

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

**The Church of England on Walmersley Road**



**GOD GAVE YOU A  
FINGERPRINT THAT  
NO ONE ELSE HAS,  
SO YOU CAN LEAVE  
AN IMPRINT THAT  
NO ONE ELSE CAN.**

**July / August 2024**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD**



great fun

energetic

fabulous  
afternoon

so much  
to do

everyone  
was so  
friendly

# the BIG picnic

## *An encounter*

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As some of you know, I have the privilege of co-leading the Diocesan Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) course on Worship and Liturgy. We've had around 20 participants the last couple of years. Some are on their way to becoming Readers, others to being ALM's, others just want to think more about worship and liturgy.

In one session recently, one of the prospective Readers, I'll call him Michael, shared that the day before he'd walked past a person living on the streets in Manchester and had avoided looking at them. But then he thought better of it, turned back and talked with them for a while. He couldn't remember if he'd given any money or not but, as he went to leave, the person said to him: "Thank you. Thank you for noticing me."

You could tell that Michael was profoundly moved by that. That somehow the encounter had changed him. And it changed the room too as we listened.

It made me think again of the Jigsaw Poem, that I've shared with you before. So, I sent it to Michael. He replied: 'One of the things which made me think very hard about being a Reader was an emotional thought that, as well as being a privilege, it carries a great responsibility. Not to be undertaken lightly, indiscreetly or wantonly (as I think it says in the marriage service). The thought occurred that in preaching, my words may have an effect on someone's life, for good or ill. This poem seems to touch on this quite well, I think.'

I'm sure that many of those ordained at the end of June feel the same. But I think that's true for all of us. Not just the preachers and ministers amongst us, but all of us. Any word shared in conversation, any action taken, any help given. God can use us to be His messengers. More often than not, we're completely unsuspecting and unaware. But sometimes, by some word or deed - or just by our presence - the other might be changed in some way. Or we might be changed by them. Just like Michael and the man on the street.

Sometimes, just sometimes, you get to find out the reason why you meet someone. Those times can be rare, but they're a blessing. So, hold onto those moments, humbled and grateful. Your jigsaw and theirs, a little bit more complete.

Ian Banks

**The Jigsaw Poem** by Lawrence Kushner

Each lifetime is the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle.  
For some there are more pieces.  
For others the puzzle is more difficult to assemble.  
Some seem to be born with a nearly completed puzzle.  
And so it goes.  
Souls going this way and that.  
Trying to assemble the myriad parts.  
But know this. No one has within themselves  
all the pieces to their puzzle.  
Like before the days when they used to seal  
jigsaw puzzles in cellophane.  
Ensuring that all the pieces were there.  
Everyone carries with them at least one and probably  
Many pieces to someone else's puzzle.  
Sometimes they know it.  
Sometimes they don't.  
And when you present your piece  
which is worthless to you,  
to another, whether you know it or not,  
you are a messenger from the Most High.

**BAPTISM**

May 26        Robyn Roe Alexander  
Jun 9         Sophia Joan Oakes  
Jun 30        Elsie Rose Downie

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

**MARRIAGE**

May 25        Christopher Berry to Natalie Kavanagh

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

**MEMORIAL SERVICE IN CHURCH**

Jun 19        Nellie Ogden

**FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH**

Jun 7         Winifred Allen  
Jun 18        Lynne Crawford-Mather  
Jun 20        Ronald Thornley

**FUNERAL SERVICE AT THE CREMATORIUM**

May 29        Sue Plumbley

**INTERMENT OF ASHES**

Jun 23        Sybil Fryer  
                Barbara Law  
Jun 30        Joyce Hopkinson

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



## *Flowers in church*

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### At Christ Church

- Jul 7 In memory of Jack and Elsie Hamilton
- Jul 14 In memory of Joe and Gladys Crowley,  
and Hettie and Hector Ives
- Jul 21 Vacant
- Jul 28 In memory of Frank Slater
- Aug 4 Mrs A Standing & family, in memory of Alan
- Aug 11 In memory of Mary and Norman Leake
- Aug 18 Barbara & Bob Taylor, in memory of close family members
- Aug 25 Mr & Mrs I Riddick, in memory of their parents

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church for a specific week, 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).

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***Our congratulations to  
Harvie on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of his  
Ordination as Deacon  
in the Church of God***



## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY and AUGUST***

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|        |                                      |                        |                        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jul 7  | <b>6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>  | Ezekiel 2: 1-5         | 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10 | Mark 6: 1-13             |
| Jul 14 | <b>7<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>  | Amos 7.7-15            | Ephesians 1.3-14       | Mark 6.14-29             |
| Jul 21 | <b>8<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>  | Jeremiah 23.1-6        | Ephesians 2.11-22      | Mark 6.30-34, 53-56      |
| Jul 28 | <b>9<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>  | 2 Kings 4.42-end       | Ephesians 3.14-21      | John 6.1-21              |
| Aug 4  | <b>10<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> | Exodus 16.2-4, 9-15    | Ephesians 4.1-16       | John 6.24-35             |
| Aug 11 | <b>11<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> | 1 Kings 19.4-8         | Ephesians 4.25-5.2     | John 6.35, 41-51         |
| Aug 18 | <b>12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> | Proverbs 9.1-6         | Ephesians 5.15-20      | John 6.51-58             |
| Aug 25 | <b>13<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> | Joshua 24.1-2a, 14-18  | Ephesians 6.10-20      | John 6.56-69             |
| Sep 1  | <b>14<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b> | Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9 | James 1.17-27          | Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |

*A thought for each of us to bear in mind.*

**YOUR LIFE MAY BE THE ONLY BIBLE SOME PEOPLE READ**

Toby Mac #SPEAKLIFE

- \* The Vicar and all four Wardens, supported by some sidespersons and PCC members, attended the Archdeacon's Visitation in June, held this year at St Peter Bury.
- \* We were delighted to welcome again the choirs and instrumentalists from Springside School to Christ Church for their Summer Concert. In July they hold their Leavers' Service, which the whole school will attend, and all are welcome to support them (*see calendar*). Again we plan to give to each pupil leaving school a pen, courtesy of the Baldingstone Trust.
- \* Thank you to all who came along to the Summer Fair at St. John with St. Mark on Saturday 22nd June and who helped in anyway. Whilst we are always grateful for the money raised at these events it is also especially heartwarming to see people who may not leave their homes regularly enjoying themselves in food, fellowship and fun.
- \* We are so sorry to lose 9<sup>th</sup> Bury Scout Group but hope all its members find a place in other local groups. We pray for all families affected and for the leaders.
- \* If you could help to open Christ Church, welcome visitors and serve drinks, at any point during the Scarecrow Festival, please sign the list at the back of church or speak to one of the Wardens.
- \* Could you spare an hour to help at the churches stand at Collabor8 on 24 July? If so please contact Revd Julian Heaton or Barbara Taylor. See page 30 for more details of the event.
- \* There is a very real need for the work of Porch Boxes at this time. Please do all you can to contribute – simply adding a couple of cans to your weekly shop will make a real difference if we all do it. A box is available at the back of both churches and there are lists of the items most needed. Also welcome are any 'bags for life' you can spare as the charity gives out around 80 bags each week.
- \* Deadline for the next issue of the magazine will be Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August. Contributions please to David Robinson, Barbara Taylor, or [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)

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**Summary of St. John with St. Mark meeting of 21st May 2024**

- Safeguarding: Joan Wild was reappointed Safeguarding Officer for the year. It was noted that all PCC members now need to undergo the online safeguarding courses and these will be organised soon.
- Mission Community Activities: The preparation for Big Church Picnic was discussed and an appeal for stewards has been put out to help coordinate on the day; the Prayer in the Park event had been very successful and enjoyable; it was noted that a Quiet Day had also recently taken place.
- Pantomime: Harvie would meet with the Pantomime group at the Vicarage on Tuesday 28th May.
- School Governor: Harvie will now take on this role after Rosemarie had covered the position temporarily.
- Finance: The Parish Share amount has been agreed for the next few years; recent expenditure has included repairs to two Church heaters, the CCLI licence renewal, a fire extinguisher and the waste disposal contract.
- The Cenotaph at the Salvation Army Citadel: We have a responsibility to maintain this. It is need of sprucing up as some of the names have worn. We will seek quotes for any work.
- Vicar's report: Thank you from Harvie for the welcome he and Sally have received; they have now moved into the Vicarage and thanks to those who helped with cleaning; Harvie has asked that his phone number and e-mail address is communicated; a review of service cover may need to be looked at going forward; plans for the future may include study courses and home groups. We also need to have a closer look at work with schools.
- Health & Safety: We are seeking quotes for new Hall chairs as the existing ones are old and worn; recent heavy rain has caused flooding in the cellar, but this has now been pumped out; the defibrillator is in working order.
- The next PCC meeting is on Tuesday 9th July and proposed dates for the next year have been set.

## *Notes from Diocesan Synod*

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The recent meeting of Diocesan Synod opened with some inspiring, very lively and inter-cultural opening worship, with several members praying in their native language.

Bishop David addressed Synod asking us all to pray for all our politicians that they may be honest. The bishop asked us to promote:

- Peace and reconciliation.
- Respect everyone whatever their views; oppose all race/religious issues.
- Irradicate poverty
- Care for the planet.
- Accept all nationalities.

Canon Philip Blinkhorn (chair of the Board of Finance), in his final report to synod before retiring, explained that the finances are in a reasonable state but there is no room for complacency.

The cost of work done on vicarages has increased and some redundant vicarages are being sold.

The planned number of clergy posts remains at 175. Some roles are not included in this as they are paid for by the National Church.

Three churches closed in 2023. Average attendance was up by 5% in 2023. There was a slight rise in children attending. There are 24 ALMs in training this year.

All parishes are asked to consider a plan for becoming eco churches. 3 churches received silver awards for their changes and 7 received bronze awards. *(Here in Walmersley Road we are only just beginning this journey and continue to look for those willing to take a lead.)*

Simon Cook spoke about Bolton Deanery, exploring how we can transform the way we look at things, comparing how elephants (in a herd) behave towards each other. We too should be more relational, not solitary, members of the congregation. We are stronger together, caring for one another, encouraging each other.

There are elections taking place to appoint the next Diocesan Synod.

Bishop Mark gave the blessing.

Alan Thew

June 2024

### **Open letter to Christ Church Walmersley**

By the time you get to read this letter some of you will already be aware that Scouting in Walmersley is taking a break for the foreseeable future. We are not able to say that the Scout Group is actually closing, that is a decision for the Scout District to take. Indeed the hope is that they, along with the local community, might look to continue Scouting in the locality at some stage in the future. They would do so with our best wishes, and we hope your blessings too.

For any organisation that depends on adult volunteers to run it, there is always the worry about whether enough volunteers will come forward. When several give up at the same time that can be difficult and in cases where the leaders are a friendship group like ours, when a number consider giving up then it causes many more to think again. It was not an easy decision to take but for various reasons, personal, health, work commitments and yes disenchantment and exasperation with scout officialdom, the current leaders have decided to end their volunteering commitments from the summer break.

Given that there was no prospect of the group continuing in the short-term, we have signposted all the youngsters to other local groups in the hope that they will wish to continue with their Scouting activities and through that maintain links with the wider church in Bury.

We must stress that our decision to give up volunteering was in no way due to actions or inactions of Christ Church. Indeed we must place on record our grateful thanks to the PCC, the Churchwardens and the wider church community for all the help and support they have given us over the years. Having access to the Church Hall gave us a great base to work from and the congregation have always been quick to support our endeavours, whatever they may have been. We can only hope that you find another way to get bacon butties occasionally after the church service in our absence – if there are any volunteers the big frying pans are still in the cupboard!

We have had so many wonderful times over the years, but all good things must come to an end as they say. For many of us who have been volunteering for more years than we care to admit, it will be a wrench – but we must also stress that our decision was in no way a reflection on the youngsters. Just as we thank the church for their support, we have thanked all the youngsters and their parents (past and present) for the fabulous memories they have given us. Hopefully what the youngsters have learnt along the way will stand them in great stead and live on with them into adulthood. That is after all what it has always been about – giving them skills for life.

Thank you and good luck to all – the future awaits.

The Leaders and Trustees  
9<sup>th</sup> Bury (Christ Church Walmersley) Scout Group



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## ***The BIG picnic***

Huge thanks to Sally Nicol, who when Bury Mission Community suggested a fun event to bring together our 10 churches and at the same time reach out to our communities, volunteered to co-ordinate the event. She, ably supported by Harvie, has worked incredibly hard to bring it all together (whilst also moving house and getting to know her new church families).

The fun had by us all in Clarence Park this last Saturday was testament to Sally's efforts and to the team she drew around her. The photos on page 2 give a snapshot of the event but, if you were not able to be there, talk to those who were and do please try to come to the next one! On the next page are just some of the quotes we heard.

It is impossible to thank everyone who was involved in the planning, and on the day, so please if you were one of them accept that we all say a massive **THANK YOU** for the BIG Picnic 2024.

## *What people had to say*

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It really was a wonderful experience

Aren't we glad we went ahead?

Many thanks for a brilliant initiative – reaching out to many people.

So refreshing to see a FREE Christian event – every one chatting and having a great time.

working together in this way definitely drew our Mission Community together

this has added to our togetherness

There was an appropriate buzz and much mingling which was great to see.

A church event actually held outside church premises - this really did feel like making connections with our community.

we have been there to offer those who came something of ourselves

A very enjoyable event with everyone pulling together to provide a great, free day out for people in our community.

Looking forward to more events to help show that the church in Bury is relevant to people's lives.

We are showing to the community that the people of the Church can have fun and God will be having fun with us as well, and maybe laughing with us

## Challenges

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Guides have had a busy term, lots of badges have been earned including the Twinkle for Heather challenge badge and congratulations go to six Guides who were awarded their Bronze Awards.

Now the summer months have arrived, we have taken advantage of the light nights and completed outdoor challenges, such as tent pitching and fire lighting, in preparation for our residential camp in mid July.

We have been taking part in a community action project with Friends of Clarence Park, and have been painting car hubcaps to resemble flowers. These will be displayed by The Green, so look out for these over the summer when visiting the park. *(There are some photos on page 35 to tempt you. Ed.)*



We have enjoyed meeting with lots of other Guiding members across Bury Division, at a recent 'Girls Can DO Anything' event where we made crafts to represent our dreams and aspirations and took part in drumming and Olympics activities.

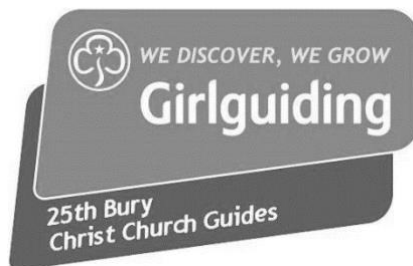
We joined 10 coaches of members from across Lancashire South East County and crossed the border into Yorkshire, to spend a day at Flamingo Land theme park. For some, this was our first experience of rollercoasters and we tried them all!



One of our leaders, Rose, took part in a North West Region organised sky dive and raised £800 which will be used to help support girls and leaders across the region.

As we head towards the summer holidays we are looking forward to creating our scarecrow for the festival, spending the weekend away on camp and ending with our, now annual, water games night, and making sure the leaders are soaked!

We hope you all enjoy the summer and we look forward to more exciting and challenging evenings ahead.



Our prayers may be awkward.  
Our attempts may be feeble.  
But since the power of prayer  
is in the one who hears it  
and not the one who says it,  
our prayers do make a difference.

*Max Lucado*

***At Sunday @ Seven on 30th June our theme was 'Forever Thankful'. Here is a further prayer on those thoughts:***

*Give thanks  
with a grateful heart*

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Thank you for the joy, peace, help and blessings that you give us each day.  
Thank you for this wondrous world filled with all the wonderful gifts you have given to us.  
Thank you for our families, friends and the fellowship of your Church.

And we thank you for the most wondrous gift of all – the forgiveness of our sins, bought for us by the love of your most blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. ***Amen***

*Kilskeery & Trillick MU, Province of All-Ireland – From Dear Lord...*

***A prayer for after the BIG Picnic event*** from David Robinson

Lord God,

We thank you for allowing our Big Picnic to happen and for the people who worked so tirelessly.

We hold up all our families in the Bury Mission Community who came, enjoyed themselves and received a warm welcome. In a world of challenges, family time is precious and we give thanks that we were able to offer our local community some time together and hope that memories have been made. We ask that people have seen something which will draw them closer to us, and to you, and that lifelong connections can be made.

It is our prayer that each Church will now feel increased confidence and encouragement to do your work in the community and can continue to work closely with each other in the service of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

*On 17 July HM The King will formally open the new parliament.  
**We pray for all who will represent us in Government.***

All who offer themselves for public office need and deserve our prayer. We give thanks for all who stood for election, whether successfully or not. Guide the leaders and all elected members of the nations that they may work for the common good, and endue them with integrity, wisdom and understanding. We acknowledge that each has joys and difficulties and we ask you to strengthen their hearts with a vision of your kingdom.

Amen

*extracts from Pray your Part, the Church of England*

*As we hopefully enjoy some sunshine this summer season,  
**a prayer for the sun's embrace:***

The warmth of the sun's embrace,  
the gentle breeze swept in by  
incoming tide,  
the rhythm of seasons,  
of new birth,  
death and recreation.  
All these speak so clearly of your love,  
your power  
and your beauty.  
All are expressions of your creativity,  
and more importantly of yourself.  
As an artist might share his personality  
within each brushstroke,  
so within the myriad colours of a butterfly's wing  
you share the exuberance of your love



*Faithandworship.com*

The concept of 'The Gathering' emerged at the end of the COVID lockdown. A number of people from various churches in Bury and Heywood had been meeting for 'Zoom Church' online. Through this worship and fellowship, relationships had been built and we were reluctant to give up these connections whilst feeling the need to return to worship in our individual parishes.

Following discussion, we decided to meet on Zoom once a week to discuss things spiritual and pray together. Of course, we would need to have a focus to promote discussion and it was felt that, maybe, since we were listening each week to the set readings and a sermon on Sunday, we could base our fellowship around this. So that is what we have been doing since the beginning of December 2021 (or at least that is when my records begin).

We chose to meet on Thursdays at 12.30pm so that anyone working (mostly from home at this point) could join us at lunchtime. Since then, we have been meeting each week for approximately one hour although we quite often run over because we become so absorbed in the subject! We also share mission that is happening in our parishes.

Over the period we have been meeting, one member has set up a community café now run by volunteers and has set up support for primary school children giving them a meal and help with homework as part of her church's growth. We are always eager to hear of the progress.

On the 3rd Thursday of the month, we now meet face to face at 'Thursday Lunch' in Christ Church Walmersley Church Hall and this week we included Manchester Mothers' Union 'A Moment with God' as our worship for the first time. It was very well received and so we have decided to include it every 2nd Thursday of the month.

It would be wonderful to see more joining us. If you would like to see what it's like you would be very welcome. Contact Cath Hilton.



# Sunday



# @ Seven



**We next meet for our time of informal worship**

**July 28th at Christ Church Hall**

*An Olympic Challenge*

**August 25<sup>th</sup> at the Barritt Room,  
St John with St Mark Hall**

*Fruits of the Spirit*

**Come and join us for an hour - or you can be with  
us via Zoom.**

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

## Quiet Moments for August

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*During the course of the holiday months, we may travel more.*

### ***A prayer whilst travelling:***



Heavenly Father,  
Please protect us while we travel.  
The streets are busy and the trip is long.  
Keep us safe from the dangers of the road.  
Give us courtesy and patience with other  
drivers.  
And help us reach our destination swiftly  
and easily, always knowing that You are  
with us.  
Amen.

*Prayerist.com*

***Each summer Mothers' Union encourages us to think of those who lack the resources we take for granted – this summer aiming to extend the reach of the literacy campaign – but we can apply this prayer to so many other situations around us too:***

Lord, help us to love our neighbours  
that this may be a summer of hope  
for those struggling with life's demands:

To help create change for good,  
Lord, prompt us to pray.

Where resources are lacking,  
Lord, move us to generosity.

Lead us to take the steps we need  
to enable hope to grow into reality.

Amen

*MothersUnion.org*

***A prayer for all young people as they receive exam results and make choices for the next step on their life journey:***

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Eternal.

We pray today for all young people receiving results of examinations.

We give thanks for their achievements

and praise all who have worked so hard

but do not have the results for which they hoped.

We ask you to guide them to hear

the sound of the genuine in themselves,

that they may continue to live lives of fulfilment and joy.

Amen

*Adapted from a prayer by Brother Lawrence A. Whitney*

***A prayer for trust and faith:***



Heavenly Father, doubt often shakes the foundation of my faith. Help me trust in You wholeheartedly, even when circumstances seem bleak. Renew my faith, Lord, and remind me of Your unchanging love. I choose to place my confidence in You, for You are the source of all things good. Thank You for your steadfastness, for in Your constancy, my faith finds renewed vigour.

Amen.

*Strengthenprayer.com*

ANGELS COMPLETED: At time of writing we have 216 completed angels – a massive thank you to everyone involved in this project.

SCARECROW '24: We have almost all the materials ready to make our scarecrow and have set aside an afternoon to put it all together.

We were so sorry that Rachel Mann had to postpone her visit to us – but it has been rescheduled for the autumn. I told her she was being 'replaced' by a discussion on scarecrows (which eventually even required a vote!) and other summer events.

Following this, at times very lively, discussion, Barbara S led us in a calm service of evening prayer from the Northumbria Community, encouraging us to leave quietly and thoughtfully.

Rosemary Taylor, with her friend Janet Taylor, took us on a virtual trip along the Mekong River, visiting Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. I was interested to see how they would divide this talk between them but found that largely Janet gave us lots of facts about the sites they visited, both gave us insights into the homes and everyday lives of the people, and Rosemary showed some of the varied foods she had eaten. Every meal involved rice (although apparently, she declined it at breakfast) but we saw photos of such delicacies as rat – tastes of chicken, but a tip is not to go for a small one as there isn't a lot of meat – and frog (not just the legs).



In July we invite you to join us at both our meetings, at 7.30pm in the Hall.

Our speaker on 3rd July is Harvie – and you will have to come along to hear what he has to say.

On 17th July Nigel Silvester will reminisce on his schooldays but hopes you will have memories of yours to share too.

Dr Jenny Cropper, Clinical Psychologist at the Spires Cleft Centre, will speak to us on 7th August on Cleft, lip and palate care in the UK.

We join with members across Bolton Archdeaconry on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. The festival will be held at St Maxentius, Bradshaw at 7.30pm

YOU'RE INVITED  
TO CELEBRATE A



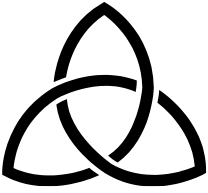
Mothers' Union's Summer of Hope appeal this year aims to build on years of wonderful work that's transforming the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. Literacy and numeracy are vital life skills for all of us.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the cycle of poverty, crushing women's and girls' chances of a better life, has been exacerbated by decades of conflict. The conflict has deepened a significant gender gap in literacy, with 66.5% of women being literate compared to 88.5% of men. Not being able to read and write means women are prevented from participating economically and socially. It severely limits their understanding of their rights and health issues.

The Literacy Circles enable women to learn life-changing literacy, as well as numeracy, agriculture and business skills. Helping women learn these vital life skills helps them support their families and gain status in their communities. So the hope is that the work which has been done in four dioceses in DRC can be extended to a further four.

As I write we have not determined exactly how we plan to raise funds for this appeal but we hope very much that we can rely on your support. Please look out for more information on weekly sheets, posters, etc as we expect this to be the focus of our meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

If you would like to know more about Mothers' Union and its work, speak to our members, come along to any of our meetings, check out our noticeboards in church and hall, or visit [MothersUnion.org](http://MothersUnion.org)  
Barbara Taylor,  
Branch Secretary



## ***OPEN GROUP***

The Open Group met on Wednesday 12th June and we were pleased to welcome our former Incumbent and friend Reverend Canon Ian Stamp, who promised us an 'evening with a few jokes'. Needless to say, we were

not disappointed.

Ian's little black book was full of anecdotes, stories and one-liners. Obviously being a Church group, there were of course several pieces prepared for us specifically, with amusing but true Church notices and Bible reflections from children.

Nobody was safe from the humour as the stories were aimed at the young, the old, family members, priests and choirs. It was all in good nature though and harmless with (hopefully) no offence taken. Church life can so often throw up moments of humour when we don't see it, such as unfortunate typos in magazines and bulletins. I'd better make sure I do a proper proof read now in case I end up in Ian's little black book!! Thanks to Ian for leading and anyone who came for the first time.

After the meeting we continued with our effort for the scarecrow festival in July. Here is a sneak peek from the May meeting, but since then, our creation now has a complete face, clothes and straw.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 10th July and Nigel Silvester will lead the evening on school days and then on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August there will be a talk on midwifery by Larissa Heath. All are welcome at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room.



David Robinson

## ***MEN OF THE BENEFICE***

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The MOB met on Monday 24th June and Geoff Hamilton led us on an evening walk, making the most of the longer days. And what a lovely evening it was, at the end of a day with bright, warm sunshine. We left the Towler at 7.00pm and did the familiar trip through the Burrs Country Park, picking up Woodhill Road, across the Irwell and past the fire station towards Castlecroft Road.

Despite only being a few of us, we had lots to talk about on our journey, and the extended daylight gave us much to see. The intended destination had to be changed as the Trackside had already closed, so we had to conclude our evening at the Art Picture House, where we were joined by others. An enjoyable get together was had by all and we stayed out until it went dark, which for the time of year was quite late I suppose! Thanks to Geoff and all who came along.

The next Men of the Benefice is on Monday 29th July and this time we will be at the Hark to Dandler on Walmersley Old Road at the normal time of 8.00pm. The last Monday of August is of course Bank Holiday and we will confirm whether we are meeting nearer the time.

David Robinson

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

**Saturday 27th July  
from 10.00am until around 12noon  
ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL**



REFRESHMENTS & CAKES  
OTHER STALLS  
LOADS OF BOOKS!!

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS AND ALL WELCOME

## *Dead or alive?*

*Geoff Hamilton writes:*

The church yard, graveyard, burial ground, all make it sound like it's a dead place. It is anything but –

- Vegetation: grass, daffodils, primroses, ivy, forget-me-nots, dock leaves, and much more all growing in this place.
- Birds: blackbird, nuthatch, jay, robin, song thrush, bluetit, great tit, jackdaw.
- Mammals: squirrels, field mice, foxes, deer

The only things that are dead are the bodies of people who have gone before us and left their stones.



To me it is a good place to walk through. To have this spot in the village is a true gem.

I stop and read the Victorian stones – really interesting,

as a lot of information is included about their lives, and a poem or two.

The families of men who fought in the 1914-18 war, inscribed on family graves where loved ones fell, and where they are buried. This is all part of our history.

So for the forthcoming Scarecrow Festival, to be held here in the churchyard, we want it to look really great. If you are able, just pick one plot and tidy it up. Or join the Groundworks team every Thursday, 10 am to 12 noon, weather permitting. You will be so welcomed.

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Rangers are the Girlguiding section that follow Guides, for all girls age 14-18 years.



Bury Division Rangers has been dormant for a number of years but will be reopening this September.

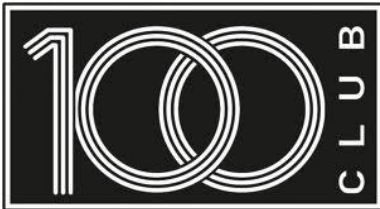
They will be based at Christ Church Walmersley hall and meet on a Monday evening.

This group is open to any existing Guides who are ready to move up, young leaders, or new members and welcomes girls from across all of the Bury area.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested then please make contact with Rose Taylor (CCW Guides) or Laura Duncan (Division Commissioner).

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### ***ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB***



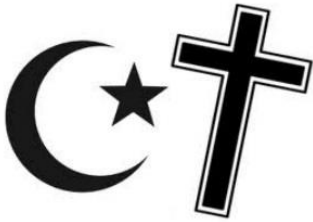
#### **June 2024 draw winners:**

1st Prize £15.00 – (41) Wendy Keir

2nd Prize £10.00 – (15) Stuart Robinson

#### **Congratulations to both**

Payment to rejoin for the year will start in this month (July). Please contact Joan Wild if you have not yet renewed or received a letter about this. Alternatively, please also see Joan if you would like to join this as we have spare numbers. We have given £370.00 to Church this year and thanks to all who have made this possible.



## *Sing to the Lord*

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and make music in your heart to him.

### **Bury Muslim Christian Forum is holding a Songs of Praise evening**

Everyone is welcome for a selection of music, prose and reading at the Salvation Army Citadel, 18 Brookshaw St, Bury BL9 6EB at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

You are invited to send in a suggestion or contribution to the evening. Also, there may be a reason for your choice that you could share with us. (If we get too many suggestions for one evening we may have to have another evening!)



### ***THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCH***

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Come and join us on the third Thursday of every month for a light lunch.

A chance to enjoy a chat in the company of friends.

Lunch is served 12 noon – 1pm.

Christ Church Walmersley Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP

**There is no charge** – though, if you can, a donation toward costs would be appreciated.

Any profit will go to charity or church funds.

***It would be great to see you!***

So come along on 18 July, 15 August

## *Lonely? or know someone who is?*



Captains Angelique and Cor van der Woude at the new community café  
*(Image: The Salvation Army)*

The Salvation Army has launched a new café for the Bury community in a bid to end loneliness and isolation.

The café opened on Tuesday, June 25 at The Salvation Army's church and community centre on Brookshaw Street in Bury.

Serving hot and cold refreshments for just 50p, the café aims to combat the cost-of-living crisis that many people are still facing in the community as well as combatting loneliness and improving people's wellbeing.

"We know that following the pandemic and with the pressures of the cost-of-living still raging on people are continuing to live in challenging times and that can make people feel lonely and isolated.

With prices set at just fifty pence, the café is an affordable option for all.

Our doors will be open every week on Tuesdays from 11am to 2pm for everyone in the community to enjoy relaxing refreshments, a chit chat among new and existing friends, or just a sit down and a read of a good book or to do a puzzle.

It really is a café for the whole community."

The café will be run by a team of volunteers and church leaders will be available to provide practical support for people who may be struggling.

*The Bury Times*

GREATER MANCHESTER EMERGENCY SERVICES  
PRESENTS

Bringing communities together

# Collabor8

# BURY

## Wednesday 24th July

GMFRS Wellington Street,  
Hinds Lane, Bury BL8 2AL

## 1200-1600

Communities celebrating multiculturalism • Faith and diversity  
Free entry to community event • Various stalls: food, faith, volunteer  
organisations • Come and see emergency vehicles: Police and Police Horses,  
Fire Ambulance, Army • Live broadcasting by Roch Valley Radio



# #Strength in diversity

## **REGULAR SERVICES**

|   |  |   |                   |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>   |  |   |                   |
| 8.30am  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Holy Communion  | St John w St Mark |
| 9.00am  | All  | Holy Communion (BCP)  | Christ Church     |
| 10.30 a.m.  | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>2 <sup>nd</sup><br>3 <sup>rd</sup><br>4 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Communion<br>Family Service<br>Holy Communion<br>Morning Worship | Christ Church     |
| 10.30 a.m.  | 1 <sup>st</sup><br>2 <sup>nd</sup><br>3 <sup>rd</sup><br>4 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Communion<br>Holy Communion<br>Morning Worship<br>Holy Communion | St John w St Mark |
| 10.30 a.m.  | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Holy Communion  | Joint (venue tba) |
| 7.00 p.m.   | Final, Sunday @ Seven  |   | Venue tba         |
| <b>Wednesday</b>  |  |   |                   |
| 10.00 a.m.  | Holy Communion   |   | St John w St Mark |
| <b>Thursday</b>   |  |   |                   |
| 12.30 p.m.  | The Gathering  |   | Zoom              |
| 7.30 p.m.   | Holy Communion   |   | St John w St Mark |
| Other services as announced.                              |  |   |                   |
| Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated. |  |   |                   |

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

St John with St Mark's Church has Fairtrade status



We are members of Manchester's Transforming Prayer Community

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, Parkinson Street any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Lots more info on our websites: | <a href="https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk">https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk</a><br><a href="https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com">https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com</a> |
| Check out Facebook              | @christchurchwalmersley<br>@stjohnstmark   |
| X (formerly Twitter)            | @cofewalmersley  |
| Instagram                       | cofewalmersley   |
| and YouTube                     | CofE Walmersley  |

## FOR YOUR JULY DIARY

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|        |         |   |
|--------|---------|---|
| Wed 3  | 7.30pm  | Mothers' Union (CC Hall)                        |
| Sun 7  |         | <b>6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>             |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                         |
|        | 10.30am | Parish Communion (both)                         |
| Tue 9  | 7.30pm  | PCC (SJM)                                       |
| Wed 10 | 7.30pm  | Open Group (Barritt Room)                       |
| Thu 11 |         | Scarecrow Festival begins                       |
| Sun 14 |         | <b>7<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>             |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                         |
|        | 10.30am | Family Service (CC)                             |
|        |         | Parish Communion (SJM)                          |
| Wed 17 | 7.30pm  | Churches Together in Bury (Bolton Rd Methodist) |
|        | 7.30pm  | Mothers' Union (CC Hall)                        |
| Thu 18 | 10.00am | Springside School Leavers' Service              |
|        | 12 noon | Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)                        |
| Sun 21 |         | <b>8<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>             |
|        | 8.30am  | Holy Communion (SJM)                            |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                         |
|        | 10.30am | Morning Worship (SJM)                           |
|        | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CC)                           |
| Mon 22 | 7.30pm  | PCC (CC)  |
| Tue 23 | 7.30pm  | Disability Awareness Session (Barritt Room)     |
| Wed 24 | 12noon  | Collabor8 Bury – See page 30                    |
| Sat 27 | 10.00am | Coffee & Books (SJM)                            |
| Sun 28 |         | <b>9<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>             |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                         |
|        | 10.30am | Parish Communion (SJM)                          |
|        |         | Service of the Word (CC)                        |
|        | 7.00pm  | Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)                          |
| Mon 29 | 7.30pm  | Bury Mission Community leaders meeting          |
|        | 8.00pm  | Men of the Benefice (Hark to Dandler)           |

## FOR YOUR AUGUST DIARY

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|        |         |   |
|--------|---------|---|
| Sun 4  |         | <b>10<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>              |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                           |
|        | 10.30am | Parish Communion (both)                           |
| Wed 7  | 7.30pm  | Mothers' Union (CC Hall)                          |
| Fri 9  | 7.30pm  | Bolton Archdeaconry Mothers' Union Festival       |
| Sun 11 |         | <b>11<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>              |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                           |
|        | 10.30am | Family Service (CC)                               |
|        |         | Parish Communion (SJM)                            |
| Tue 13 | 7.30pm  | Songs of Praise with Forum (Salvation Army)       |
| Wed 14 | 7.30pm  | Open Group (Barritt Room)                         |
| Thu 15 | 12 noon | Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)                          |
| Sun 18 |         | <b>12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>              |
|        | 8.30am  | Holy Communion (SJM)                              |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                           |
|        | 10.30am | Morning Worship (SJM)                             |
|        | 10.30am | Parish Communion (CC)                             |
| Wed 21 | 7.30pm  | Mothers' Union (CC Hall)                          |
| Sun 25 |         | <b>13<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>              |
|        | 9.00am  | Holy Communion BCP (CC)                           |
|        | 10.30am | Parish Communion (SJM)                            |
|        |         | Service of the Word (CC)                          |
|        | 7.00pm  | Sunday@Seven (Barritt Room)                       |
| Mon 26 | 8.00pm  | Men of the Benefice - TBC ( <i>Bank Holiday</i> ) |



**Christ Church Guides**  
painted very colourful  
contributions to this project



*Here is an example of the art displays the Friends of Clarence Park are organising to brighten up our local park*

# SCARECROW FESTIVAL '24

Christ Church Walmersley grounds

July 11th onwards



donations will support  
Jigsaw Bury

Children's  
book  
characters

church open when possible  
for light refreshments



Contact [All.CCWalmersleyBury@outlook.com](mailto:All.CCWalmersleyBury@outlook.com)

More details at

[CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk/Scarecrows](http://CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk/Scarecrows)

