

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

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



Creation Season

September 2021

50p

REGULAR SERVICES

COVID-19: Please be aware of any current restrictions as you read this edition, together with the diocesan advice on best practice.

Sunday			
8.30am	3 rd	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Holy Communion Service of the Word Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Venue tba
Wednesday			
10.00 a.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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
<p>Other services as announced.</p> <p>Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Morning Prayer is said each day at 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>Evening Prayer is said each day at 5.00 p.m.</p>			

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.
Both churches have Fairtrade status



Cover image by Beate Bachmann from Pixabay

Playing by the Rules

July 19th 2021 - Freedom Day - the day the last of the rules imposed upon us because of the Covid epidemic were withdrawn. The rule book ripped up. All those rules which have restricted our behaviours for well over twelve months were gone!

Well, those rules may have gone - for now at least - but actually our lives have, since humans started living in community, always been subject to rules; and will no doubt continue to be so. Our society operates within a framework of rules; many enshrined in law; many based on common practice and tradition. Wherever we go, whatever we do, there is an accepted expectation that we will play by the rules. School rules, work-place rules, rules of the road, sports rules, church rules - the list is endless.

For the most part we accept that rules are necessary and we abide by them as part and parcel of what we do and how we behave. Having said that, I suspect that we all have a list of rules which we find irritating, restrictive and downright unacceptable. There are also rules which are almost expected to be bent and some which are regularly ignored!

As Christians I suppose it's not unreasonable for us to look to Jesus and his view on rules to give us some guidance on our own attitude to rule keeping.

When it comes to rules the Ten Commandments, given by God to Moses, are foundational as far as Jesus is concerned. Indeed Jesus was particularly unequivocal that the first commandment - to love the Lord your God - closely followed by love your neighbour as your self - underpin everything else. Read about that in Matthew 22 or Mark 12.

Jesus was once asked directly about his attitude to the tax rules - Matthew 22, Mark 12 and Luke 20 tell the story. As a retired tax gatherer I have always felt a bit of an inner glow when Jesus seems to affirm that we should pay our dues. Tax avoidance schemes were out of the question!

However when reading the gospels there does seem to be one rule book which Jesus was not too keen on - the multitude of rules set by the religious authorities. There are numerous instances of clashes between Jesus and those who seemed to want to enhance their own position by having rules which only they 'religiously' kept. The rules about what you could or could not do on the Sabbath particularly raised the hackles. Read Matthew 12 and Luke 13. The Six Woes listed in Luke 11 v 37-54 have strong words from Jesus to those who (over) loved the rule book!

Playing by the rules is always going to be a tricky pathway. Navigating our way through an ever increasing number of rules will never be easy - especially when the rules keep changing. I have to admit that I still have great difficulty with the off-side rule in football! Rules have provided hours of talking points over a pint of bitter or a glass of wine - and I'm sure will long continue to do so!

What I do feel sure of is that life (unfortunately?) needs rules. The Bible tells us that God set out hoping we could do without them but his hopes were dashed early on in the Garden of Eden. So he gave Moses the Ten Commandments and Jesus endorses that we use them as our foundation. Jesus also endorses a direct relationship with our Heavenly Father and any rules which hinder that relationship should be treated with caution.

Freedom Day? Perhaps that day comes when we do as Jesus says at John 8 v 31/32 "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Take care. God Bless.

Nigel

*10 Rules, 1 God- in heaven above,
10 Rules, 1 God- the King of love.
10 Rules, 1 God- Moses heard Him say,
"I am the Lord, so follow in my way!"*





BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sep 5	14th after Trinity Isaiah 35: 4-7a	James 2: 1-17	Mark 7: 24-37
Sep 12	15th after Trinity Isaiah 50: 4-9a	James 3: 1-12	Mark 8: 27-38
Sep 19	16th after Trinity Jeremiah 11: 18-20	James 3: 13 – 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9: 30-37
Sep 26	17th after Trinity Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29	James 5: 13-20	Mark 9: 38-50
Oct 3	18th after Trinity Genesis 2: 18-24	Hebrews 1: 1-4, 2: 5-12	Mark 10: 2-16



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

Sep 5	Vacant
Sep 12	Mrs B Murray in memory of her parents
Sep 19	In memory of Phyllis Magnall
Sep 26	Vacant

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).

FROM THE REGISTERS

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Jul 4 Margaret Watson

Aug 22 Marisa Dale

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

THE CREATION SEASON

*In our liturgy this month we will be reflecting on
the theme of Creation.*

Each year at the beginning of autumn, the church worldwide observes the Creation season.

This celebration of prayer and action seeks to protect our common home using our role as Christians to be caretakers of God's creation.

The Creation season website states:

During the 2021 Season of Creation, from 1st September through 4th October, thousands of Christians on six continents get together for a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, and to discover radically new ways of living with creation.

More than ever before, the global Christian family will unite to pray and take action for our common home.

Collect for the Creation Season:

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythms of the seasons. We thank you for the riches of your creation. May we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thank You All

Dear Friends

I would like to thank everyone in the Walmersley Road Benefice for your very kind and completely unexpected gift to me when I gave up my ministry after 55 very happy years. The suggestion was made that I could put it towards a few days away, so we did just that.

We went to Bath, a city we had both wanted to visit for some time, for three days in early July. We travelled by train, a very straight forward journey, with all the trains both ways running to time and making the connections comfortably.

We were lucky with the weather, and Bath looked lovely in the sunshine. We wandered round the city, with lots of stops for coffee. We had pre-booked some of the attractions, including the Roman Baths, and admired the 15th century fan vaulting in Bath Abbey. On two nights we were able to eat sitting outside, so could imagine ourselves back on holiday abroad!

Once again, thank you all so much. I shall still be around, so will hope to see you all in church.

Ralph

**"NEVER LET THE THINGS YOU WANT
MAKE YOU FORGET THE THINGS YOU
HAVE." (SANCHITA PANDEY)**



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Freely, freely

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.

* As we went to print, news of the death of Arthur Smith was announced aged 106. He died at Starmount Villa Care Home on Saturday 21 August. He had lived there since September 2020. We thank God for Arthur's life of service. There will be a tribute to him in next month's magazine.

* The further easing of restrictions in July meant a difference in our church services. The Ministry Team decided the following:

- Congregational Singing could go ahead
- Test & Trace information should no longer be gathered
- Wine to be offered within the distribution of Holy Communion
- Mask wearing and distancing issues to be no longer compulsory
- We should continue to share the peace in a non-physical way

Any further changes will be implemented as and when we feel able to do so. As with society in general, there are a variety of opinions about this process, and no one should feel compelled to do anything they are uncomfortable with. Please have a word with me if there any concerns.

* From this month, we are continuing our pre-Covid pattern of having a non-Communion service at St.John with St.Mark on the THIRD Sunday of each month. On those days there will be a service of Holy Communion at 8.30am.

This will take place IN CHURCH.

* Thanks to those who have helped tidy the churchyard at Christ Church in recent weeks. A group of willing volunteers meet each Thursday morning for a couple of hours and any further help would be most welcome.

* Congratulations to Ian Banks who was licensed as a Lay Reader at a service in Manchester Cathedral in July. Please pray for Ian as he begins this new ministry and I thank him for his commitment and willingness to join our Team of Readers.

* The Parish Office is open every Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall. This can be for enquiries about baptisms or weddings or any other matter.

* 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. If you shop at Tesco Bury and are given blue tokens at the checkout, please use them at the Tesco Community Grant Scheme display on your way out to support Porch Box. The more that go in their slot, the more grant Tesco will give them!

* We hope to be able to provide tea and coffee after each 10.30am service from this month. If you would like to help with this, please contact one of the churchwardens. Both churches will use the back of the building to give out refreshments.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet 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.

* 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.

* Nick White – the son of Pauline White from Christ Church – is running the London Marathon next month, to raise funds for Oasis Community Learning who run schools as part of wider community Hubs. They provide young people and their families with the support they need in order to thrive in often very challenging circumstances. Further details about how to donate are on the CCW website. Alternatively, please contact Pauline or myself.

In early August our group met for the first time since March 2020. Publicised as 3 C's (Communion, Conversation, Cakes) there were a good number at the service of Holy Communion with member Dave presiding; with most moving over to the Hall afterwards for tea, coffee and homemade cakes. As I write we are looking forward to a light-hearted general knowledge quiz this week.

The group was represented at the Bolton Archdeaconry Festival on Mary Sumner Day. The preacher was the Revd Simon Cook, the new Area Dean of Bolton, who asked us "if we are ready" – the reading being of the wise and foolish virgins, only some of whom were ready when the bridegroom came.



Our meetings in September will allow us to continue our diocesan initiative to "Let's Chat" as we come together again to enjoy fellowship.

On 1 September we are invited to talk briefly (or simply listen as others share) about "a favourite . . ." – be that an object, a photo, a holiday, a piece of music, ????

Thursday Prayers on YouTube on 9 September will focus on Creation and will be available from noon.

We meet again on 15 September – we await confirmation of the content.

We shall gather with members from across the diocese, at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday, 18 September at 2.30pm, for a Service of Thanksgiving as we near the end of this Triennium.

The Annual Gathering (previously known as the General Meeting) will be held this year virtually so will be far more accessible to us all. There will be sessions from 11am – 12.30pm and 1.30 – 2.30 pm. This is a great way to listen to stories of the work of Mothers' Union worldwide and to hear from our CEO and Worldwide President among others. Please ask if you would like more details.

Future dates for your diary:

Autumn Council will again be a virtual meeting, on 16 October

A Provincial Triennial Celebration will be at 3pm on 6 November in Liverpool Cathedral, with member Bishop Paul to preach. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

As mentioned in June's magazine, we continue to collect items for the New Beginnings backpacks given when necessary to men leaving HMP Forest Bank. We are happy to fill in the gaps if you prefer to give a monetary donation. For those who missed this list, here it is again and we would warmly welcome donations from non members too.

Comb	Hand sanitiser
Small towel and flannel	Toothpaste
Disposable razors	Toothbrushes
Palmolive Shaving stick/cream	Soap/soapbox
Shampoo	Shower gel
Roll-on deodorant	Tissues
Underwear and socks	Pen and notebook
Zip lock bags to pack items	Biscuits/Sweets/Chocolate
Cold weather (hat/gloves)	Warm weather (t-shirt)

As always, we love to see people at our meetings and will not put you under any pressure to become a member before you are ready. So if any topics or activities appeal, or you would like an evening in good company, please just come along to the Church Hall, School Lane at 7.30pm on any first or third Wednesday.

Speak to Hilary if you would like a copy of the MUenterprises latest catalogue or visit mueshop.org. There are several new cards available for all occasions, as well as Christmas cards now on sale, together with gifts, MU badges, calendars and diaries.

With my prayers

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader

Quiet Moments in September

New beginnings for many at the start of a new academic year. This may be daunting, or exciting; a new adventure or a welcome return to a safe, familiar space. Whatever it is for you, may you be blessed in the weeks to come.

Dear God
Help us as we learn new things.
If we learn quickly and easily,
may we help others to understand.
If we make mistakes,
may we understand what went wrong.
help us never to be afraid of new things,
but to see them as an adventure. Amen



Andrea Skevington

Over 775 million adults struggle with basic literacy, and two-thirds of these are women. September 8 is **International Literacy Day** and we pray for all who are working to develop literacy skills and that this work will continue throughout the world.

Lord, Proverbs tells us that an education is invaluable and that we should pursue it, even if it costs everything we have.

We praise you that millions more children are receiving an education now than did a decade ago.

We ask for Your continued blessing on all working to impart literacy and numeracy skills to adults worldwide.

We pray that You will help build momentum around the world for education, so every child has the opportunity to go to school and all can learn how to read and understand basic numeracy. Amen

Adapted from www.worldvision.org



Each September, Christian churches around the globe celebrate **the Season of Creation** – to pray with one purpose, focus on the story of Earth and commit to a ministry of healing our world.

Heavenly Father
we meet together,
your people,
one people,
your family,
bound together,
with the woven chord
that binds all of creation together,
fashioned from your love.
Brothers and sisters,
children together,
one family in fellowship,
with you, its Heavenly Father.
May this be a time of joy,
a time for growing,
a time for strengthening,
a time for loving,
family time,
quality time,
together.

faithandworship.com/creation

A prayer we could all use regularly:

Thank you God for yesterday and the unexpected.
Thank you for today with all its opportunities.
Thank you for tomorrow whatever it may bring.
Thank you for being with us every step of the way.
Amen.

Mary Gray, Diocese of Leeds ©Mothers' Union

Bury CAP Debt Centre – serving the debt burdened poor in Bury

CAP is the shortened name for Christians Against Poverty.

We are 'against' poverty because Jesus came to bring good news for the poor, and to set the captives free (Luke 4:16-19). As Christ's followers we follow his call to seek justice and righteousness, care for the poor and needy, and show God's love to those ignored and set apart from 'normal' society by distress and deprivation.

CAP aims to help people who are trapped in a debt hole and need help to get out of it. Such people are often invisible in our communities. Our local CAP debt centre is available to help people in our area (currently Bury, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Prestwich).

Our centre was set up in 2019 by Churches Together in Bury, and has seen over 50 referrals since then, from social workers, the job centres, the supporting families team, various charities, health centres, churches and elsewhere.

Those being referred often face serious difficulties, whether these be the fallout from a broken relationship, unemployment, illness, abuse or other unexpected bad news. Children are often affected. We (i.e. the churches in Bury) choose to stand with them at a time in their lives when everything seems hopeless.

We play an important part in helping people regain self-esteem and confidence, by stabilising their finances, and providing options for dealing with their debts. All this takes place in a non-judgemental way, along with friendly, practical and emotional support.

There is no quick fix when working with a client, but our hope is that by the end clients will know that God and the local church loves them, and that many of the financial burdens on their shoulders will have been lifted.

Can you help?

We can't do this work without the support of local churches and Christians. Our small team of volunteers attend meetings with the debt coach when he sees clients. The small prayer team of volunteers diligently pray for clients. The whole work is overseen by a small charity called The Bury Project, whose committed trustees ensure that governance of the charity continues in the right way.

If you feel the Lord is prompting you to volunteer in some way, we would love to hear from you.

It is not cheap to run the debt centre. We offer clients a completely free service, and our annual budget is about £16,000/year with nearly half being our annual subscription to CAP headquarters in Bradford, where over 100 skilled people work. The subscription pays for the professional debt advice, and a multitude of other things which helps to make CAP so highly regarded in the debt world.



Creating hope, building a future.

Currently The Bury Project is facing a funding shortfall because many churches have been unable to make contributions because their own incomes have been seriously affected by the pandemic lockdowns.

We would therefore encourage people who are able to, to support us financially. Small amounts in the Lord's economy are as valuable as large ones (Mark 12:41-44). For example a standing order of just £1/month would help to pay for the printed materials we give to a client. Every pound we receive will help to find a pathway out of debt for a client. Donations can be gift-aided as well!

How to support us?

- By receiving future email newsletters about our work.
- By exploring volunteering with us in some way.
- By donating to help us meet our costs.

If you can help, please contact us:

Gordon Clark
Bury Debt Centre Manager
gordonclark@capuk.org

Adele Renyard
Treasurer of The Bury Project
adelerenyard@theburyproject.org.uk

Scout Leader Awards

During our first Church Parade service for 14 months at St. John with St. Mark, on 11th July, our leaders and committee were presented with long service awards. The following awards were presented by the District Commissioner and his team, and also the District Chairman, in front of the congregation and family members:

Margaret Duckworth ~ 50 years
Keith Duckworth ~ 30 years
Rosemarie Ashworth ~ 30 years
Stuart Ashworth ~ 30 years
Joy Dures ~ 30 years
Kelly Watson ~ 25 years
Ray Boles ~ 20 years
Pam Colbert ~ 20 years

That is a whopping 235 years between them all that they have given to Scouting.

We also had two leaders presented with Medals of Merit for outstanding service to Scouting and they were Joy Dures and Kelly Watson.

What fantastic achievements and well done to all.

* Note, the awards were received late due to the Covid pandemic; all extremely deserving none the less, and worth the wait.



A warm welcome

With the help of Bury MBC there is a new opportunity to meet the needs of asylum seekers in our community.

A room in Church House at Bury Parish Church will be available each Friday between 10am and 12 noon, offering time, conversation, coffee and biscuits.

More English speakers are needed to welcome the stranger. Skills required – a warm smile and a friendly attitude. If you feel you could spare a couple of hours just once a month please have a word with the Vicar or contact the Rector, Julian Heaton direct at julian.heaton_1@outlook.com



"Life has no remote . . .

Get up and change it yourself "

Mark A Cooper



The Wood Street Mission

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

From the Mission's website:

From time to time, we all need a little help and sometimes it's hard to know where to turn. Wood Street Mission helps support families living on a low income in Manchester and Salford, with practical help and services.

We can help you with children's clothes, toys, bedding, baby equipment and toiletries through our Family Basics service, from our base here in Manchester City Centre. You and your family can come along to our Book Clubs, to pick up books to take home and have a fun morning together each school holiday. Our SmartStart project can help you with school uniform and other school kit for your children, and at Christmas we can help with gifts for your children.

Christmas is an expensive time of year for all families but we know for the families we support it can be a time of worry, stress and upset to not be able to provide presents for your children to open on Christmas Day".

Wood Street's mission is to help alleviate the effects of poverty on local children and their families through practical help.

Wood Street's vision is that all children in Manchester and Salford should live a life free from poverty.

Find out more at www.woodstreetmission.org.uk

Or phone them on 0161 834 3140
25 Wood St. Manchester M3 3EF

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE MISSION, OR CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR

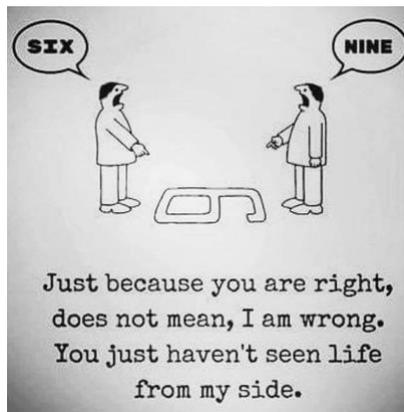
Christian Aid Afternoon Tea



Thank you for the generous support from across the Benefice for the afternoon tea, which was held on 27th June and raised a wonderful amount of £352.00 for the work of Christian Aid. A special thank you to June Banks and Margaret Duckworth.

Also, Churches Together Bury are asking if anyone would like to volunteer to man a collection stand for a couple of hours on The Rock during next year's Christian Aid week; 15th to 21st May 2022. If anyone may be interested in volunteering, please let me know.

Kind regards,
John Brennan



Digital Media

Websites: <https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk>
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Facebook: @christchurchwalmersley
@stjohnstmark

Twitter: @cofewalmersley

Instagram: cofewalmersley

YouTube: CofE Walmersley



Sunday @ Seven



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

September 26th at 7pm

“Telling the story”



**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here;
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

(W.H. Parker 1845-1929)

**Do come and join us in the Barritt Room at St John with
St Mark's Hall - or join in on Zoom.**

**Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks for more
details.**



HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

at Christ Church & St.John with St.Mark

Sunday 10 October

Both churches will host parade services

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

CAFÉ CHURCH

St.John with St.Mark at 10.30am

17 October

Christ Church at 10.30am

24 October

***ALL CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICES ARE HELD
IN THE CHURCH HALLS***



JOINT SERVICE

5th Sunday of each month

31 October

10.30am

Christ Church

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 1	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 5		14th after Trinity
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Parish Communion (both)
Mon 6	7.30 pm	PCC (CC)
Sun 12		15th after Trinity
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Tue 14	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod (Zoom)
Wed 15	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sat 18	3.00 pm	Mothers' Union Diocesan Thanksgiving (Cathedral)
Sun 19		16th after Trinity
	8.30 am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Parish Communion (CC)
		Service of the Word (SJM)
Mon 20	7.30 pm	Churches Together in Bury (URC Parsons Lane)
Sun 26		17th after Trinity
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00 pm	Sunday @ Seven (Barritt Room, SJM)

Please let us know what you are planning and we will help you to promote it, and don't forget to use our social media too – details on page 19 if you are not yet 'signed up'.

PARISH PEOPLE

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.

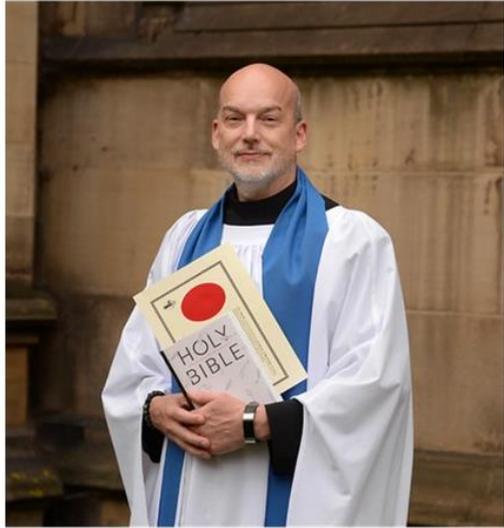
Enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at the Parish Office held at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

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

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

A new ministry

On Sunday, 11 July
in Manchester
Cathedral, Ian Banks
was admitted as
Reader and licensed
to the Benefice



“As members together of his body, Christ calls us to minister in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world. Within this ministry, Readers are called to serve the Church of God and to work together with clergy and other ministers. They are to lead public worship, to preach and teach the word of God, to assist at the Eucharist and to share in pastoral and evangelistic work.

As licensed lay ministers, they are to encourage the ministries of God’s people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us all. They are called to help the whole Church to participate in God’s mission to the world.”

A thank you: I would like to pass on my thanks for all the cards, prayers and best wishes that I received for my licensing. They were all very much appreciated. A couple of the cards weren’t signed – so, whoever you are, thank you! Ian

