# Christ Church Walmersley



Magazine

Spreading the Word

October 2010

#### Vicar's letter

#### Dear Friends

On October 17<sup>th</sup> after what seems like a long process the new United Benefice will become a reality. This means that the two parishes of Christ Church and St John with St Mark will have one incumbent and that will be me. The Churches will remain individual Parishes with separate PCCs, separate Parish Share and separate accounts though I hope there are a lot of things we can do together.

I have been enormously thankful for the warm and friendly way I have been received at Christ Church and I know the other ministers at St John with St Mark feel the same. It is great making new friends and I am enjoying beginning to work with a larger team of ministers and lay people. I need to record here my thanks for the wonderful work Don has done over the last few years. Under his quiet leadership the parish has prospered and in Barbara and Margery you have outstanding Readers. It is really remarkable how Christ Church has thrived in some very uncertain times and this is in no small way due to a very able lay leadership team.

I may have been around for a little time now but you are getting a new Vicar so perhaps I had better tell you a little about myself.

I am 63 years young and married to Ann with two adult sons, the youngest of whom is married with a nine month old daughter; our first Grandchild. I was born and brought up in the North Manchester Deanery. My interests include Caravanning, Reading (crime fiction and biography) T.V., Computers, Golf, Swimming, Collecting (those who came to the evening of the last PCC Day will know I have 72 coffee pots, any offers) Cooking (& eating unfortunately). I have been a Christian all my life and active almost from Sunday School. My wife Ann was a Sunday School teacher in the same Church. As a layperson I have been a Lay Assistant, Server, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader, Magazine Editor, P.C.C. member (lay and ordained) Deanery Synod Rep, Manchester Council of Churches member and numerous sundry jobs.

A joiner by trade and after site management I owned and managed a small building business for 14 years before being Ordained in 1986 after Aston and N.O.C. I served as a Curate in Middleton. I was twelve years in Heywood serving first as Vicar of St Margaret's then as first Team Rector of the Heywood Team. I have served on The Board of Ministry, O.L.M. Board of Governors, Vocations Team, OLM Parish Visitor and Pastoral Tutor. I was a Diocesan Synod Member for sixteen years and served on the General Synod for five years. I am presently an Examining Chaplain for the Bishop of Manchester and Borough Dean of Bury, I also serve on the Diocesan Discipleship and Ministry Committee.

When I was inducted in Heywood the then Bishop Donald described my task as that of a 'temporary technical assistant'. Well, I stayed in Heywood for twelve years. My time in this new post will be a little more temporary because you will see from my age that my retirement is due in 2012. We have a couple of vears together before a new incumbent will be appointed to the new benefice. I suppose 2 years or 12 are temporary in the light of the Kingdom but what Bishop Donald was actually saying is that we are all in this together and I am simply here to assist you in being the Church in this place. I believe firmly in every member ministry, every single one of us is called to be where we are and to serve Christ in any way we can with our own unique and God given talents. From the very youngest to the oldest: and you have some wonderful examples at Christ Church of very senior citizens serving Christ very effectively indeed. I also believe the Church has to look outwards to its community because inward looking means death. Christ's last words to his followers were to go and make disciples and baptise and that should always be our first task.

We have a lot to do. I pray we will work well together, I will make mistakes and sometimes you may not agree with me. I simply ask that we deal with each other honestly and if you have a problem with me let me be the first to know and I will do the same with you.

For now please pray for me as, indeed, I do for you.

Yours in Christ

lan

## Come on and Celebrate!

#### A service of praise and dedication, led by Archdeacon David.

Ian will be formally welcomed as Vicar of the new united benefice and all ministers and people will receive a blessing

Beginning at Christ Church the service will end at St John with St Mark. It is hoped that the weather will allow as many as are able to walk between the churches, demonstrating to the community our new relationship. Transport will be provided for those who need it.

This will be followed by a "Bring and Share "meal and a ceilidh.

It is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend an event which is relevant for the whole church family, but please feel free to attend whichever part is possible.

Please let the Wardens know if you are able to provide transport for people or food, or if you will require transport.

This is a new beginning in the life of our churches – do come and celebrate.



#### SERVICES AND READINGS FOR OCTOBER

October 3<sup>rd</sup> **Trinity 18** 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10

Holy Communion (CW) 10.30 a.m.

2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10

October 10<sup>th</sup> **Trinity 19** Harvest Festival

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19

Family and Parade Service 10.30 a.m.

Luke 12:13-21

October 17<sup>th</sup> **Trinity 20** 

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5; Luke 18: 1-8

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)

2 Timothy 3: 14-4: 5; Luke 18: 1-8

**Trinity 21** October 24th

Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00 a.m.

2 Timothy 4: 6-8,16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

Morning Prayer (CW) 10.30 a.m.

2 Timothy 4: 6-8,16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

**Fourth Sunday Before Advent** October 31st

Holy Communion (BCP) 9.00 a.m.

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12; Luke 19: 1-10

Holy Communion (CW) 10.30 a.m.

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12; Luke 19: 1-10

## ARE YOU ON DUTY?

If you are unavailable, please arrange to exchange with someone else.

	READINGS	INTERCESSIONS
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Peters	Margery Spencer
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies	Junior Church
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Taylor	Joe McDermott
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Nuttall	Ian Riddick
October 31st	Alison Fewtrell	Margaret Schofield

#### **SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA**

October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Alan Spencer
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Roy Warburton	Shelagh Beetson	Sybil Fryer
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Noble	Alan Standring	David Thew
October 24 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff Hamilton	Ian Riddick	Chris Standring
October 31st	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters

#### LAY ASSISTANTS

October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barbara Silvester	Gill Pilkington			
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Margery Spencer	Cath Hilton			

#### **FLOWERS**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

In memory of the Birtwistle family

October 10<sup>th</sup>

In memory of Jo and Flo Atkinson

October 17<sup>th</sup>

October 24<sup>th</sup>

In memory of Mr & Mrs Tasker

In memory of the Mather family

October 31<sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs Spencer





#### **Baptisms**

September 5<sup>th</sup> Ben Thomas Ashworth

Logan Jefferson Andrew Neelly



#### **Funeral**

September 10<sup>th</sup> June Barnes

#### Harvest Festival

We shall be grateful for donations of dry or tinned foods, toiletries and items for babies to be give to the Porch Box scheme (details available in church) along with gifts of flowers for distribution to older or housebound members of the congregation. If you wish to make a donation to Christian Aid, envelopes will be available.

If you know of anyone in the parish who would appreciated a gift of flowers, please tell Margery Spencer, Jennifer Wood or Barbara Taylor.

#### **Porch Boxes**

Porch Boxes is a very local charity. It is based in Radcliffe and was started in 1998 by a local mum – Carol Hayden – who has since been ordained in the Church of England and works at Christ Church Ainsworth. It operates only in the local area and those who benefit from its work are local people.

The charity provides crisis packs which are given to local people who find themselves in desperate situations including those who are homeless, lone parents, asylum seekers, and older people living in poverty. The crisis packs contain non-perishable food and toiletries. Most of the packs are given out via various agencies such as health and social workers, family centres, hostels and other organisations looking after those in desperate need in our community. Last year over 2500 packs were given out.

The charity receives most donations at Harvest time when many local churches and schools collect items which are used to make up the crisis packs. However as the months go on supplies start to run low and sometimes not every request for help can be met. The more items which are donated the longer the supplies last!

Here are a few quotes from agencies which use Porch Boxes -

Bury MBC Educational Welfare: "I have used Porch Boxes with those children, young people and families who have been in desperate need of support. There has never been a single occasion where a recipient has not been genuinely grateful for the support given. Our service has been able to improve school attendance when parents have kept children off school due to not having food for dinners."

Methodist Housing Association: "The service provides assistance at the most vulnerable times for our residents. We promote independence but in times of personal/financial crisis Porch Boxes make a real difference. Your service is invaluable to us."

Southview Homeless Hostel: "Some clients arrive with no money or food. Porch Boxes provide people with emergency food and items which are essential. An excellent service and a necessary one – thank you."



Christ Church Walmersley has supported Porch Boxes for several years at Harvest time and we shall be doing so again this year. More details about the support we can give will be handed out at church. Please help us to make an even bigger contribution this year – it will mean so much to some local people who have so little.

Thank you.

P.S. Why is the charity called "Porch Boxes"? Because when Carol Hayden started it she used the porch of her home to store the donated items.

Simple.



This harvest Christian Aid is focussing on its work bringing water to desert people, by harvesting the power of the wind.

In the western desert of Afghanistan '120 days of wind' (which is what the people call their summer!) is transformed into water for animals, less arduous work for the people and a healthier life, thanks to a wind-powered well.

"The wind well is wonderful," says Golah Nurzei. "Before we used to have to bring water up in a bucket from a deep well. It tok a long time and a lot of hard work and it was still difficult to get enough water for all the animals to have a proper drink. But now we can water 2000 animals here."

We take our supply of water so much for granted (even grumbling about a brief hosepipe ban!) but it is very easy to become part of this 'wind of change' – as we pray for the work of Christian Aid, give money to improve the harvests and lives of others, and thank God for all he has given us.

Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water. Isaiah 35:6-7

Taken from www.christianaid.org.uk





25<sup>th</sup> Bury Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and Junior Church

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 **Mary's Meals Charity Day**

After Church Parade, we went into the Church Hall and ate our packed lunches, had biscuits and a drink, then ...

We packed back packs, with sandals, uniform, toiletries and towels, stationery and a ball all our back packs are destined for third world countries, where they will be distributed to children so they can go to school.

Then we ate more biscuits and had another drink and then started to fill the boxes with all the extras provided by our young people and some of our Church members.

We thank all the people who donated money, gave us items for the back packs and all the parents who helped.

Some of the items that were donated do not appear on the list for Mary's Meals, these are being packed up and given to Victim Support for them to hand out to children who have fled their homes with a parent for various reasons. We did keep the best notebooks and the sparkly pencils for Victim Support.

Once again,
Thank you from all who took part.



Our first meeting in September was our 101<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration. We enjoyed a buffet and splendid entertainment provided by our own members together with friends and supporters.

We were fascinated and amused by David Andrew who held us captivated as he cut paper and told one or two jokes. It had to be seen to be appreciated and he really made us laugh! This was followed by a vocal solo from Jean Slater who sang of her 'Favourite Things' which included Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses! It was a performance of the famous song from The Sound of Music with words changed by Julie Andrews when celebration one of her birthdays.

I cannot recall whether the music group comprising Nigel and Barbara Silvester, Bob Taylor and Geoff Hamilton had a name but they would easily rival any folk group of note! We were able to join in with golden oldies and then were treated to a new Mothers' Union song. (Words available on request – probably at great cost!!) We were encouraged to join in and even provided with various instruments so that we could add our own accompaniment!

To round off the evening, Pat Mongey and Denise Ives took us down memory lane, back to the days when the Scouts were giving lively performances in the Church Hall. It was lovely to look back and appreciate, as Pat and Denise reminisced and related stories of notable events and characters.

Finally, Sybil Mills cut the cake. (I will endeavour to include some photos next month.)

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to make it a great celebration.

Cath Hilton

Cath was on holiday in August and missed an entertaining evening when childhood photographs of members were displayed and there was much hilarity as we tried to identify them. An easy one was the colour photo (Pam Hoyle on a beach) but which baby was male?!

A pictogram quiz based on countries stimulated argument and a questionnaire on shops in Bury in the 50s and 60s brought back many memories.

A produce stall of home-made goodies raised over £60 for the Wheels Appeal. Lots of cakes (and calories!), jams, tomatoes and scones were transported to homes in Walmersley that evening.

Margery Spencer

Thank you to all who supported the Wheels Appeal by coming to Falshaws for afternoon tea, or buying quiz sheets. We raised just over £300 which exceeded all my expectations (and it was a great way to spend a wet Monday afternoon!).



Barbara Taylor



Mothers' Union has launched a major campaign to raise awareness of the commercialisation of childhood, empower

families to address the influences of the commercial world within the home and hold the UK Government accountable to its pledge to address the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood.

Find out more at www.byebuychildhood.org

## prayer Mat

#### Week One

Heavenly Father, we pray for our union with St. John with St. Mark.

We pray that our two churches together may shine as a beacon along Walmersley Road - a beacon for tolerance and love and a witness to you, Lord. We pray that our churches may grow in numbers and unity between our two communities. May we work together in harmony and in love.



In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### Week Two

In the rush and noise of life, as we have intervals, we step home within ourselves and are still: we wait upon you, God, and feel your good presence; this will carry us evenly through our day's business.

Adapted from William Penn Anthology of Public Prayers

#### **Week Three**

Loving Lord Jesus, we thank you

for the children in our families and the joy they bring us;

for their eagerness to learn;

for their energy

and their innocence.

Lord, grant

that we may not become impatient at answering their questions;

that we may not try to suppress their energy;

that we may never be instrumental in destroying their innocence.

Help us to learn from them, and to teach them only those things that we have proved to be of lasting value.

Beryl Bye Prayers for All Seasons

Anthology of Public Prayers

#### **Week Four**

Lord, we pray for all those at this time in intensive care units in our hospitals. As patients hover between life and death, be with them, Lord, and with their families also. Father, let us reach out to you for your mercy and compassion. We pray for the doctors looking after them, for their skills, and wisdom in decision making and we pray for the nurses and thank you for their skills and sympathy for their patients. Lord, we commend them all to you for your everlasting care. Amen.

### Children's Corner

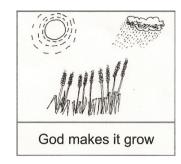


#### **Harvest Festival Word Search**

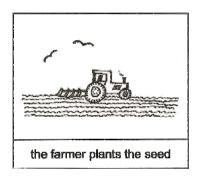
harvest moon			grain				corn dolly			tractor				
fruit				crop			,	wheatsheaf						
harvest festival			plough			(	God							
С	Α	W	F	В	V	Z	0	Р	С	L	R	F	G	L
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L	G	E	Α	Υ	R	I	F	0	Р	Ν	G	Α	Т	W
Υ	S	Q	Ε	R	U	Т	J	М	K	S	R	D	0	R
Χ	М	W	Н	Ε	Α	Т	S	Н	Ε	Α	F	Α	Р	Т
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D	G	R	Α	Z	N	Α	Т	U	R	1	L	В	٧	Α
В	Α	X	٧	N	Т	W	Р	L	0	U	G	Н	E	R
Н	Α	R	٧	Е	S	Т	М	0	0	N	J	1	L	Т

#### Can you put these pictures in the right order?













#### A Prayer for Harvest

Mary, Mary quite contrary How does the harvest thrive? With lots of love from God above; The sun and rain help it survive,

So, thank God now at harvest time and all the year through.
Thank God for the choices he gave me and you Thank God for his love sent down from above And food and blessings to share.



St John with St Mark Church Hall 7 p.m. Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> Parents and children welcome

#### **First Thursday Prayers**

When: 7 October 2010

Where: Bottom Room, Church Hall

Time: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

The group will meet for Holy Communion followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Transport can be provided – please contact Don.



#### **10 FUNNY THINGS**

**Funny** how big a £20 note looks when we take it to church, and how small it is when we take it to the shops.

**Funny** how long it seems when we pray to God for 45 minutes, but how quickly a team plays 45 minutes of football.

**Funny** how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

**Funny** how long a couple of hours spent at church are, but how short they are when watching a movie.

**Funny** how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, but don't have difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a neighbour.

**Funny** how we get thrilled when a football game goes to extra time, but how we complain when a sermon is longer than usual.

**Funny** how people want to get a front seat at a game or concert, but scramble to get a back seat at church services.

**Funny** how we need weeks of advanced notice to fit a church event into our diary, but how we can adjust our schedule for other events at the last moment.

**Funny** how hard it is for us to learn a simple gospel well enough to tell others, but how easy it is for us to understand and repeat gossip.

**Funny** how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.



#### Saturday, 13 November

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### **Come and buy your Christmas presents**

from a range of quality crafters, who will be selling



wood turned items,

jewellery,



hand knitted and stitched items,

cards,

artwork etc.



A church stall will sell crafts, and there will be a tombola, etc.

Also browse the **exhibition** of work by local artists.

Enjoy **home cooked food** in the all-day café and

don't forget to treat yourself!



#### How can you help?

- By donating items for the general craft stall and for the tombola
- By offering to help on the stall or in the café please contact
   Sybil Fryer or see the list at the back of church.

### Tennis Club Quiz Night

At the Quiz Night earlier in the summer (What summer was that?) we were pleased to welcome several "first timers." At the end of the evening they all said that they had not realised how much fun they would have and that the quiz itself was by no means as serious as they had thought beforehand.

So if you have held the same false impression of these events, why not join us in the **Church Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30.p.m.** 

You don't have to bring a team of four as we always have a few "spare brains" willing to make up a team.

I haven't done the questions yet, so it's no good any gamblers trying to bribe me for advanced information to use against the book makers, but the quiz will follow the usual format, i.e. mainly easy or moderate questions on a wide range of subjects with only one or at the most two harder ones to sort the sheep from the goats. You may be surprised how much you really know and how much you know you know but can't remember!

We'll look forward to seeing you on the 30<sup>th</sup>

Admission £2 per person. Cups of tea will be provided at the interval, but if you need anything extra to keep the little grey cells working (and most teams do) feel free to bring it along yourself.

All proceeds go directly to church funds.

Stan Parkinson

#### FINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE!

Memories have been dredged up!

Recently, I saw again the first Minutes Book setting up a Young Wives group in Walmersley in the mid 1960's. Fifty Years ago!

I remember a few of us with young children would meet from time to time for a cup of tea and a chat and a chance for our children to play together. Not as many young mums worked then and it was a treat to have some adult conversation and swap ideas on feeding and disciplining our kids and keeping them occupied. Frequently we were interrupted by one or other of us going to sort out our offspring. (Yes, I know, "been there, done that" but that wasn't a catch phrase then!) In the days before "Nanny knows best" and other TV programmes we had to make do with "Watch with Mother", "Jackanory" and advice from grandma, so what we'd now call a self-help group was very welcome.

At first, we met in the afternoon in each others houses or gardens depending on the weather. Then we decided to contact others who might be interested and talked to Mr. Hagarty, the Vicar, about using the Church Hall. He and the Mothers' Union were helpful and we eventually agreed on an open group, not just for Christ Church parishioners, with membership restricted to mothers under 40 or with children below the age of eleven with the hope that individuals would then move on to the Mothers' Union.

Before long, the afternoon meetings became evening meetings for mums only. This gave us a better chance of discussing adult topics (which didn't have the sexual overtones that phrase has today!)

Frequently, young wives ceased to attend when they went back to work as their children got older so were busy with housework in the evenings. In my case, my younger child reaching 11 and 40<sup>th</sup> birthday were only a year apart and that was when I went back to work, so Mr. Hagarty's cut off criteria were wisely chosen.

Long lasting friendships were made in Young Wives, many of which carry on today. Familiar faces, topped with greyer hair and no longer able to be described as YOUNG wives can still be seen in church including Jean Slater, Margery Spencer, Pat Mongey, Denise Ives, Beryl Massey, Margaret Noble and Shelagh Beetson and of course me

Alison Fewtrell.

(And aren't they all members of the Mothers' Union?)



On behalf of all members of the church family and visitors to our church, I would like

behind the scenes maintaining and improving our buildings. Sometimes we see them at work; sometimes we just reap the benefit without knowing who has been responsible.

We are grateful for the generosity of those people who have donated money specifically to enable the up-grade being carried out to the ladies toilets.

Thanks to all, A Parishioner.

### **Used Stamp Collection in Church**

For many years we collected used postage stamps in a box at the back of Christ Church to support "Guide Dogs for the Blind", but the charity decided that it was no longer worthwhile raising funds in this way.

I am now proposing to start the collection in church again using the same method, this time for a charity called "Little Voice", which aids a project working with children who live on the streets of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. A small school and a home for children who have known only the streets has been set up to provide food, clothing, health care, a basic education and recreational activities for them.

All stamps, British and foreign, are collected and then sorted to raise funds. I do hope that you will feel able to support this worthwhile scheme for children in need of our help.

Little Voice's web page gives the following quotation, "Nobody made a greater mistake than they did nothing because they thought they could only do a little ....." by Edmund Burke (an 18<sup>th</sup> century philosopher and politician) Certainly something to think about.

Thank you, David Peters

Children's Society

A big thank you to everyone who has supported the Society in the last year.

From the boxes which people have in their homes we raised just over £200 pounds and the Christingle raised £310. This year we have received a very generous donation from the family and friends of Bill Noble given in place of presents at his  $70^{th}$  birthday. A big thank you to them. It is time to empty the boxes again so please hand them to me or I will come and collect them.

Just a reminder that this year's Christingle will be on Monday November 29<sup>th</sup>



#### Have you signed up yet?

**Make a Joyful Noise** is a day to encourage and equip all who want to see music flourish in their church worship.

Date: 16 October 2010 9.45am to 4.30pm. Cost £10 after 1 October, concessions £5

With a choice of 24 workshops across a wide variety of church music and worship styles, there is something for everyone.

A group from the parish is going to take this opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of music for worship both old and new, and explore fresh approaches in a changing and challenging world.

Please contact Barbara Silvester as soon as possible if you are interested.



**Setting the Compass** was the theme of the diocesan weekend of prayer this year. Here at Christ Church we once again set up reflective areas to enable people to come into a quiet space and consider their life's journey.

Are we seeking God's direction in all we are and do? At this point in our church life this theme was most pertinent.

Photos on the back page illustrate some of the areas, which were:

**compass** – do we understand where God has set our 'true North'?

**luggage** – are the burdens we carry God-given or man-made?

**map** – where in the world is God leading us?

**provisions** – what do we *want* and what do we *need*?

**boots** – asking God to fit us with the shoes that will make us ready to share our faith in all kinds of circumstances.

### What's on in Walmersley

#### **September**

Tue 28 Licensing of Gordon Joyce as Area Dean

St Paul, Bury at 7.30 p.m.

Wed 29 Mothers' Union Deanery Festival

St Anne, Tottington at 7.30 p.m.

Thu 30 Churches Together – Bury East

8.15 p.m. St John w St Mark's Church Hall

October

Mon 4 PCC

Wed 6 Mothers' Union – reflect and plan

Thu 7 Springside School Harvest Festival

10.30 a.m. in church

Sun 10 Harvest Festival

Wed 13 Open Group at St John w St Mark:

Carol Hartley speaking of work in Belarus

Sat 16 Make a Joyful Noise Cathedral

Sun 17 Service of Celebration 2.30 p.m.

Wed 20 Mothers' Union – Lynne France

Sun 31 A "Shine Jesus" Party 7 p.m.

St John with St Mark

**November** 

Mon 1 Ministry committee

Sat 13 Craft Event

## Diocesan Weekend of Prayer 2010

**Setting the Compass** 



to find

our sense of



direction