20: 1-16



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

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Sep 3	Mr J Clegg
Sep 10	In memory of Alex Farnworth
Sep 17	No Flowers – in Hall
Sep 24	In memory of the Birtwistle and Slater families

If you would like to make a donation for flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an important occasion please contact Betty Winterbottom

## ***PARADE SERVICES***

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At 10.30 am in both churches:

September 10<sup>th</sup>  
October 8<sup>th</sup> - Harvest  
November 12<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance





## MISSION ACTION PLANNING

*The Manchester Diocese is encouraging parishes to prepare Mission Action Plans as part of our aim to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. MAPs have been on the agenda of both PCCs for over three years. Items are discussed at each meeting and the benefice MAP is reviewed and updated at the joint PCCs held in June and December.*

*Our current Mission Action Plan is detailed below:*

### JOINT BENEFICE:

- \* To encourage more social activities across the benefice.
- \* To arrange a Campaign with the Diocesan Stewardship Officer.
- \* To develop the Christian basics group set up to nurture new believers.
- \* To establish a presence in social media.
- \* To respond to the issues identified in the questionnaire issued to Electoral Roll members in Lent 2016.

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### ST.JOHN with ST.MARK:

- \* To increase the number of midweek Parade Services
- \* To engage in more ecumenical activity
- \* To deal with the closure of Moorside Library and its impact on church and community activity.

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### CHRIST CHURCH:

- \* To engage with community groups to heal rifts caused by the field issue.
- \* To deal with possible sale of church field and securing agreement about use of current church buildings.
- \* To engage more with young people, refreshing approach to Junior Church

*Mission Action Planning is an ongoing process that will be constantly under review by the PCCs. If you have any ideas for this aspect of our church life please speak to one of the ministers.*



*Please pray for us as we continue to seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ within our benefice.*

On Tuesday 19 September you are welcome at a meeting of Bury Deanery Synod, to be held at St Mary the Virgin, at 7.30pm, when we begin to put together a Mission Action Plan for Bury. Or, if you can't be there, let any Synod rep have your ideas.

## From the Vicarage

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- \* Thanks to all those who in recent months have contributed to the upkeep of our church grounds both in a financial and physical sense. Both churches have made improvements to the Garden of Remembrance and at Christ Church a lot of maintenance work has been done in the churchyard. Thanks especially to Peter & Gill Smith whose Coffee Day at the beginning of July raised nearly £400 for churchyard equipment.
- \* 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.
- \* Our neighbouring parish of St.Mary the Virgin has recently appointed a new Rector. The Revd. Julian Heaton – currently serving in the Diocese of Chester – will be inducted on Sunday 19 November. Please pray for Julian and his family as they move north.
- \* 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.
- \* The Archdeacon of Bolton, The Venerable David Bailey, will be retiring in December. David and Kathryn, who live in the former Christ Church Vicarage, will be moving to Ripon. Please pray for them in these next few months. They will be much missed at Christ Church and across the Diocese.
- \* 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 18 September. More details are in the Bulletins / News Sheets. Everyone is welcome to attend.



\* 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.

\* The next meeting of the MOB – Men of the Benefice – takes place on Monday 25 September. We meet at The Sundial beginning at 8pm. Our guest speaker will be Alan Spencer.

\* 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



## ***TWENTY YEARS ON***

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Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself? I can hardly believe that I have been a Reader for twenty years. I don't know how many services I have taken, sermons I have preached, meetings I have attended and funerals conducted but the total must be in the hundreds. Little did Barbara and I know when we were licensed in 1987 what we were letting ourselves in for. She has written elsewhere in the magazine about the changes we have seen.

I know that it has been through the power of the Holy Spirit that I have been able to serve but throughout all these years I have also been supported and encouraged by the congregation, both practically and in prayer. I feel I have been blessed to serve at Christ Church and latterly at St. John with Saint Mark. I would like to thank everyone for making these twenty years so rewarding.

Yours in Christ,

Margery



## **CHRIST CHURCH, WALMERSLEY: Buildings & Field Update**

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In recent weeks meetings have been held with the Vicar, officials from the Manchester Diocese and representatives of the local community. The meetings have been based on the premise –

*"The existing church buildings are not sustainable;  
we need to decide what facilities we need  
to be able to serve the community in the future.  
To do that we need to work with neighbours and partners  
to clarify what the needs of our community are".*

This month opportunities to discuss these matters are being offered to the church congregations and to the wider community.

- On Sunday 17 September a meeting will take place in the church hall at 10.00am. This will hopefully enable both the congregations of the 9.00am and 10.30am services to attend this event. After the meeting has ended there will be a service of Holy Communion.

A discussion document will be available prior to the day so that people can consider the issues involved.

- On Saturday 30 September an Open Meeting will be held in the Church Hall for all those in the community who wish to discuss these matters. This will begin at 10.00am



Please pray that God will guide the people of Christ Church as we make decisions about the future.

- Prayer develops our relationship with God, with other people and with ourselves.
- When we share our thoughts with God, we make room for his Spirit – his power and his presence – to work on us and in our lives.
- We believe that God hears and answers all our prayers, although not always in the ways that we want.
- We can pray anywhere, anytime and about anything.
- Remember that anyone can pray. You don't have to be a certain type of person. God doesn't refuse to listen to our prayers because of our faults.

"in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" *Philippians 4.*

### A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

*by David Adam*



Circle me O God  
Keep peace within  
Keep turmoil out.

Circle me O God  
Keep calm within  
Keep storms without.

Circle me O God  
Keep strength within  
Keep weakness out.

### **St John with St Mark, meeting held on 24 July**

A list of social dates for the remainder of 2017 has been distributed. The next event will be a young people's review with potato pie supper on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd September.

The website has been updated to include an item commemorating 100 years since the Battle of Passchendale during World War 1. There are photographs of some of the men commemorated on the plaque in the Memorial Chapel. Thanks to Mark Hone, of Bury Grammar School Boys for providing additional information.

It looks likely that Moorside library will close during October. A proposal concerning future use of the room by the Seedfield Tenants and Residents executives has been submitted to the PCC. A response to that proposal by the Church is to be made at a meeting between the two parties on 26th July. Dave again reiterated that the closure of the library and the impact on Church and Community should form part of our Mission Action Planning.

The Stewardship campaign is to take place during October. Dave was meeting with the Diocesan Stewardship officer James Emmerson on 27th July.

Helen Mallinson has submitted a proposal for the PCC to discuss the age for Confirmation. There is currently no specific Diocesan policy relating to Confirmation age and Helen has asked the PCC to consider adopting a Parish policy whereby Confirmation is only available to adults, and outlined both the advantages and disadvantages of this policy. There was a great deal of discussion and it was felt the PCC should take their thoughts away with them to bring back in September when a decision could be made.

The Vicar's report made us aware that the Archdeacon of Bolton, David Bailey, is to retire around December time. Also, alternative arrangements for the magazine printing need to be made following closure of the facility at Seedfield Centre.

A Deanery Mission Action Plan for Bury Deanery is to be introduced and input from individual Parishes is required to help put this together. We are being asked what we are good at in this Church and what we need help with as a Parish. This will be discussed during the Café Church service on

Sunday 3rd September. Our thoughts will be shared at Deanery Synod on Tuesday 19th September.

The next PCC meeting at St. John with St. Mark is on Thursday 7th September at 8.00pm.

### **Christ Church PCC, Meeting held on 11th July 2017**

1. It was noted that the grass in the graveyard has now been cut.
2. A new strimmer has been purchased with the proceeds from a coffee morning/afternoon organised by Gill Smith.
3. It was noted that the donor providing the donation for the new nativity figures would like the PCC to go ahead and buy them now.
4. A letter had been received from the council to say that the Seedfield reprographic centre was closing and this will now require the PCC to find a new source for the printing of the magazine.
5. The proposed new gates on Ackworth street were discussed.
6. A financial report to the PCC was provided by the acting treasurer.
7. A focus group was held on the 10th of July with the hall users and community attending.
8. The next focus group involves the congregation and is scheduled for the 17th of September.
9. The last focus group meeting will be with the wider community and will be held on the 30th of September.
10. The vicar noted that the confirmation service had been well attended. It was noted that it was important to ensure that the children who had been confirmed continued to come to and be involved with church.
11. Nick Smeeton is to be invited to talk about vocations at some point in the future.
12. The pastoral committee report was read out by Margery Spencer.
13. In Vicar's remarks, the vicar noted that the Stewardship campaign will start at the beginning of October and finish with the joint service with St Johns with St Mark's at the end of October.
14. The vicar reported that the Facebook page was progressing well.
15. It was noted that Margery Spencer had been relicensed as a reader.

Ian Riddick secretary.

### Week 1

#### Prayer for new beginnings

We pray for all those who at this time are facing new situations;  
those starting school for the first time;  
those moving to Secondary school;  
those moving into Further Education;  
those moving away from home to attend University.



We pray for all teachers, governors, ancillary staff as they begin the new school year and especially for those in the schools in our benefice. May the schools be places where young people are safe, where their talents are encouraged and they grow in wisdom and knowledge.

### Week 2

#### Prayer for the world in which we live

We pray for the kingdoms of the world,  
for the countries, nations and states - and their citizens  
- facing economic hardship.  
for regimes and governments - and their citizens  
- engaged in conflict and warfare.  
for non- governmental organisations  
- working for justice, equality and cooperation.  
for all the people who seek to make a difference,  
- for their families, neighbours, nations and the whole of  
creation.

Lord, we pray that your kingdom will come here on earth as it is in heaven.

### **Week 3**

#### **Prayers for our journey in life**

Your light is the only light I need,  
as I travel through life's mystery .  
Your word the only voice I hear,  
that still small voice that leads me  
to the place where I should be.  
Your presence is the only company I need,  
as I walk this narrow road.  
Your fellowship the warmth I crave,  
to help me on my way.

Bless our feet  
that they might tread  
the path prepared.  
Bless our hands  
that they might show  
your love's embrace.  
Bless our words  
that they might share  
your grace and peace.



[http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_)

### **Week 4**

Sometimes Lord, we wonder what we should give you in gratitude for your great love for us, for all that you have done for us. The prophet Micah sums it up in just a few words.

What does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly,  
to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

## A REFERENCE FOR GOD

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*During Gill Barnett's Sunday Morning Service, on the 23 July 2017, Gill asked "How would we give God a character reference", I pondered and reflected on this and had no problem giving God a reference as follows.*

To whom it may concern

Job description: Redeemer of Humanity

I am writing to you regarding God, I have known God as a very close friend for many years now and always found him to be loving, caring, understanding, patience and dedicated to his work. He treats no one person any different than another.

He is awesome to work with and has always been an inspiration to me. We have worked on projects together. He has never kept me in the dark, his light would always shine through for he wants us to succeed. He is a good team leader, working well with others. He always brings the best out in everyone, who trust and believes in him. You can call on him, anytime, and he will be with you.

He is an asset to any project giving lifelong commitment and beyond. I would have no hesitation in recommending God for this job. I know of no one that would be more suitable for this position, all it takes is for you to remain open hearted and trust and believe in him.

If you need a **curriculum vitae**, please see references in the Bible of his loving cooperation with mankind which gives all his previous experience to fulfill the job description required for Redeemer of Humanity.

*Thank the Lord that it was not Revd Gill asking God for a reference for me.  
Hugs and Blessing  
Christine (Mckenna)*







## ***20 Years a Reader! A personal light- hearted reflection***

I can hardly believe that it is 20 years since Margery and myself finished our course and were licensed at Manchester Cathedral.

What started this reflection you might ask? Well the simple truth is that a shelf in the bookcase in our office collapsed under the strain of one too many files being stuffed on the shelf in question. Thankfully it didn't start the domino effect – I might have been prematurely buried under an avalanche of files! Drastic measures had to be undertaken. I would have to throw some stuff out!! But of course before it would meet the green bin I would have to read and evaluate the documents in question! I am by early life training a hoarder of stuff that might come in useful. Thank you Dad and Grandad!

It makes you think going through stuff. There have been highs and lows on the way. There have been many changes, not least getting married to Nigel – another tale in itself. Margery and I earned the nickname of Hinge & Bracket during training – we would have a go at almost anything (our singing let us down.) There have been changes in how we worship over the years, we have seen people come, children grow up and become parents themselves, and unfortunately we have seen many old friends pass away – Margery has done many funerals for old friends.

I really can't keep all the service sheets for 20 years - they all had to go, along with Junior Church and 'Be our Guest' stuff, and I'll have to trust the computer's storage mechanisms!

The biggest challenge is to come next - that of where we are going as a church in the future!

As for myself, I am getting closer to that day when, like Margery, I'll become a Reader Emeritus. What will the future hold for us? I think it's unlikely that I'll still be 'up front' in 20 years

We have worked with four Vicars: Brian, Arthur, Ian and now Dave. There have been a number of retired clergy especially Don who have helped us during a long interregnum. There was Stephen Harrop who took up residence in the Vicarage when he couldn't return to his congregation in America due to a visa complication and then all the team at St John with St Mark's - Paul, Elizabeth, Janet, Ralph, Keith; curates Daniel then Gill and of course our fellow Reader, Darren.

Most of all, thanks to the congregations who have supported us through thick and thin for the past 23 years (including our training).

With love - Barbara

## ***RETREAT at FOXHILL, CHESHIRE***

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On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July on a sunny afternoon four organisers & eighteen participants of Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union arrived at Foxhill for a weekend retreat. After a warm welcome and a cuppa we were given time to settle into our rooms, explore the beautiful house that had once been the home of the Pilkington (tiles) family and the lovely garden. Then a tasty meal before a session to introduce ourselves, have a short meditation and then explanations of what to expect during the weekend. We were encouraged to think of the weekend as "continuing our journey with God." A service of Compline in the chapel at 9pm ended the formal part of the day and we entered into silence until breakfast on Saturday morning.

### **SATURDAY**

After prayers in the chapel at 8am, at breakfast we were joined by the Rt. Revd Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton, who led us through four  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour sessions during the day on a journey with Abraham. Between the sessions we were silent except for meal times. We were challenged on our journey as we were reminded of Abraham's journey by Bishop Mark.

**Abraham's faith and call by God...** How do we hear God's call and how do we react to it?

**Abraham's faith during tough times...** We were asked to think how we react during difficult times and to trust God in all the circumstances that we face on our journey through life.

**Abraham was very much aware of God's presence in his life and he was a great blessing to others...** We were encouraged to be a blessing in this messy world by giving people Hope, Dignity & Self Esteem. He reminded us of the importance of praying for the world, to count our blessings but also to speak to God of the disappointments we experience too. We had heard how disappointed Sarah & Abraham had been that they had not been able to have children and then the joy, yet unbelief at first, when God revealed to them that Sarah would bear a son.

Throughout the day we had access to prayer stations set up in the various rooms in the house which helped us to focus on what we had heard and then we could reflect on God's word to us. In the afternoon we had three hours of free time. The sun never stopped shining all weekend so it was good to explore the extensive grounds, just sit in the sun, have a doze or continue to meditate.

After a final session with Bishop Mark, when we could ask questions and were blessed to hear some of his journey with God, he had to leave us to return home in readiness to for the confirmation service here at Christ Church the following morning. The day ended with Compline.

## **SUNDAY**

started with prayers in the chapel and after breakfast Revd Sandra Kearney talked about the birth of Isaac and how Sarah found it hard to believe that she could give birth at her age. During the rest of the morning in silence we reflected on our own journey with God and the times we found it difficult to believe what God has said to us or asked of us.

The retreat ended with Eucharist in the chapel before a hearty lunch. We thanked the staff for all the care we had received during the weekend. Not only had we received great meals to sustain our physical needs we had received spiritual food to sustain us as we continue on our journey with God. Many thanks to Revd. Canon Roy Chow, Revd. Sandra Kearney, Revd. Denise Smith & Catherine Hilton for their ministry throughout the weekend.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES**

*Hebrews 11. vs 8-11; Genesis 12. Vs 1-3; Genesis 12. Vs 11-16;  
Genesis 18. vs 1-15;*

Jean Slater

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## **JUNE 2017 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Vicky Senior

2nd Prize ~ Edith Tanner

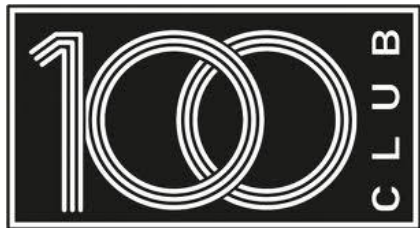
3rd Prize ~ Maureen Nuttall

## **JULY 2017 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ S. J. Tanner

2nd Prize ~ George Hall

3rd Prize ~ Margaret Hall



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

On July 19th Margery Spencer led a service of evensong, or to be more accurate, "evensaid" - Margery does not do singing. The idea arose after a service in the Cathedral, when it was commented how good it was to hear words that were so familiar from our youth. After a brief explanation of how the Book of Common Prayer came into being, we began with a hymn. Margery gave a brief homily about how faith has to grow and change or it will become stagnant, and asked us if we were "pot bound Christians". We sang the Nunc Dimittis and another hymn to finish. We are grateful to Geoff for providing the music for this calm and thoughtful evening.

August began with an interesting evening about the role of virtual babies and how those owned by Mothers' Union are loaned to schools and other groups to allow teenagers (within an extensive course of lessons) to experience a baby for a weekend. We also saw and heard the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome and drug abuse on the baby and saw an interesting demonstration of the effect on the brain of shaking a baby. Many thanks to Margaret Shewring, who was giving her first talk on the subject.

A few members attended the Deanery Festival at St Paul's Ramsbottom and the Archdeaconry Festival at St Margaret's Prestwich but sadly neither event is as well supported as even a few years ago. The preacher at St Margaret's was our Provincial President, asked by several whether she was returning home to York that night!

If you have ever wondered about Barbara's role there is the opportunity to find out what is involved, as she is speaking at our meeting on 20 September.

On September 6 we are marking the birthday of the branch by visiting Waddow Hall near Clitheroe, for a tour of the hall followed by afternoon tea. It is not too late to give in your name as we confirm numbers just a few days before. Please let me know whether you would like to join us – there is no requirement to be a member of Mothers' Union!

I hope many of you will be able to support Cath Hilton, our president, and the Board of Trustees who have responded to complaints about having to go into Manchester at night. Accordingly they have arranged the annual Diocesan Festival, which is held in the Cathedral, for 1.30pm on Saturday, 16 September. The Bishop of Bolton will preside.

Tickets are available for the General Meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday, 30 September. The keynote topic is "Peace and Reconciliation" with the main speaker being Sarah Snyder, the Archbishop of Canterbury's top advisor on this theme. On Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> there is a service at 5.30pm and afterwards a drinks reception and three course dinner, followed by a live ceilidh band and dancing at The Roxburgh Hotel. More details are available online or from Andrea our secretary 0161 828 1427.

Whether you can go to Edinburgh or not, you may like to investigate the souvenirs - [www.muscotland.org.uk/souvenirs](http://www.muscotland.org.uk/souvenirs) Most exciting is the jewellery. The Mothers' Union tartan has been around for many years. Now a range of tartan jewellery has been launched and it is lovely. Ordered online it will be delivered within a couple of weeks – so you could be wearing it in Manchester Cathedral on 16<sup>th</sup>!

Bob Taylor, Branch Leader

## **HARVEST CELEBRATIONS**

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at Christ Church and St.John with St.Mark

- HARVEST FESTIVALS: Sunday 8 October  
*Family & Parade Services – 10.30am*  
HARVEST SOCIAL: St.John with St.Mark's after the service  
Donations of Harvest produce welcome - gifts will be distributed locally including via Porch Project, Caritas and the Booth Centre.
- PRIORY Highbank Harvest Service:  
Wednesday 11 October 2.30pm
- THE SPRINGSIDE SCHOOL Harvest Service:  
Tuesday 17 October 10.00am



"Come ye thankful people come....."

## TRANSFIGURATION

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We used a different approach in thinking about the Transfiguration at St John with St Mark in August – pictures and poetry. We heard the poems below read as part of the sermon slot and the congregation was invited to make their own response.

### **Transfiguration: Malcolm Guite**

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',  
On that one mountain where all moments meet,  
The daily veil that covers the sublime  
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.  
There were no angels full of eyes and wings  
Just living glory full of truth and grace.  
The Love that dances at the heart of things  
Shone out upon us from a human face  
And to that light the light in us leaped up,  
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,  
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope  
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.  
Nor can this this blackened sky, this darkened scar  
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.



### **The Transfiguration of Jesus by Pope Francis**

Transfigure me, Lord, transfigure me, but not only me,  
purify also all the children of your Father  
who pray to you with me or who have prayed to you  
or who perhaps did not even have a mother  
who helped them babble an Our Father.

Transfigure us, Lord, transfigure us.  
If perhaps they know you not or have their doubts  
or even blaspheme you, wipe their face clean  
as Veronica wiped yours;  
draw back the thick cataracts of their eyes  
so that they see you, Lord, as I see you.

Transfigure them, Lord, transfigure them.



## **From the pews**

You, in your cloud of knowing, identifying, personalising,  
instructing

He, away in prayer, fulfilling, conversing, transfiguring

We, in our all-knowing, want to go camping...

**and**

Why send him Moses & Elijah?

The law and the prophets, yes, but...

Why not Abraham & Sarah to talk of faith & laughter?

Or David to talk of friendship & loss?

Or Esther on patience & bravery?

Why not Ruth & Boaz to talk of loyalty & redemption?

Or Daniel to talk of trust...& a careful diet?

Or Ezekiel on transformation when all hope seems gone?

But no, you sent him Moses & Elijah

The law and the prophets, yes, but perhaps...

Because they too faced the conflict of miracles performed & messages not heard

They too needed time alone away from the clamour

They too knew your voice on a mountain

But they too were sent back

Back to fulfil their calling

Back amongst those who needed you





Thank you to all from the Bury Muslim/Christian Forum for hosting a great Interfaith Iftar in June at Noor Ul Islam Mosque. It was really good to see representation from the Armed Forces, Bury Council, Greater Manchester Police and our churches. The month of Ramadan brought many different people together, to learn more about one another and reach out to understand that #wehavemoreincommon



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## ***ANY QUESTIONS***

The forum is holding an "ANY QUESTIONS" study-circle on Tuesday 26th September at 8 p.m. Watch out for venue details.

The panel will be Keith Trivasse (Christian) Warren Elf (Jewish) and Saqib Shah (Muslim)

The meetings are very relaxed and a light supper is served afterwards. More details from Rev. Dave Thompson or Jill Smith.





FOR THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

## ***PRAYER DIARY***

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*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. Nurseries, 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.

## **SATURDAY WALKING GROUP**

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Paul volunteered to lead our walk on 1st July, which was this time a more local affair. Our meeting point was St. John with St. Mark Church Hall at 9.30am where four of us gathered. We made our way along Arley Avenue, down the steps and along the River into the Burrs, where we spent some brief time exploring the country park, which was full of life at this time of year.

We left the Burrs via Woodhill Road and walked to the end of here to Crostons Road and past the site of the former gas works in Elton. We then crossed over to Wellington Street and past the Royal Mail office, making our way to the former Manchester, Bolton and Bury canal towpath. We walked along the path for a short distance before crossing Hinds Lane and passing what was the site of the Farmer's Arms, later Benny's nightclub. This area was part of the cross-country route at Bury Church High School when I was there.

We climbed up to Elton Reservoir where we stopped for elevenses. It was turning into a lovely summer day at this point and we had some great views from the Reservoir of the Pennines and Blackstone Edge. After our break we picked up the route of the former Bolton and Bury railway line and then headed towards Brookbottom Farm. We followed a track which eventually led us to St. Gabriel's High School and then to the Bury Grammar Schools on Bridge Road.

Crossing under Bolton Street we then made our way back into the Burrs for a brief lunch stop, and as we were earlier than expected, a drink in the Brown Cow. We made our way back to the Church Hall through the Burrs, which Paul reminded us also formed part of his cross-country course at Seedfield High.

We covered about 9 miles, and it was a good warm up for Paul who was due to begin his Pennine way venture the following week. More news about that at the Open Group in November!

Best foot forward, David Robinson

## ***MORE FROM THE WALKING GROUP***

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On 12th August the group completed an 11.5 mile walk starting at Padiham near Burnley and took in four Churches. Full details will be in the October magazine.



### **OUR NEXT WALK**

Saturday 2nd September ~ Meet at St. John with St. Mark Church Hall at 9.30am.

This is a second opportunity to complete the July walk to Burrs, Elton Reservoir and along the old Bury and Bolton canal as a few people missed it last time.

Also because Paul needs to be back earlier as he is performing in 'Thank You for the Music' that same night.

## ***Light Lunch***

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The next lunch will be  
on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</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

Future dates for your diary:

October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, December 21<sup>st</sup>

## ***MEN OF THE BENEFICE (MOB)***

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### **MEN'S GROUP**

After a few postponements, we finally managed to go ahead with our Brewery trip on Friday 23rd June. Seven of us participated in this event to Moorhouse's Brewery in Burnley on a rather wet evening.

We had previously been to an outing here around 10 years ago as part of the Beer & Books course run by Bury Library services. However that was in the old brewery, our trip tonight was in the new splendid looking building. We were each presented with tokens for four pint of beers, the first of which we enjoyed whilst looking at some of the pictures and displays in the function room.

We joined other groups for our brewery tour around 8.00pm, which lasted around 45 minutes. We were taken through the various ingredients and stages that the brewing process goes through by our tour guide Jordan. It was good to know that the brewery has adapted to a decline in pub trade and now has several large contracts for bottled beer with supermarkets such as Morrisons.

After our tour we continued our enjoyment of real ales with a steak pie and pea supper, produced locally in Burnley. There was also a brewery quiz, which we must congratulate John Brennan on winning. John's prize was for a song of his choice to be played whilst we sat, drank and chatted.

It was a hugely enjoyable evening and there was an opportunity to take some bottles home with us. Thank you to the staff of Moorhouse's for their hospitality and also to Alf Goldfinch for acting as chauffeur for the night. (Alf did take his four ales away with him, so he didn't miss out).

The ladies also had their meal out that night to La Dolce Vita Italian on The Rock and we are informed that a good night was enjoyed by all here as well.

On Monday 31st July, the MOB gathered at The Sundial for a general get-together.

## **THANK YOUs**

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### ***Ride London***

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our daughter in the London Ride. She completed the 100 miles in under eight hours and along with her partner Bill raised over £4000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Society. Needless to say, we were there cheering her as she entered the Mall at the end of the ride.

This is a cause dear to our hearts, as our nephew died from the disease earlier this year. Thank you all.

Margery and Alan Spencer

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### ***Coffee Morning***

Thank you to all those who supported the coffee morning at Peter and Gill Smith's house. The total raised was £427 (£212 from the event and £215 in donations.)

The proceeds will be spent on new equipment for the maintenance of the graveyard at Christ Church. So far a new strimmer and full safety gear have been purchased and the mowers repaired.



Our thanks are due to Jason Edwards for inspiring this event and continual gratitude is due to the past and present workers who tackle the job of keeping the church and its surrounds neat and tidy.

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### ***Away From It All***

Following the devastating fire in Grenfell Tower, the response of Mothers' Union is to offer breaks to any these families who wish to apply. This is a medium to longer term response as so many people gave immediate help.

For three weeks there was a collection point in both churches for contributions and we thank everyone who gave towards the £315 collected. It is not too late if you would like to give – please have a word with Barbara Taylor.





It was a great pleasure to welcome back our former Incumbent, Canon Ian Stamp to lead the Open Group meeting on Wednesday 12th July. Can you believe it is now almost five years since Ian retired? (Time soon flies). His wife Ann also attended and it was lovely to see her again. The theme for the evening focused on funerals that Ian had led during his ministry, although there was the odd wedding and other events thrown into the mix as well.

There was an opportunity at the start of the meeting to refresh our minds and hear stories from Ian's early years and subsequent path to ministry. It was interesting to know that during his training and studying, only two evening sessions were devoted to leading funerals.

We then heard several anecdotes from Ian about funerals he had taken and had remembered significantly. Experiences included coffins that were not big enough for the hole, resulting in the final section of the service to be taken with a near upright coffin, mourners who fired a volley of shots over the coffin at a Western themed funeral (blanks, but still requiring a police presence) and a funeral and committal that included the LS Lowry tribute song, Matchstalk Men, with all its many verses. Of course, there were also many, much more solemn occasions.

Weddings also featured as well and Ian humoured us with stories of misbehaving page boys and soon to be mother-in-laws who took charge of proceedings.

As well as the main Sacraments, we also heard of a visit to a lady who wished Ian to perform an exorcist in her home. Despite his reluctance, Ian was later surprised to hear that his visit and prayers had actually worked.

Later on, we were treated to some humorous Church notices. I'll share a couple with you:

*"Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."*

*At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?". Come early and listen to our choir practice."*

Other religious themed humour also followed.

Ian also kept us up to date with what he had been doing since his retirement. He resides in Heywood and is enjoying time with Ann, children and grandchildren. Ian stated that although now retired as a Vicar, he will never retire as a priest and looks after a small congregation nearby in Heywood. He has also just celebrated his 70th birthday on 20th June.

It was great to see Ian & Ann and there was a further opportunity to catch up with them over tea and coffee later.

David Robinson



## ***MORE FROM THE OPEN GROUP***

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David Andrew was our speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 9th August, and led us through stories from St. John's Gospel. He was assisted by Ian Banks who was our reader for the evening. David also introduced us to a book by the theologian, Marcus Dods. This particular copy was purchased by David from the Christian bookshop Exodus, which was based in Bury (remember that).

The stories David featured in his talk were of accounts of Jesus' healing ministry and how he had made a difference to the lives of the people he had encountered. They included the story of the woman at the well, the healing of the man born blind and Lazarus. After Ian had read the passage for us, there was then a short reflection from David which included thoughts from 'The Gospel according to St. John' by Marcus Dods.

Members were also presented with a bookmark style print of the key phrases from the 21 chapters of the Gospel, including the seven 'I AM' sayings, to take away with them.

David Robinson

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 13th September at 7.30pm in the library room

Talk by Sister Joan of Caritas

All are welcome to this meeting

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***Sunday @ Seven***

A new name for our regular Sunday evening praise/prayer worship.

We have been holding worship in an informal setting for some time now. To date we have been giving each session a theme name – Easter Praise, Summer Praise, etc. and finding a name has not always been easy! So we have gone for a general name to cover all the sessions – Sunday @ Seven.



Other than the name nothing has changed. It will still be held once every four/six weeks. There will still be songs/prayers and reflection. There will still be tea/coffee and cake. There will still be a friendly, warm welcome for all. Come and join us!

The next Sunday @ Seven will be at Christ Church Walmersley Hall on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7pm.

*(If you are reading this in time, don't miss Sunday @ Seven at St John with St Mark's on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Ed)*



## CAPTIONS

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Last month we invited captions for the photograph of Gill, preparing for a Mothers' Union communion service, where each table shared the cup.

*Kath Parkinson provided several, including:*

I wish I could remember what I've won this cup for.

Gill likes getting a few in before closing time.

I'm practising turning water into wine but I can only manage orange juice.

I'm looking after these for a friend

*I liked Nigel Silvester's:*

Now, that's a bit for you and a bit for you.....No! the big one's all mine!!

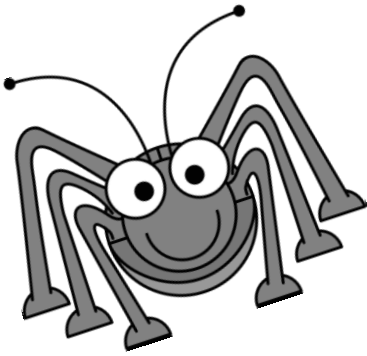


*But despite 'blowing her own trumpet' my favourite was from Gill herself:*

Tuning the glass harmonica to accompany sung Eucharist had seemed like the ideal way of combining the curate's not inconsiderable musical and viticultural skills.

*Thank you, Gill, for allowing this, and I hope you enjoy your chocolate!*

*Editor*



# Beetle Drive

Saturday, 9 September at 7pm

Christ Church Hall, School Lane

Adult £3, under 12 £1

Proceeds to Cancer Research

Tea, coffee, soft drinks – bring your own tippie

Fun for all the family,

young and young at heart

Organised by the United Benefice of Walmersley Road

Tickets available from both churches

## EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER cont

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The Young People of St. John with St. Mark  
present a Summer Production



On Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd September 2017  
7.30pm in the Church Hall

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM JOAN WILD  
OR FROM THE CHURCH HALL

£7.00 FOR ADULTS AND INCLUDES PIE & PEA SUPPER  
£3.00 FOR CHILDREN AND INCLUDES HOTDOGS

LICENSED BAR ALSO OPEN

Please come along and support us

## EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER cont

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### COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

St John with St Mark Church Hall  
Saturday 16th September from 10.00am

BOOKS  
CAKES

TEA, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS  
OTHER STALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS

Christ Church



Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>

Teams of Four compete for the  
**STAN PARKINSON TROPHY**

Bring your own team or meet up with new friends when you get here.

7.30pm

£3 or £5.50 with pie supper

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Let us know what you are doing  
and we will help spread the information.  
email: [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)

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

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Fri 1	7.30pm	"Thank you for the music" (SJM)
Sat 2	9.30am	Walking group (meet at SJM)
	7.30pm	"Thank you for the music" (SJM)
Sun 3		<b>12th after Trinity</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Cafe Church (SJM)
Wed 6	1.15pm	Mothers' Union
Thu 7	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sat 9	7.00pm	Beetle Drive (CC)
Sun 10		<b>13th after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Tue 12	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Wed 13	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Sat 16	10.00am	Coffee Morning and Book Fair (SJM)
	1.30pm	Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival (Cathedral)
Sun 17		<b>14th after Trinity</b> Services as usual (SJM) Services with meeting at 10.00am (CC) <i>(see p10 for more details)</i>
Mon 18	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury (Baptist Church)
Tue 19	7.30pm	Bury Deanery Synod (St Mary the Virgin)
Wed 20	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 21	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
Sun 24		<b>15th after Trinity</b> Services as usual

Mon 25	8.00pm	MOB (Sundial)
Sat 30	10.00am	Open Meeting (CC) – <i>see p10</i>
	7.30pm	Quiz Night (CC)
Sun Oct 1	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (CC)

## ***THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR***

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The 2017 Real Advent Calendar has been ordered.  
It is a great way to share the Christmas story.

### MEANINGFUL FEATURES:

- \* Behind each of the 25 windows there is a line from the Christmas story with colourful matching picture
- \* Free 28 page Christmas book
- \* Charitable Donation
- \* Uses quality Fairtrade chocolate
- \* 24 festive milk chocolate shapes
- \* recyclable box and tray

The picture on the cover is a beautiful illustration of the Nativity scene, featuring all of the main characters from the Christmas story. It reminds us that the birth of Jesus is at the heart of Christmas.

The accompanying book has a page for every day of advent which illustrates the story as well as providing a range of challenges and activities throughout Advent.

Please look out for the publicity advertising how to buy the calendar.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company  
– making a big chunk of difference





## Play, Pray, Praise

a party for those baptised at Christ Church in the last three years



We enjoyed the ball pool,  
crawled through the tunnel,  
hid in the tent,  
dug in the sand,  
created with play dough

and made fish from handprints.

We sang songs, and enjoyed Gill's telling of the Jonah story - complete with waterproofs and water pistols!



For tea there were sandwiches, dips, veggie sticks, buns and an amazing big fish cake!  
Then a goody bag to take home - though that was mainly for the grown ups!

We hope to see you  
next time we  
**Play, Pray, Praise**

