

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

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



Harvest Festival – October 11th

October 2020

50P



REGULAR SERVICES

In the current situation our regular services are somewhat curtailed and times have been changed, so here is a quick referral list for the coming month or so.

Social distancing guidelines and hygiene protocols are in place and a suitable face covering, should be worn unless you are exempt.

We are observing the guidance from the Government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Manchester. There will be no singing, or contact when Sharing of the Peace. Communion will be received in one kind only.

Sunday

10.00 a.m.	1 st	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	2 nd	Family Service	
	3 rd	Holy Communion	
	4 th	Service of the Word	
	5 th	Holy Communion	
11.00 a.m.	All	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Probably Zoom (watch out for further details)

Wednesday

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

12.30 p.m.		The Gathering	Zoom
2.00 p.m.	1 st	Holy Communion	Christ Church
7.30 p.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Other services as announced

Morning Prayer is said each day at 9.30 a.m.

Evening Prayer is said each day at 5.00 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



Cover photo by Melissa Askew on Unsplash



As I write this I have been watching the commemorations of the Battle of Britain, a time when the country was under considerable attack and its safety was in the hands of a few brave pilots and their back up staff. Although I was alive at the time, I cannot remember much about it, but it was a time of anxiety for everyone. Much like today. There was the slogan **Keep calm and carry on!**

It is hard to believe that we have been living under a shadow of anxiety for 6 months and will continue to do so. Way back at the end of March did we really think that it would last so long? Alan was sure that it would all be over by his birthday in July. He got that wrong.

At first there was novelty. Our lives changed but we were given opportunities to do things we had neglected. In the first weeks I washed every window in the house and emptied and tidied cupboards, acquiring a load of plastic bags full of clothing to take to charities. The novelty soon wore off and my more lackadaisical approach to housework returned. Alan, however, did keep up with his gardening and we have enjoyed the fruits of his labours in flowers and vegetables.

Our eldest daughter has an allotment some 200 yards from her home and although she has been working in the hospital throughout the lockdown she has had to find time to keep on top of it. "If I don't, the bindweed will take over and we will have no harvest and next year will be a disaster."

Farmers will have had to keep going in order to bring in their harvests and prepare for next year.

We will celebrate Harvest in church in a few weeks, giving thanks for all that we receive, and the food we give to Porch Boxes is even more important to help those affected financially by the Crisis. But I suspect the church service will be very different: no music, no singing, and no refreshments after the service.



Changed circumstances necessitate change but we have to keep going on with the important things to provide for the future.

It is important that we keep the important elements of our church life going to sustain our faith and our service to others.

Like the population in 1940 we must Keep Calm and Carry On!

Praying - for all those affected by the virus, in hospital or at home
- for all those key workers ensuring that life can go on
- for those working to find a vaccine
- for those suffering from loss of employment or income

Worshipping - so that we may have the strength to love and serve
- so that we can support each other
- so that we can hear God's message to us

Caring - for those in our community in need

Trusting - in the love of God, which will strengthen and support us
and from which nothing can separate us.

May we all know the love of God at this time.

Yours in Christ,
Margery

A DECADE OF UNITY

JOINT SERVICE

**Celebrating 10 years
of the United Benefice of
Walmersley Road**

Led by
the Bishop of Bolton

SUNDAY 25 October
10.30am
at
CHRIST CHURCH



with our communities, our nation, our world

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

at Christ Church & St. John with St. Mark

Sunday 11 October



Gifts may be brought for organisations which support the homeless locally, including Porch Project & Booth Centre.

These include tinned foods, packets & toiletries

**“All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.”**

THE BOOTH CENTRE is based just off Cheetham Hill Road in Manchester City Centre. It was previously housed in Manchester Cathedral. It is a community centre run with and for people affected by homelessness.

It provides a warm welcome, an opportunity to belong, to gain a purpose and rebuild lives. Their programme includes activities such as volunteering, creative projects and sports, as well as training and help to gain employment. They seek to support people in improving their health and wellbeing, to access emergency accommodation, and to secure and maintain a permanent home.

During lockdown they have been providing advice and accommodation referrals from their garden! The Centre is now Covid secure and the premises have re-opened to serve hot meals for their visitors.

In order to maintain supplies for this important service the Booth Centre have launched a **Harvest Appeal**.

Items required include:

tinned food, rice, pasta, spaghetti,
herbs, spices, gravy granules,
tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits.

Some of our Harvest gifts will be donated to the Centre. If you would like to give any donations or provide financial support, please contact the Vicar.

The Booth Centre
Edward Holt House
Pimblett Street
Manchester M3 1FU

Tel: 0161 835 2499
www.boothcentre.org.uk



PORCH BOXES Our ongoing contributions to this local charity will also form part of our Harvest ministry.



They provide crisis packs of food and toiletries for an average of 450 families a month who are in urgent need.

Lists are available of desirable goods – but you can't go wrong with BAKED BEANS!

Further afield, the work of Christian Aid will benefit greatly from any financial contribution you are able to make this Harvest time. Envelopes are available in church or you can donate online very easily at donate.christianaid.org.uk



From christianaid.org

When crisis arrived on our doorsteps this year, neighbourly love helped us through. Could you help more communities still facing crisis around the world?

Communities living in poverty face crisis every day, but neighbourly love is powerful. With your support, vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours to overcome crisis together.

Ordinary neighbours like you have come together to do extraordinary things for the most vulnerable in society. In this uncertain and fragile world, let's keep looking out for our neighbours near and far.



At Christ Church we shall make our usual gifts to sick and housebound members of our church family.

Please let us know if you think there is someone who would appreciate this token of our love and prayers.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

St.John with St.Mark: Sunday 18 October 11.45am

Christ Church: Monday 19 October 7.30pm

BOTH MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE IN CHURCH

COME ALONG & INFLUENCE THE WAY YOUR CHURCH OPERATES

Forms to elect new Churchwardens and PCC members will be available in church nearer the time of the meetings.

Please note: Only those on the Church's Electoral Roll may vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

THIS YEAR'S ARCHDEACONS' VISITATIONS
ARE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER.
Exact dates are as yet unknown.

FROM THE REGISTERS

CHURCH FUNERAL

September 11 Cole Kershaw

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

September 6 Ellen Greason

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



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

- Oct 4 In memory of the Birtwistle and Slater families
- Oct 11 In memory of Mr and Mrs Tasker
- Oct 18 In memory of Pat Mongey and Joe and Florence Atkinson
- Oct 25 In memory of Mr and Mrs W A E Dighton

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 Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

If you wish to explore the idea of joining the flower arranging rota, please get in touch also.



BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

- Oct 4 **17th after Trinity**

Isaiah 5: 1 –7	Philippians 3: 4b-14	Matthew 21: 33-46
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- Oct 11 **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Deuteronomy 28: 1-14	2 Corinthians 9: 6-15	Luke 17: 11-19
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- Oct 18 **St Luke**

Isaiah 35: 3-6	2 Timothy 4: 5-17	Luke 10: 1-9
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- Oct 25 **Last after Trinity (Bible Sunday)**

Nehemiah 8: 1-12	Colossians 3: 12-17	Matthew 24: 30-35
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- Nov 1 **All Saint's Day**

Revelation 7: 9-end	1 John 3: 1-3	Matthew 5: 1-12
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From the Vicarage

* This month marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of the United Benefice of Walmersley Road. October 2010 saw the coming together of the parishes of Christ Church, Walmersley and St.John with St.Mark, Bury with Ian Stamp as the first Vicar.

A United Benefice enables parishes to remain as individual units – with their own PCCs and Churchwardens etc – but to share a ministerial team. It has been my privilege to be Vicar of this United Benefice for over seven years now and it is wonderful that we not only share in ministry but socially and pastorally too.

The introduction of joint services on the 5th Sunday of each month – temporarily suspended due to the pandemic at present – and in particular the very popular monthly Sunday@7 service show that we worship together. In addition the joint social events and the support of each church's various social activities show a willingness to share in fellowship also.

To celebrate our first decade, we are hosting a joint benefice celebration service led by the Bishop of Bolton. This will take place at Christ Church on Sunday 25 October, beginning at 10.30am.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the ministry of the United Benefice over the past 10 years and pray that God will guide and bless us as we move forward together in the decades to come.

* Our celebrations for the Benefice coincide with the 250th anniversary of St.John's Church this year. Most of our planned events have had to be cancelled due to the ongoing pandemic.

However, we have arranged a special service with the Bishop of Manchester on Sunday 6 December. This will obviously be held at St.John with St.Mark but again with both congregations in attendance. This also begins at 10.30am. Please put this date in your diary.

* The uncertainty about the ongoing situation with the coronavirus pandemic mean that the current arrangements for our Sunday services will continue for the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and understanding in this. We are keen that both our church buildings remain Covid secure and that we are always complying with the necessary social distancing guidelines. If you have any concerns whatsoever, please have a word with me or one of the church wardens.

You will be aware that the wearing of face coverings in places of worship is now mandatory, unless you have an exemption.

Despite the changes made by the Government last month affecting the numbers of people who can meet together at any one time, these do not affect places of worship.

As the Archbishop of Canterbury said: "Worship is the work of God - not a social gathering - and gives the strength to love and serve."

There are no restrictions on numbers attending worship providing that social distancing is observed. However for baptisms, weddings and funerals, numbers remain restricted to 30.

Worship via the internet continues to be available and special thanks to those who regularly host the monthly Sunday@7 service and our friends at Seedfield Methodist Church for their weekly Sunday morning online services.

* I continue to say Morning Prayer at 9.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on a daily basis. It is good to know that others are saying prayers at the same time as we join together in prayer.

* Enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at the Parish Office held at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers meets every month – usually on the second Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please contact one of the team.

- * Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches.
- * 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 Treasurers
- * 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 Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark). If you wish to join the flower arranging rota, please also get in touch also.
- * Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk

Please share this free phone line with anyone who may find it helpful. It is especially beneficial for those who do not have access to the multitude of resources available on the internet.





Sunday @ Seven

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

October 25th at 7pm

*“What are you doing here?”
(1 Kings 19:13)*

Can't be sure where, but we do know when!

Do join us wherever we meet

– even from the comfort of your own sofa –

make yourself a tea/coffee

– perhaps even treat yourself to cake/biscuits!



Calm our egos, Lord,
that we may be open
to learning from you,
to having our minds
changed by you,
to understanding
that what we think
is not always what you think.
Give us wisdom
to know and show your truth,
and hearts to encourage others
in and into your kingdom.



Harvest

Lord of the harvest, by your Spirit, may we sow:
thoughtfulness, so the harvest may be love;
forgiveness, so the harvest may be peace;
understanding, so the harvest may be patience;
persistence, for a harvest of faithfulness;
and discipline, so we may reap self-control.
Amen

from Tearfund

On the Feast of **St Luke** (18th) we pray for doctors and all working in our NHS.

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for cures.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ChurchofEngland.org

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with anger
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for
justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears
to shed for those who suffer pain,
rejection, hunger and war,
so that you may reach out your hand
to comfort them and
to turn their pain to joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can
make a difference in the world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done
to bring justice and kindness
to all our children and the poor.

Meaningful mission this Autumn...

Even with current uncertainties The Meaningful Chocolate Company believes that churches can still do meaningful mission work this Autumn and at Christmas. It aims to help by providing some resources.

Advent calendars

For 10 years we have been able to buy meaningful calendars for our children, grandchildren, godchildren – or even ourselves. Available as usual this year but also (if you are unable to meet) you can send them directly through the post. Ask for details or visit meaningfulchocolate.co.uk Importantly, again you can also choose to send calendars, £3.60 each with no postage charge, to foodbanks. (You really can make a difference – through this scheme 8500 under-privileged children received Easter eggs this year!)

Hallowe'en

If you would like to encourage the children in your life to think of Hallowe'en differently from Trick or Treat why not send a customised Meaningful Treat Pack direct through the post. The pack includes your personalised message postcard, a challenge activity sheet, 2 bags of Chunky Buttons, and our new Sight Chocolate Bar (the bar which helps give 25 people back their eye sight by funding eye operations in the developing world).

Host of Angels

Or be ready to give your tree a meaningful makeover. These Meaningful Chocolate tree decorations are a great way to share the Christmas story. Each box contains six solid chocolate angel decorations, a new full colour Christmas story activity poster and a new Christmas story sticker set. A fun way for parents, grandparents and godparents to share the Christmas story.

Gifts

A variety of chocolate gifts may be sent through the post – so if you are wondering how to treat a friend during this time visit the website for some ideas, knowing that you are also supporting producers in developing countries through Fairtrade.

In July's edition was a poem by Jean Slater, written for a new Manchester Mothers' Union book of reflections on the pandemic. This month a variety of poems and pictures will be available for you to read. However, each week in September a selection was published on Manchester Mothers' Union's new YouTube channel. If you have not seen them and have access do please check them out (<https://youtu.be/1WD1a3TpTzU>)

This month we include a contribution by Tricia Stokes:

Sadness fills my heart

Sadness fills my heart
Lack of cuddles and kisses
From my family and dear friends
Distance seems miles not metres.

Dark hours at no given hour
Overwhelming
Then the light that the virus is slowing
We may see a clearer path
An end or maybe not.

We turn to music in our darkest hour
Bringing light into our darkest moments
Praising our Lord
Giving us strength through his power.

Difficult days hoping and praying
The day will come when we will be staying
Sharing laughter and hugs with cake and tea
Hugs, kisses and laughter
Endlessly.



Saturday Walking Group

It has been a while since I wrote one of these, however following a review of guidance and lockdown restrictions being eased, it was felt like the walking group could once again get together on 5th September. Paul was meant to be joining us, but sadly an injured ankle meant he had to pull out at the last minute.

We decided to keep things local and so four of us set off at 10.00am from St. John with St. Mark Hall and headed down towards the Burrs. Our route took us along Woodhill Road and Crostons Road to the Royal Mail sorting office, which led us to the path alongside the old Bury & Bolton Canal. We walked along here to the former site of the Farmer's Arms/Benny's night club (do readers still remember this?) Following a brief rest, we headed towards our target destination, the Elton Reservoir. We went the whole way around and past the sailing club. The weather remained fair, and occasionally quite warm for us throughout the day although we did well to avoid slipping up in the mud, and also fighting our way through overgrown trees. On arrival at the Reservoir we stopped for our lunch. There were many other people out on this day, and I observed that the practice of social distancing has now meant ourselves and others have become quite accustomed to stepping further to the side, with a polite acknowledgment.

We headed back along the canal, but continued past the Grammar Schools, Peel Mills and along Hornby Street.

The day went well and it was great to get together again in person and catch up with what we had been doing during the lockdown.

It was intended that we could continue with this group in October onwards and hopefully we may be able to do so. However the recent announcement about the rule of six may mean us having to look at things before making any plans. Obviously we never walk in a big huddle but we don't wish to get into any trouble at the same time! We will try and keep you posted through the weekly sheets. However please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any suggestions or wish to be involved.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

Church for a Different World Awards

Some people from across our United Benefice have been involved in a Sunday morning online worship on Zoom, which also includes Churches across Bury, Heywood & Rochdale.

Some of you may remember that a few weeks ago we asked your permission to take a screen shot of us participating in our Sunday morning Zoom. (*see p.24*)

This was to help in our application for a 'Church for a Different World' award, which was seeking to celebrate what churches had done during the lockdown.



In reply to our submission we have had a letter from Bishop David which says:

“Thank you for your entry into our Church for a Different World awards. I was delighted to receive a large number of submissions, demonstrating the creativity and quality of so much work undertaken in response to the pandemic.

It was a difficult task to choose between them. Although we have been unable to select your 'St Zoom's Sunday morning worship' as one of those projects to invite to the Reception, I do want to commend especially the creativity of your response to our new circumstances, and the project's collaboration across multiple churches. I am sure that St. Zoom's will have been appreciated by many people, both locally and more distant.

Please convey my thanks to all those who have co-operated on this project. I pray that all of your ministries will continue to be a blessing to the church.”

Yours ever, + David Manchester

Thank you to all who have been and continue to be involved in this worship.

The Gathering

Hello Everyone

Thought you might be interested in a local Zoom chat group which we have had going for a little while now. We call it "The Gathering" and it comes together on Thursday lunchtimes between 12.30 and 1.30 pm. The group is not just people from our own parishes on Walmersley Road but also from two or three other local parishes.

Led by us and others it is a time to talk over the previous Sunday's sermon/scripture reading. It really is just conversation between friends. There is no need to say anything if you don't want - sit back and just listen in! There is no need to come every week - log on when you want. All very informal.

If you think this might be for you or you want more details please contact us and we will have the necessary links sent to you.





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

*CHRIST CHURCH
and
ST.JOHN with ST.MARK*

8 November at 10.30am for both Churches

With Acts of Remembrance & Commitment

A QUARTERMILLENNIAL CELEBRATION

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF ST.JOHN'S CHURCH 1770 – 2020

The original celebration in June had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.



A replacement service has been rearranged for

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

beginning at 10.30am

at St. John with St. Mark

With the **Bishop of Manchester.**

This will be a joint service with the congregation of Christ Church

FOR YOUR DIARY

October

"Services as usual" = 10am at CC, 11am at SJM

Sun 4		17th after Trinity Services as usual
Sun 11		Harvest Festival Services as usual
Sun 18		St Luke Services as usual
	11.45am	APCM (SJM)
Mon 19	7.30pm	APCM (CC)
Sun 25		Last after Trinity (Bible Sunday)
	10.30am	Celebrating 10 years (Jointly at CC)
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (Zoom)

JIGSAWS FOR SALE

From the safe and secure garage where they are stored



All proceeds go to Church as usual

Also I am hoping that anybody who can will pass on to me any jigsaws they have finished with, providing they are complete.

Thank You

Joan Pearson (St. John with St. Mark)

Personal details have been removed in our online edition
for data protection purposes.

Please contact us through our websites or social media accounts
and we will ensure your message reaches the correct person.

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

St Zoom's



"I do want to commend especially
the creativity of your response
to our new circumstances,
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across multiple churches."

+David Manchester

(See page 19)