



**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury**

**in the United Benefice of
Walmersley Road**

***Feast of St Thomas
3 July***

July 2020

50P



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

A message from Bishop David

On the occasion of St. John's Church – 250th Anniversary Originally shared as an audio message for the website



Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you. I have been really looking forward to coming to share your celebrations this weekend. You do not have a 250th birthday very often. Sadly, this and so many other events have had to be postponed at this present time due to the coronavirus epidemic. So perhaps it's a good moment to reflect on the fact that your parish has been around

now for a quarter of a millennium. During that time it will have seen plenty of changes and had to reinvent itself for entirely unexpected situations. I cannot imagine your wonderful predecessors who first created the parish all those years ago could have imagined the kind of situation we are in now, except perhaps they were rather more accustomed to times of plague and epidemic and the havoc that can cause in a community, than most of us have been in our own lifetimes.

So I want simply to encourage you to go on being the church that you are, during this time. There are many things that you have been accustomed to doing, that you have not been able to do for these last couple of months or so, and for some of them it may yet be some time before we can fully return to a regular round of activities, but I have been impressed as I have gone around the Diocese by the different ways in which each church is, in its own particular circumstances, doing something to show that it is not closed as a body, even if its buildings are closed to the public and to its own members.

I have been very impressed at the pastoral care that I have seen churches taking responsibility for at this time. I have been impressed at the way in which the work with food banks and other areas of social need has continued. I do not see any of that need dying down at any time in the near future.

So I just want to encourage you to go on being the church that God has called you to be at this time. To respond to these very unusual circumstances, but using your long established gifts, skills and experience. And above all I want to encourage you to continue to pray, to pray for each other, to pray for those who lead you, and to pray for the Diocese and me as your Bishop as we seek to make our way through lockdown and out the other side.

Four or five years ago we came up with this little strapline for the Diocese that we feel we are called to be 'Church for a Different World' and though that world is not only different from what it was 250 years ago, it is also very different from what it was even three or four months back. I think we are well equipped, well blessed by God's Holy Spirit in order to be that Church for the different world into which we will emerge hopefully in the fairly near future.

Once again, I am so sorry not to be able to be with you and to worship God and give thanks for a quarter of a millennium of faithful witness and worship, but do be assured that you will be very much in my prayers.

God Bless you all.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Our APCMs have been postponed until further notice.

The deadline of 31 May has been extended to 31 October and officers continue in post until meetings can be rearranged.



We would also like to remind people who are responsible for a group or organisation that we are still awaiting some annual reports for 2019.

APCMs will be held as soon as current guidelines will allow us. So to help us be ready, if you have not yet submitted your reports please could you do so to Ian and June Banks at St. John with St. Mark and Ian Riddick at Christ Church, as soon as possible.

Thank you

A LETTER FROM THE VICAR

The events of Spring 2020 will remain long in the memory and its effects will impact upon our world for many years to come.

As we wished everyone Happy New Year six months ago, we were blissfully unaware of what was to lie ahead.

The lockdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic has affected everyone in lots of ways. The 60,000 + excess deaths in the United Kingdom alone is a national tragedy and the trauma experienced by millions of people will take a great deal of time to heal.

Amidst the deep sadness caused by Covid 19, there have been a number of positive initiatives. People have cared for each other within their communities; those regarded as key workers have been quite rightly lauded and the needs of those who have been unable to venture out have been paramount.

In addition, neighbourhoods have been brought closer together and friendships have been formed as people met on a socially distanced basis to clap for the NHS on a Thursday evening or to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

I know that this has been a testing time for the faith of many believers. The lack of worship in a physical church setting and the scandal of having the church buildings closed even for private prayer has proved very difficult. Whilst we do not require a church building to practice our faith a building does give a community a sense of spiritual orientation. Hopefully this month we can once again meet for worship in the familiar surroundings of our church setting.

Distancing – whether physically with other people – or missing the comfort of familiar places, has caused great pain. The last three months or so have taught us so much about what we take for granted and how we cope with doubt and uncertainty.



In a pastoral letter on the Feast of Pentecost, the Bishop of Manchester wrote about the challenges that have faced the Christian community within the Diocese in recent times. One particular paragraph is worth repeating as we look forward to returning to some sort of normality.

"A few years ago, the Church of England produced a series of graphs using the Statistics for Mission returns we complete. One such placed each parish as a blob on two axes: mission strength and financial strength; with the size of the blob indicating the number in the congregation. What stuck out from the diagram was that the two dimensions do not necessarily go together. A church can be vibrant in mission but financially poor, or it can have healthy income and deep pockets, but be doing little by way of mission. As we begin the journey out of lockdown, and hopefully we will do it in such a way as not to risk a second peak, I expect that we will find our mission strength has grown but our financial strength has weakened. We will need more than a temporary bale out, or dipping into savings and reserves, to put us back on an even keel. We will have to think deeply about our generosity to meet both our existing and our new mission aspirations. The current crisis also means that we will have to move more quickly than we had anticipated with significant changes to the way we currently operate, to ensure we are missionally and financially sustainable and to achieve our vision for the diocese – to be a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community."

Have we as a Christian community in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road been strengthened or weakened by the effects of Spring 2020? Are we prepared to move forward in faith and adapt to the different circumstances that we find ourselves in? Whatever has changed this year – and whatever new situations we find ourselves in as we look ahead, we know that God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit never changes. The words of the famous collect apply more than ever at this time:

*Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:
give your people grace so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,*

With best wishes. Stay Safe & God Bless.

Dave





BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY

Jul 5 **4th after Trinity**

Zechariah 9: 9-12 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11:16-19,25-30

Jul 12 **5th after Trinity**

Isaiah 55: 10-13 Romans 8: 1-11 Matthew 13: 1-9: 18-23

Jul 19 **6th after Trinity**

Isaiah 44: 6-8 Romans 8: 12-25 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Jul 26 **7th after Trinity**

1 Kings 3: 5-12 Romans 8: 26-39 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Aug 2 **8th after Trinity**

Isaiah 55: 1-5 Romans 9: 1-5 Matthew 14: 13-21



FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD AT THE CREMATORIUM

Jun 17 Peter Kay

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

May 28 Joyce Smith

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

Usually at the end of June ordinations are held in the cathedral. Here those who have been in training will be ordained by the bishop as a deacon in the church. A year later they will be ordained as priest. Unfortunately in the current situation it has been decided to postpone the ordinations until they can be held with the celebration that is appropriate.

However, this year's new deacons-to-be will be serving in parishes across the diocese from 28 June 2020. Please pray for our candidates as they settle into their new parishes. Please pray also for their families, friends, for all those who have supported and encouraged them on their journey and for those with whom they will serve.

There are 13 new deacons including Ian Fleming who will serve in our own deanery, with Paul Sumsion at Holcombe and Hawkshaw, so we pray especially for him.

The others are: Hazel Bridle, Admos Chimhowu, Debbie Clarke, Robert Eloff, Nicola Gillard, Jo Jarrett, Layfetta Masih, Scott Richardson, Adam Robertson, Matt Sanderson, Amy Sheridan, Farid Yasini



The Church of England is governed synodically with general, diocesan and deanery synods. Our parishes elect members to deanery synod and this year (when we are able to hold our APCMs) is the year of election for the coming three year term. The position brings an automatic place on your PCC. It is very important that we have full representation. So please consider whether you would like to stand for election and represent your parish in the new deanery.

From the Vicarage

* Churches were allowed to open for private prayer from the middle of June. Both St. John with St. Mark and Christ Church will be open on Sundays between 10am-12noon. In addition, St. John with St. Mark will be open on Wednesdays from 10am-11am and Christ Church each Thursday at the same time. A one-way system is in operation in both buildings and I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in getting the churches ready to reopen.

Please be aware of the health and hygiene protocols and the need to maintain social distancing at all times.

We are increasingly hopeful that church services will be able to resume next month. When that happens, it will be necessary to change the frequency and timings of Sunday services. Please look at the weekly News Sheets, social media and the church websites for updates. All the regular events that would normally be advertised in the magazine are obviously on hold at this time. Let's hope that we can resume these in the very near future.

During the current situation I continue to say Morning Prayer at 9.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on a daily basis.

By also saying prayers at this time we are uniting together. It is good to know that people are with me in spirit if not in person, saying prayers at the same time.

* The July / August 2018 edition of this magazine featured an In Memoriam about David Cook (known at school as Brian). He was a former Christ Church chorister who became a world-renowned engineer. His daughter Lucinda had sent an email saying that her father had died in June 2018.

Lucinda has now sent a letter and a short biographical book about her father. Titled "Cities for People – The Story of David Cook", it records his journey from a childhood on Fairlands Road to his role at the World Bank. It is a fascinating account of a life lived for the service of others. If anyone would like a copy of the book, please have a word with me.

* News of one of my clergy predecessors from a recent announcement in the Church Times: Nigel Prior, who was Curate of St. John with St. Mark from 1984-87, is moving from his post as Vicar of Mayfield in the Diocese of Chichester, to be Rector of St. Mary the Virgin, Woodbridge, and Priest-in-Charge of Great Bealings in the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich. Nigel moves after over 20 years in Sussex.

* The Parish Office is back open – with the necessary social distancing! Enquiries about future baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at St. John with St. Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

* Whilst we are absent from worship it is still important to continue to contribute to church funds. We need to continue paying our Parish Share to the Manchester Diocese as well as the various utility bills and other items. Envelopes should be kept safe and given when able to do so. This situation has made paying via Standing Order even more appropriate. If you do not already do this, please consider getting in touch with your Church Treasurer.

* Thanks to those who are continuing to support the local foodbanks at this time. I have many links with them and if you are able to donate, please get in touch.

* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14th day of the previous month. There will be an August edition of this magazine this year to compensate for the loss of the May issue. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk



Marking Significant Occasions at St. John's

As the parish of St. John's celebrates 250 years since its creation in 1770, we were planning to hold three very special services for everyone who has had a significant occasion at St. John's Church. We now hope that we can hold these later in the year.

These services are as follows:

RENEWING:

Weddings / Service of Blessing or Thanksgiving



RE-COMMITTING:

Baptisms / Confirmations



REMEMBERING:

Funerals / Interment of Ashes



EVERYONE WILL BE MOST WELCOME

Please watch our social media pages and websites for further details.

The Power of Prayer

O Lord, you gave me faith
you gave me a toolbox
to carry away
You gave me something big
to fix one day
a test I could not shy away
So out came the box
but the lid was jammed
I told a friend in the faith
and the lid flew open
the tools lay bare
the love, comfort, hope,
and the power of prayer

I would like to thank everyone in the Benefice Churches for all their prayers when Miriam was so very, very ill. The power of prayer along with NHS doctors and nurses at Fairfield Hospital and Killelea House is restoring her health.

Geoff Hamilton



For many this is a very difficult time, knowing that Holy Communion is being celebrated but not able to take part.

A Prayer When One Cannot Receive Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that, even before I was born, you have been with me, knitting my very being, day by day, into the garment of your love, clothing me with grace every moment of my life.
And on the day of my baptism you poured your love into my heart through the Holy Spirit who unites me eternally to you.

Through that same Spirit I pledge my love and adore you, present in your Most Holy Body and Blood.
Though I cannot consume you in this sacred banquet let me be consumed by your complete desire for me so that my longing for you may be filled with your love alone and your mercy overflow through me into this world so in need.

On that joyful day when I do receive you in the Eucharist, may I remember that this precious gift is still but a foretaste of the holy gifts that await your holy people at your heavenly altar. There, with the saints and angels, we shall see you face to face and give you perfect praise for ever. Amen.

*Diana Macalintal
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A prayer of hope

Whatever today may hold, whatever tomorrow might bring, the future is secure,
for Christ is with us, the same yesterday, today and forever.
Live each moment with him in quiet confidence and joyful celebration, for he is ours and we are his for all eternity.
Amen

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Let Yourself Rest

If you're exhausted, rest.

If you don't feel like starting a new project, don't.

If you don't feel the urge to make something new,
just rest in the beauty of the old, the familiar, the known.

If you don't feel like talking, stay silent.

If you're fed up with the news, turn it off.

If you want to postpone something until tomorrow, do that.

If you want to do nothing, let yourself do nothing today.

Feel the fullness of the emptiness, the vastness of the silence, the
sheer life in your unproductive moments.

Time does not always need to be filled.

You are enough, simply in your being.

Jeff Foster

An Evening Prayer

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

from CofE Covid-19 prayer resources

To be read with Joshua 1: 9 and Psalm 91

Wuhan is blamed
China is shamed
Virus escaped
soon there is panic –
announced a pandemic.

Countries injected
people are dying.

Scientist scramble
to try to untangle.

To make a vaccine
so all may be clean.
Britain succumbs
and we all lock down.

Streets are empty.
Work places bare
Hospitals full
as people fall ill.

Medics are praised
and hands are raised
to show our respect
for all key workers.

Rules are made
Stay home save lives.

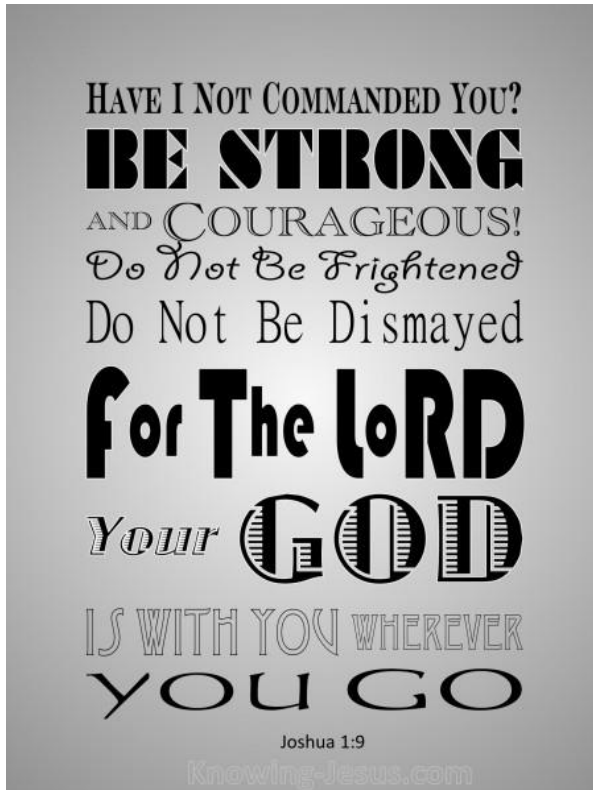
Pollution is down
few cars on the roads.

The sky is clear
no planes to be seen.

People are kind and helping each other
caring for neighbours like sister and brother.

Let us remember the scriptures
and be reassured
The Lord's in our midst
and all will be healed.

Jean Slater



A massive thank you to everyone who has responded to Mothers' Union's **URGENT APPEAL Coronavirus: a difficult ask** which aims to raise one million pounds to enable vital work to continue. As at 18 June the response stands at a fantastic **£701,248**. If you would like more details please speak to a member or visit <https://support.mothersunion.org> Every £1 you are able to contribute can and will make a difference to a family facing financial hardship, pressures on relationships, loneliness and isolation. However, we appreciate you may your own unique challenges at this time so please only give what you are able.

Lockdown

Thank you to those who have sent contributions – poems about lockdown, or its effect – to a booklet being compiled by Manchester Mothers' Union. These may be from family, friends, congregation, not just members; and children's contributions are also very welcome. Pictures too will be much appreciated, whether a simple sketch or a masterpiece – again from adults and children - or photographs taken during lockdown. (We shall need written permission if there are any people in the photographs.)

Contributions please to MothersUnionManchester@outlook.com if possible or contact Bob. The deadline is 31 July.

In addition, Mothers' Union Worldwide is appealing for prayers of strength and hope, to feature in a new prayer book, launching in 2021 and reflecting on this global pandemic.

Contributions to marketing@mothersunion.org or to Freepost, Mothers' Union, please.

Families First

This excellent quarterly magazine costs just £10 per year and should be of interest to members and non members alike. Ask if you would like to check out a recent copy.

With the difficulties of visits such as eye tests during recent weeks, HMP Forest Bank appealed for reading glasses as there was a need among residents. One grateful man responded with this poem, touching not least, as he clearly spent time researching what Mothers' Union is about.

Mothers Union

The amazing mothers union, where do I start
Founded by an angel, Mary sumner had a golden heart,
In the city of Winchester, 1876 was the year
This beautiful charity was formed, the presence of GOD was near,
A christian organization, working with faiths of all kinds
A group of similar members, all sharing similar minds,
Internationally renowned, flourishing into 84 countries worldwide
Building up over 4 million members, a charity working with pride,
I'm just unable to find the words, to explain how amazing you are
But your love, kindness & generosity, is felt from close by & from afar,
Thankyou for your services, forever grateful i will always be to you
Changing lives & being inspirational, please never give up what you do.

With SINCERE LOVE

As with so much of our support, it is a small donation which makes a significant difference to the lives of others.

If you are interested to know more about Mothers' Union, both locally and around the world, please contact our leader here who is Bob Taylor (taylorbob36@live.co.uk)

PLANTS FOR SALE

We may not have been able to hold our Summer Fair this year however the plants that would have been for sale can still be purchased from Rosemarie & Stuart Ashworth in aid of Church funds. Please contact them if you are interested.



A Saturday morning with a difference

We have had lots of different experiences over the past few months. A recent one for me was a Zoom meeting of the Diocesan Synod, albeit in a casual format. (The July session of General Synod will be similar. It is hoped that by the autumn the government will enable a formal synod meeting, able to make decisions, to meet in some socially distanced way.)

Although there was a very short agenda we began, as always, with a time of worship, followed as usual by the presidential address by Bishop David.

Bishop David spoke of the pandemic and how initially the guidance, while stark, was clear and unequivocal. As restrictions have been relaxed, guidelines are less dogmatic, but he assured everyone that whatever the decisions made by the Vicar and PCC regarding the reopening of buildings they had the support of the diocesan team – follow guidelines and act as seems best for your specific community was the clear guidance. With reference to a conversation with a Jewish rabbi, he declared that for our Jewish friends the sanctity of life was the basis of decision making.

It has been determined that the new deanery structure will take effect from June 2021 instead of January. This is the start of the new governance cycle and allows for a time of prayer and preparation as we make this transition to seven larger deaneries.

After technically breaking the meeting to allow for a meeting of the Board of Finance (it has the same membership) synod reconvened to allow for questions.

Several related to the consultation on new deaneries and whether the larger deanery synods would fall within Church Representation rules. There was a query about ministry numbers and sustainability and whether we can afford curates in coming years.

The response to that final query, by the chair of the Board of Finance was a simple “yes . . . we can’t afford not to.”

In the earlier Board of Finance meeting it had been said that ministry costs remain our number one call on income. Currently we have 203 stipendiary clergy in the diocese and have agreed 175 by 2022 – that is now almost certainly unaffordable, despite the significant contribution we receive as a diocese from the national church. How many parishes can be subsidised and for how long?

220 of our 254 parishes or teams responded to a recent request to forecast our income this year in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Just 88 of those expected to be able to pay parish share in full if churches do not reopen for public worship in the relatively near future. Very many parishes are dependent on income from church halls to make up a shortfall in direct giving so are struggling in the current situation.

A significant proportion of the Diocese's income comes from what we know as Parish Share – the contribution by each parish towards resourcing ministry and mission to all parts of the area, with common ownership. The Diocese was already in a position where it seemed very likely there would be a large deficit this year. In this current situation, unless everyone continues to give regularly and significantly, the impact could mean very significant changes. Please do continue to give whatever you can so we can continue to be that beacon of light in our community.

Synod is not normally particularly formal but as a general rule we are seated in, for example, a high school lecture theatre. It was very different indeed seeing everyone in their own settings: maybe more casually dressed, relaxing on a sofa, sitting at a desk, drinking coffee and such like. From time to time there was sight of a pet, or of a partner popping in with a refill for that coffee mug! Certainly a different experience.

Barbara Taylor

As we prepare this magazine the world is contemplating the aftermath of George Floyd's death. Mothers' Union has and always will stand in solidarity with all who face discrimination of any form. As a membership movement of 4 million around the world, we stand again in unity and support for an end to everyday injustice and deeper systemic racism.

Staff, trustees and members were asked to share their experience of racism and their perspectives on the Black Lives Matter movement. You can read more from the USA and Africa at <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/black-lives-matter> but I thought the viewpoint of Sarah, a young staff member in London, was worth selecting for you to read.

Barbara

Sarah Namusoby, Mothers' Union Individual Giving Fundraising Manager, UK

"I want to create a world where my children will have equal opportunities with their peers despite the colour of their skin. I want my children to be taught the history that will enable them to understand that racism is wrong and not only the history that glorifies the perpetrators. Tokenism is no longer enough to justify institutional racism, which today is the modern form of racism.

Of course, all lives matter but, like Extinction Rebellion, Me Too, Feminism, LGBTQ and women's suffrage to name a few... Black Lives Matters is a global social movement. A movement to end all forms of racism particularly towards the black community that has been rife for many decades across the world and not only in the U.S.A. A movement to end a system of racism, that has to its grandest scale left what should be the world's richest continent to date, the poorest (Africa).

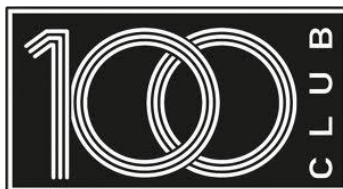
The point is, every movement, past and present has and continues to play an important role in improving the quality of life for all humanity. If it was not for the women's suffrage movement, women would not have the vote now. So, instead of focusing on the movement Black Lives Matter, focus on the true meaning behind the movement and the future it advocates for all and it's only then you will truly understand that black lives matter.

Until then, please don't discount the #blacklivesmatter with "all lives matter". If you do, you are also discounting all the incredible movements past and present, that gave us all a future."



ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

We have been unable to complete the monthly draw whilst the Church building remains closed and public worship is suspended. However it is planned to do a multi draw as soon as soon as it is possible.



LOCKDOWN RECIPES

As we have been unable to host our Fairs and coffee mornings this Spring and Summer, you will have missed out on the homemade cakes which are always extremely popular. To try and make some sort of amends we thought we would share some of the recipes, courtesy of June Banks, so you could at least have a go at making these at home. Here we have the first to be shared but there are more on the St John with St Mark website.

1) Flapjacks:

You will need the following ingredients:

- 6 ounces (150g) margarine;
- 6 ounces (150g) demerara sugar;
- 8 ounces (200g) rolled oats;
- and a pinch of salt



Then you will want a saucepan; a lightly greased 7 inch x 11 inch swiss roll tin; an oven pre-heated to 350 degrees F, 180 degrees C or Regular 4; and a shelf in the centre of the oven.

Method

Slowly melt the margarine in a saucepan. Do not allow it to overheat

Stir in the sugar

Mix in the oats and add the pinch of salt

Scrape the mix into the lightly greased tin

Smooth the surface of the mix with a spatula

Bake for approximately 30 minutes until golden brown

Cut into squares or rectangles whilst it's cooling

Remove from the tin when it's cold – ENJOY!

Other things to try...

With the oats you could also add-in sultanas, nuts or spices (e.g. ginger or cinnamon). You might also try applying melted cooking chocolate (either milk or dark) like we have in the picture.

PARISH PEOPLE

Details have been removed online to protect privacy.

To book baptisms, weddings or just to talk, call in to Parish Office every Wednesday 6.30-7.00pm at St. John's Church Hall

Lots more info on our websites: www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Please send your articles for the magazine by 14th of the previous month to wrub@live.co.uk



Sunday



@ Seven

We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer)

**July 26th at 7pm
at Home –probably!**

“Come to the waters”

Do join us – from the comfort of your own sofa –make yourself a tea/coffee – perhaps even treat yourself to cake/biscuits!

