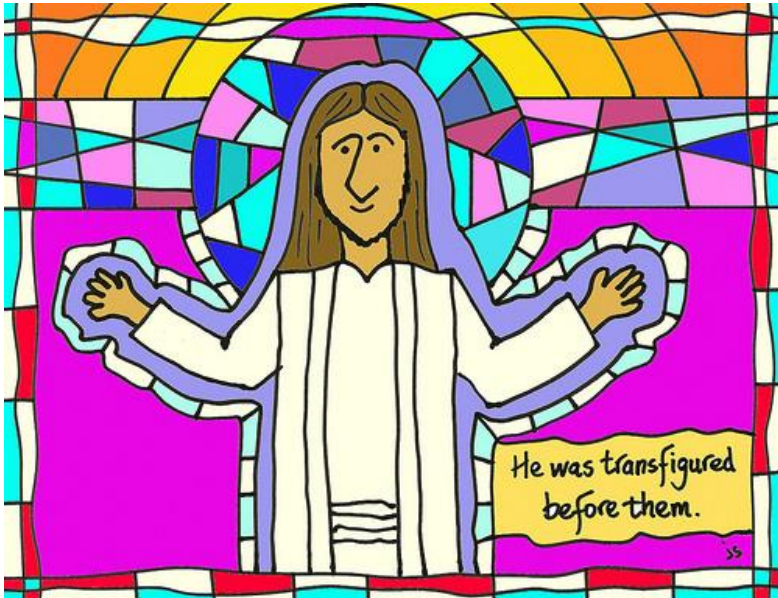


**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury**

**The Church of England on Walmersley Road**



The Feast of the Transfiguration  
6 August

**July & August 2023**



We were delighted that Councillor Sandra Walmsley,  
pictured here with her consort James Bentley,  
chose to hold her Mayoral Service  
at St John with St Mark on Sunday, 11 June

She writes: *Thanks so much for today, the service was wonderful  
and I've had lots of positive feedback already.*  
*Sandra*

## *Channel that passion!*

---

I'm sitting here at the computer keyboard pondering what to write for the *Benefice* magazine. The sun is shining, birds are singing, all seems right with the world. But is it? I might consider myself an easy-going, reasonable, peace-able sort of guy but are there things going on out there that do ruffle my feathers, get my blood to boiling point or even make me rant and be angry? Of course there are!

So, what sort of things do get under our skin; raise our hackles; or are liable to burst a blood vessel? I wonder what's on your list? Here's just one or two of mine -

Supermarkets moving locations of items from aisle to aisle just when we've got used to where to find the things we want?

Birds dropping their outpourings on the car immediately after it being washed?

Favourite TV programmes being pushed aside to allow wall-to-wall coverage of the Eurovision Song Contest?

Drivers of over-powered German motor cars, and motor-cyclists who think they own the road (when everyone knows that I do!)

Or perhaps something a bit more serious like -

Drivers/cyclists using their mobile phones when proceeding at speed down the highway?

Anti-social behaviour or actions by those who seem to show no regard for others?

Or really serious -

Failures and shortcomings displayed by those in authority?

Those who insist on violence and fear as the answer to everything and refuse to seek peaceful means to solve problems?

The list is endless - and I've not even mentioned the controlling rules and regulations of church life!

It seems to me that too often it's what, in the greater scheme of things, are really small, minor irritations that cause us all to get worked up about them and go into a rant - more so than the really serious, global issues which just give rise to a sigh and shrug of the shoulders, because.... ah! well! that's the way it is; we can't do much about it!

Jesus may have come into the world as a 'meek and mild' babe but as he grew and realised his ministry, he knew what was not right and proper

behaviours amongst the people of Israel, who were supposedly God's people. He saw how much they had drifted from what God expected of his people; even how much the religious leaders had got caught up in their own importance and rituals rather than behaving as true teachers and encouragers of how God wants us to be.

Jesus found himself getting wound up and irritated; causing him to rant in anger and frustration. The man of peace and compassion overturned tables in the temple forecourts; called the leaders hypocrites; the self-appointed rule and ritual keepers he referred to as a brood of vipers. But the bigger picture – bringing the people back under God's authority, declaring the availability of forgiveness, healing and a right way of living – that called for more than a rant in anger. Jesus didn't just shrug his shoulders at these big issues, he was a man of action. Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, opened the eyes of the blind, fed the hungry. He taught and showed by example how God wants us to behave. Ultimately, he paid the price for us all. The price of our sin, our failure, was paid for on the cross. Jesus truly gave himself for us.

So what of us today? Jesus commissioned us to take the good news of God's kingdom to everyone; to follow his teaching; his example; to show the world what God's love is; to stand up for what is right; to show compassion and forgiveness; to speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves; to care for our fellow human beings.

Christian values will often put us at odds with the culture around us. Yes, we will rant and rave; protest and be angry. But we must channel that passion and act in love, even when we are angry. Our anger can be a call to action and God can get active in the world through us.

So, let us look around us and see what aspects of the world's behaviour we are at odds with today; where do we need to stand our ground; where can we add to the loving kindness in the world? Is it really doing any good just getting all worked up, red faced and blowing a gasket? Who needs our energy and passion, our gentleness and compassion? Where best can our passion bear fruit?

Let us, as we are able, be people of action; and by our actions and behaviour be witnesses for Jesus; and show the way into God's kingdom.

Rant over! May God bless us all, in our passion, in all we do.

Nigel

### BAPTISMS

May 28      Thomas Fletcher  
                Evelyn Fletcher  
                Teddy Collins



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

### FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

June 14      Nancy Hall

### FUNERAL SERVICE AT THE CREMATORIUM

May 26      Stuart Maurice Clarke



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



### Flowers in church

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#### At Christ Church

Jul 2	Vacant
Jul 9	In memory of Jack and Elsie Hamilton
Jul 16	In memory of Joe and Gladys Crowley, and Hettie and Hector Ives
Jul 23	Vacant
Jul 30	Vacant

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).



## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY & AUGUST***

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Jul 2	<b>4<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Jeremiah 28.5-9	Romans 6.12-end	Matthew 10.40-end
Jul 9	<b>5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Zechariah 9.9-12	Romans 7.15-25a	Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end
Jul 16	<b>6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Isaiah 55.10-13	Romans 8.1-11	Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23
Jul 23	<b>7<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Isaiah 44.6-8	Romans 8.12-25	Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43
Jul 30	<b>8<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	1 Kings 3.5-12	Romans 8.26-end	Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52
Aug 6	<b>9<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Isaiah 55.1-5	Romans 9.1-5	Matthew 14.13-21
or	<b>Transfiguration</b>		
	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14	2 Peter 1.16-19	Luke 9.28-36
Aug 13	<b>10<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	1 Kings 19. 9-18	Romans 10.5-15	Matthew 14.22-33
Aug 20	<b>11<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Isaiah 56.1, 6-8	Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15. (10-20) 21-28
Aug 27	<b>12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Isaiah 51. 1-6	Romans 12.1-8	Matthew 16.13-20
Sep 3	<b>13<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>		
	Jeremiah 15.15-21	Romans 12.9-end	Matthew 16.21-end

## *Interregnum Notes*

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\* The Revd Keith Trivasse has decided it is time for him to step back from active ministry, owing to ill health. He and Margaret will lead our joint service on 6 August in celebration of his ministry – see page 13. We continue to hold Keith in our prayers and thank him for all he has shared with us over the years.

\* The Area Dean of Bury and Rossendale, the Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mann has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of Bolton and Salford. Whilst we shall miss her as an excellent leader in this deanery, we assure her of our prayers for her future ministry and look forward to welcoming her as she moves to live in our benefice.

\* Many thanks to our own ministry team and to visiting ministers who are ensuring that the vast majority of our usual services are continuing.

\* The Ministry Team (Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister) meets every month – normally on the second Tuesday evening. If you have an issue that you would like them to discuss, please contact one of the team.

\* On Wednesday 19th July at 7.30pm there is an opportunity to meet the new Bishop of Bolton, as he is welcomed here in Bury Mission Community. This event is being hosted at Christ Church Walmersley, so it is a great opportunity for our congregations. It will be interesting to hear Bishop Matthew's thoughts and have the chance to ask questions, enjoy refreshments and share fellowship with those from other churches.

\* A draft of the Profile of our Benefice (which is the means by which we can say what we hope to see in a new priest and tell them about us, our forms of worship, our groups, etc) has been agreed by our PCCs, approved by our Area Dean/Archdeacon-designate and is now being prepared for final approval by the joint PCC.

\* Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in the current financial situation. 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. Thanks to those who support local families in need.

### **Christ Church APCM report from 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

- There were 20 persons present at the 2023 APCM, which was chaired by the Vice Chair, Barbara Taylor.
- The minutes of the APCM meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were reviewed and approved.
- The treasurer made everyone aware of the current state of the finances. A question was raised regarding planned giving this was answered by the planned giving officer.
- The accounts examiner Alastair Gillian had agreed to act again for Christ Church and his appointment for 2023/24 was approved.
- The number on the electoral roll was 72 with 9 residing outside the parish. This had reduced from 77 in 2022.
- The lay chair thanked the wardens Jason and Jennifer for all their outstanding work over the year.
- The two church wardens were re-elected at the meeting.
- One member of the PCC was up for re-election and was elected. The Lay Chair noted that there were still vacancies for PCC members.
- Two deanery synod members were elected, Barbara Taylor and Catherine Hilton.
- The proposed reader representative to the PCC, Barbara Silvester, was elected but will only serve on the PCC until later this year.
- The Sidespersons who are willing to act will be elected at the first meeting of the new PCC.
- The new amalgamated policy for the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults, which had been approved by the PCC on 10 May, was ratified. In the absence of an Incumbent, our safeguarding officer, Catherine Hilton, is the person of responsibility.
- It was noted that our readers had attended a course regarding safeguarding in Manchester earlier. The result of the course was that people should not make pastoral visits on their own, which will have a negative effect on pastoral visiting. (The rules are for visitors' protection).
- The usual reports from Church life were presented in the booklets for everyone to read. (Copies are available at the back of church and on the website)



- The Lay Chair's remarks about the past year and looking ahead to the coming year may be found on page 12.
- Thanks were expressed to everyone maintaining services and activities during the Vacancy.
- **AOB**
  - There was a question regarding the number of magazines being printed.
  - The lay chair asked Geoff Hamilton to pass on her thanks to the Thursday work group for all the work done in the churchyard.
  - Alan Spencer proposed a vote of thanks to everyone who serves in the church and Church Hall.
  - A question was raised as to why the plaque for Arthur Smith could not have been placed more on show. The answer was that the diocese would not allow it to be placed where it was on show.
  - Barbara Silvester spoke about vocations.
- There was a short PCC meeting after the APCM at which the lay chair, secretary, treasurer, electoral roll officer and the standing committee were elected.

Your PCC – please contact any member  
to raise concerns you may have.

*Wardens: Jason Edwards and Jennifer Wood*

*Deanery Synod: Catherine Hilton and Barbara Taylor*

*PCC members: Hazel Bamford, Geoff Hamilton, Lillian Lees,  
Ian Riddick, Barbara Silvester, Geoff Stokes, Tricia Stokes*

*Vice Chair: Barbara Taylor*

*Secretary: Ian Riddick*

*Treasurer: Barbara Taylor*

*Electoral Roll Officer: Hazel Bamford*

*Planned Giving and Gift Aid Officer: Bob Taylor*

### **Summary of St John with St Mark meeting on 23 May 2023**

- DBS & safeguarding: We have reviewed the new Church of England policy and have agreed that we will select a topic each PCC meeting to ensure we are compliant.
- Mission Community: There was an update on recent events including the meeting on 17th April, More Than Sunday and a reminder of the new Bishop of Bolton's visit on 19th July. We have been asked by the Diocese to discuss the role of a Focal Leader within the Parish and whether we wish or need to appoint one. Ian and David will discuss the list of requirements separately and report back to PCC.
- Seedfield proposed building work: A recent meeting has identified that there will be additional pedestrian access to and from the site but the only vehicular access will be along Parkinson Street.
- Parish profile: This has been compiled by both Churches and is now with the Archdeacon and Area Dean awaiting approval.
- Finance: The card reader has now been received and being used. It has been found to be beneficial at recent Baptisms. The coffee morning in April raised £365 and Christian Aid Week raised £313, which was mainly due to the takeaway lunch.
- The service rota has been compiled for July to September. There are a small number of gaps for midweek services, which we are looking to cover. The possibility of Service of the Word for Wednesday and Thursday, perhaps once a month, may have to be considered if the rota becomes difficult to fill.
- Future dates: We are in the process of sprucing up the outdoor areas of the Church building, including gardens and the lawn.
- The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 4th July at 7.30pm.

## ***In memoriam – Nancy Hall***

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Nancy was born in Dunscar in 1927 but spent most of her life in Walmersley. She was a pupil at Bury High School which she greatly enjoyed and attended Teacher Training College in Bingley in Yorkshire.

Her teaching career was in Primary Education in Bury and eventually she became Headmistress of the Infant Department at St Mark's School. One of her ex-pupils described her as 'firm but fair and respected by her pupils'. Her musical talents came to the fore as she played for and organised concerts and nativity plays.

Nancy attended Christ Church throughout her life, held many positions within the church community, and was Superintendent of the Sunday School Infant Department. As a member of the PCC, later as Secretary, she was unafraid to express her views and made valuable contributions. She was a member of the choir for many years and as a talented organist played frequently for services as deputy organist.

She was a long time member of the tennis club, playing a fierce game and representing the club in many matches. When she could no longer play, Wimbledon fortnight became a time when no one could disturb her.

Her family was extremely important to her, especially her brother John and his wife and her nephew and nieces. They can recall many happy times together. On one occasion after a meal at family gathering in a hotel, Nancy noticed a piano in the lounge and asked if she could play it. She kept the guests entertained all evening and was 'paid' in tots of whisky.

She valued her friends greatly and kept in touch with many throughout her life. She was entertaining company with a keen sense of humour. She went to visit her penfriend in California in the late 1940s which was no small undertaking. We all saw the value of her friendship with Arthur Smith. They were true companions and with her help Arthur was able to lead an independent life for many years.

We give thanks to God for the life of Nancy, for her teaching skills, her musical abilities, her love of her family, her valuable friendship and her long Christian commitment to Christ Church. This community of Walmersley was richer because she was a member of it.

*May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Margery Spencer

## ***Ordinary people in ordinary time***

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*The Lay Chair's remarks at the recent Annual Meeting at Christ Church have a relevance for us all, in both churches.*

At the APCM last year probably few were expecting Dave to announce he was moving on. We sent him on his way in October with our love and prayers and entered interregnum. That is the technical term which is rarely used nowadays – in vacancy being a far more understandable term. Margaret Trivasse reminded us in a recent sermon that a period of vacancy following the departure of a priest is a valuable time for reflection, for considering our priorities. Hopefully, that is what our two PCCs have done as (having given both congregations the opportunity to comment on what they would like to see) they have prepared a Profile of the benefice to show to anyone interested in serving in this place.

These times of vacancy can be very inspiring. Yes, it is a challenge to ensure services continue, pastoral visiting is maintained, practical maintenance is ongoing. But we have such a great group of people here and much continues to happen. Not having a vicar to rely on can bring other leadership to the fore and I pray that will happen this time too. None of us is 'ordinary' in God's eyes – we all have great potential. We now move into the season of Trinity. This is the longest season in the liturgical year, lasting for six months, from Pentecost until Advent, and is referred to in the lectionary as 'Ordinary Time'; not that I think we should consider any time God gives us as being ordinary.

Thinking recently about Trinity I was reminded that the liturgical colour for the season is green, the colour of growth. And that is something about which we all need to think. We all know how vital it is: – that we each grow in our faith; that we help others to grow in theirs; that we grow closer as the family of God in this benefice; that we grow in numbers, if our churches are to meet the needs of our community in the future.

The 'new' deanery of Bury and Rossendale, like all others, has a deanery plan, based on the diocesan vision of Church for a Different World. Our plan states that over the next three years each church needs:

- to welcome 4 or 5 new people each year to return to pre-pandemic levels;
- to welcome 5 to 7 new people each year in order to grow our numbers;
- to welcome 2 or 3 new young people (under 18) each year if we are to grow for the future.

It is very easy for us to think that is for someone else to do, but at a recent meeting of synod our speaker made a rather obvious but nevertheless significant statement - "If each of us brought someone to church with us, guess what? We would DOUBLE our congregation!"

So maybe each of us 'ordinary' people could use the season of Ordinary time, in conjunction with the time of Vacancy (or Interregnum) to reflect, and then to act; to share the good news of the God we know and love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and truly show the churches of this United Benefice to be beacons of light in our community.

Barbara C Taylor

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## ***Celebration of Ministry***

Feast of the Transfiguration

Sunday, 6 August at 10.30am

at Christ Church

we shall come together for a joint service, to be led by

**Revd Keith and Revd Margaret Trivasse**

in celebration of Keith's ministry

as he steps back, owing to ill health

If you do not normally attend the 10.30am service  
we hope you can join us for refreshments afterwards

*\*\*Please note that this replaces the expected joint service on 30 July\*\**



The Bury Mission Community completed the #More Than Sunday course on Thursday 25th May in the new Church House offices at St. John's House on The Rock. There was an opportunity to meet members of the #MTS team from across the Diocese and then to focus on any next steps and further information needed. We began with a recap of the previous seven shifts:

- 1) This Time Tomorrow – We began by using this is an opportunity to share with others what we would be doing the following day
- 2) Prayers & Intercessions
- 3) Faith at home
- 4) Small groups
- 5) Worship, preaching & teaching
- 6) Commissioning
- 7) Communication & Information

The first part of our meeting encouraged us to discuss the key moments of this learning journey and how any of these shifts have become embedded in our own Churches. Some thoughts included:

- Identifying our strengths and weaknesses
- Recognising our culture
- Acknowledgment of the diverse activities across the Diocese
- Local issues and places now being included in intercessions
- The opportunities to recognise the gifts of others

Session two then asked us how we will continue the #MTS journey, what we have discovered, what we need to think about more, do differently or try out. Some of the suggestions or actions included:

- Include on the PCC agenda or pick a specific topic to bring to PCC
- Engage with our congregations

- Focus on our strengths and how we can improve on them
- Encouraging #MTS to become part of our communities' daily rhythms
- Regular reviews of #MTS and trying not to let this slip off the agenda

Our course booklet concludes by hoping and praying that we will begin to notice changes in some of the following areas:

**HEARTS:** Higher levels of trust and openness, as people begin to reflect and journey together, sharing real and honest conversations about their everyday lives and faith.

**MINDS:** A shift in priorities around what people consider to be important; less inward focused on 'things' and buildings, more outward focused on community and serving others.

**HANDS:** People begin to step up and contribute more to the overall task of ministry, each person according to their gifting, as leadership is shared across all God's people.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Bury Mission Community for being involved with this course and to all who had attended. The #MTS team would encourage us to keep in touch with them and the learning course will continue with different Deaneries and Mission Communities later in the year. Finally, we prayed the #MTS style prayer found in our course booklet:

Let the redeemed of God share their story, for he has set us free.

From north and south, east and west, God calls his people to come.

From office and school, factory and field, God calls his people to come.

From site and plant, hospital and home, God calls his people to come.

Give thanks to the Lord, for ever.

Amen.

### **Our prayer suggestions for July focus on "LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR"**

Remind us often, Lord, of your words,  
when some would tell us otherwise,  
that we have neighbours in this world of ours  
who are your children,  
living in makeshift tents, refugee camps, prisons,  
subways, shop doorways -  
neighbours who are hungry, desperate, ignored,  
in need of the very basics of life,  
a new beginning,  
a chance of calling somewhere home.



*from FaithandWorship.com*

All I am, and all I have,  
I offer, Lord, to you.  
I offer you these hands,  
that you might use them  
in and through my daily work.  
I offer you these feet,  
that you might lead them  
to someone who needs my help.  
I offer you these shoulders  
if you should need them  
to help lighten another's load.  
I offer you this voice  
that you might use it  
to speak up for those in need.  
All I am, and all I have,  
I offer, Lord, to you.

*from FaithandWorship.com*



Love is... hugs  
Love is... a pick me up  
Love is... when two become one  
Love is... friendship  
Love is... sharing the last piece of pizza  
Love is... hard to explain  
Love is... unbelievable  
Love is... unpredictable  
Love is... giving away your last rolo  
Love is... endless  
Love is... protection  
Love is... a rollercoaster  
Love is... a smile  
Love is... a heartbeat  
Love is... patient  
Love is... kind  
Love is... a never ending story  
Love is... eternal  
Love is... a circle of friends  
Love is... a circle of eternity  
Love is... a circle called God  
Love is... all you need



*written by Roddy Hamilton*

When our community looks at our congregation,  
Hears our words and sees our deeds,  
Help them to know that you, the God of love, live among us  
And that they can come to us to learn about Christian love.

*adapted from a prayer written by Susan Mark Landi*

A regular worshipper once told me that she experienced a strong feeling of God's presence during a time of great pain. She heard eight words spoken to her inside her head;

**BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.**



The words are from the 10<sup>th</sup> verse of Psalm 46. I was and am still amazed that so few words could have such an impact on a person. But her story is not unique.

During the cold war, exiled Russian Church Leader Anthony Bloom told of an old lady who asked his advice. Though praying regularly for 14 years, she had never sensed that God was present. Bishop Anthony offered simple advice: she was to sit in her room and just look

around her. Some things she saw might remind her of people she may want to pray for, but she was not to worry even if her mind remained completely blank.

The old lady gave it a try and reported back.

She explained that she became aware that the silence wasn't simply the absence of sound, "But filled with its own density," she said, "it began to pervade me. The silence around came to meet the silence in me. All of a sudden, I perceived that in the silence there was a presence. At the heart of the silence, there was Him."

Remember Elijah? Annoyed at feeling that he was alone in serving God, he went up a mountain to find him. There was an earthquake, but God wasn't in it, neither was He in the fire that followed. Nor was God in the wind. But He WAS in the STILL SILENCE that followed, and in it he spoke to Elijah in that still small voice of calm.

Elijah was SHOWN - and the psalm has put into WORDS - that God is in stillness and listening. In the New Testament we have the passage from Mark, Chapter 4, where Jesus uses the words, "Peace, be still!" to quell the storm on the Sea of Galilee. The literal translation of "Be Still", taken from the Greek, is – Hush!

And in modern terms: Shut Up!

I don't know if God would tell us to SHUT UP in quite that way, but it would be understandable. We ALL talk too much, don't we? We ask God for everything, but we don't stop to listen or to be still. Being still and quiet becomes more of a challenge in our hectic world. The world asks us to be BUSY. God asks us to be STILL so that we can receive love, peace, and guidance.

Through Psalm 46 we find Bible parallels especially relevant today but you can see portents in our psalms' description of whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

Psalms very often equate God with living water, maybe because both are essential to our survival.

The river Jordan is miles from the city of God, Jerusalem, but it is the symbolism of the water which matters, just as it was when we were baptised. The waters of baptism are the same waters that give life to the land and to us. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "I will give you living water – those who drink of the water I give them will never be thirsty,"

So God has given us the essentials of life, himself and living water, and he commands us to BE STILL. What does he mean?

A Greek translation of this is to say be quiet or even shut up. The Hebrew definition of "Still" is to stop striving, to let go, to relax and stop fighting - to surrender. We can TRUST in God, letting go and resting in HIM, trusting that he will provide courage and comfort.

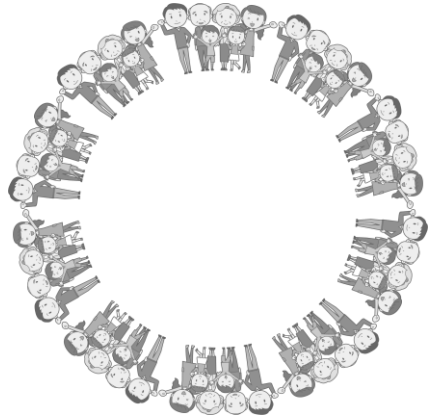
Dorothy Hawkins

## Quiet Moments for August

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**August is a month for extra time with families and loved ones**

Bless our families;  
mothers, fathers,  
daughters, sons.  
Protect them  
from all that might harm.  
Prosper them  
in times of hardship.  
Instruct them  
in the ways of goodness.  
Prepare them  
for both joy and sorrow.  
Unite them  
within your arms of love.  
Daughters, sons,  
mothers, fathers,  
bless our families  
Lord, we pray.



*John Birch, Faith & Worship*

We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of families.  
Lord, you have placed us into family circles;  
You have called us to love, serve and support each other.  
In times of joy, let us celebrate each other;  
in times of sorrow, let us be a source of comfort;  
in times of trouble, let us uphold each other;  
may God's peace and love ever abide with us.  
This is our family prayer. Amen

*from Mothers' Union "Dear Lord..." prayers*

Father, we pray for our homes and for all our relationships there.  
We ask that they will be surrounded by walls of love, care and understanding.

We think of all those we know as brother or sister, father or mother, aunt or uncle and those who have that title, for that is what they mean to us.

We pray, help us to show our gratitude to them for all they say and do that is good.

We pray too for families and relationships that are under pressure, even to the point of breaking.

Help them to build walls of love and security.

Amen



*David Clowes*

Father, I want to please You by the way I love my family.

Today, I choose to see each family member through your eyes of love and mercy.

I will wage peace in my family.

I will be quick to forgive and slow to condemn.

I will encourage my family members with my words, my prayers, my love and my time.

I want my home to be a safe place filled with kindness and compassion, a place that illustrates Your presence and power.

Today, I choose to trust my family to God.

Amen.

*Biblestudytools.com*

## ***Diocese of Manchester Foundations for Ministry***

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Foundations for Ministry is an exciting and vibrant course open to anyone active in church life who feels some sense of vocation or calling to Christian Ministry but needs some time and space to unpack what that might mean and look like.

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE AIM?**

The aim of the course is to provide you with a solid foundation so that you can continue to develop and explore your calling both to Christian ministry and to the life-long adventure of being a disciple of Jesus.

### **What does the course offer?**

The course runs over three terms, September to June, and includes an induction evening, 23 core sessions and three additional Saturday course days. Sessions include a mixture of interactive talks, group work and personal reflection and are all designed to help you:

**Make connections** between who you are, what you believe and how you can apply your faith to the everyday stuff of life.

**Understand** more about Christian ministry, your spiritual gifts and how you can identify your ministry SHAPE.

**Discover** your call to mission, where God wants to use you and how you can remain fruitful in your ministry.

### **Where is the course going to run?**

This year's course is going to run from September 2023 on a Tuesday evening, 7.00-9.00pm at **St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND.**

For more information and course dates please see the **FFM Course Leaflet** either on the Manchester Diocesan website or the back of Church, or see David Robinson, who completed the course in 2021-2022.

We gathered to celebrate Holy Communion, with the Revd Sam Eccleston, curate at St Mary the Virgin, as our president. Sam chose to use the liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, as being that with which he is most familiar. He wore the habit of the Dominican Order of preachers and after the service talked about his journey to ordination and something of his life's journey thus far.

We would be delighted if you would join us for any of our meetings over the summer.

Do you feel you know very little about the new Mission Community? Our speaker on July 5 will be the Revd Julian Heaton, leader of the Mission Community of which we are part. There will be no meeting on 19 July as the new Bishop of Bolton will be here to meet everyone in the Bury Mission Community.

In August we shall hold two meeting but currently are waiting to find out in which order – please look out for more details.

One afternoon (2<sup>nd</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>) we shall explore the Fusiliers Museum on Moss Street, Bury with the help of an engaging guide, and enjoy refreshments in the café there. All are welcome to join us. The cost for entry and guide is £5. Please let us know if you wish to come along.

You are invited to bring an item of headwear to our other meeting, which will be in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. It could be a flat cap, a sun bonnet, an ornate wedding hat, a beanie hat, a baseball cap, or whatever – as long as there is a short story attached! If you REALLY cannot find anything to wear – just come along to listen to the tales others have to tell.

At 7.30pm on 9 August, which is Mary Sumner Day, members from across Bolton Archdeaconry will hold the annual Festival at All Saints' Church Stand. Please ask if you would like a lift to this service, or let me know if you are willing to offer lifts.

Bob Taylor,  
Branch Leader

## Christian Aid Week

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This year's Christian Aid Week appeal ran from 14th to 20th May. A huge thank you to everybody across the Benefice who purchased a takeaway lunch box on Sunday

21st May in aid of the charity and to all who had contributed using the loose collection envelopes.

Across the Benefice we raised a total of **£313.00**.

Thank you also to June, Margaret and Kelly for preparing the lunch boxes for us.

John Brennan

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## Velocity 2



On 14th August, Cath Hilton is risking life and limb on 'Velocity 2', the fastest zip line in the world! It is a 500ft high, mile long zip wire at Penrhyn Quarry and Cath will be travelling at around 100 mph.

Cath is hoping to raise money for Mothers' Union Summer of Hope and would appreciate your support.

*Summer of Hope aims to transform communities by turning hope into action, and praying for those who need support.*

*Find stories of transformation at [mothersunion.org](http://mothersunion.org)*





## ***WATCH THE BIRDIE!!***

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One of the symbols of Pentecost is that of a dove, and on the Sunday before Pentecost on 21st May, we had our very own appearance of a dove at St. John with St. Mark. A pigeon to be precise. The bird walked into Church during the 8.30am service, after the internal door had been left open and promptly flew around, before hitting the big window at the back. For the remainder of the service the pigeon squawked and flapped around uncontrollably, desperate to find a way out.

By 9.45am, when the later congregation was starting to arrive, there was no sign that our feathered friend was going to find its own way out, and it was still perched on the window ledges. Therefore, more doors were opened to help, small pieces of bread were laid at the back to tempt it down, walking sticks were waved and cooing noises were made!! But to no avail. It was becoming apparent that this was our latest member of the congregation, and lo and behold, the bird stayed put for the 10.30am service. However, once the service began, we did not hear a sound from our pigeon pal. It sat quietly on the window sill throughout the whole service and hymns.

But, once the service had ended, the flapping and squawking resumed as the bird tried to escape again. The intruder forced us to have our Christian Aid takeaway lunch boxes in the Barritt Room.

The saga ended when Ray Smith climbed a ladder, and armed with a red sheet, managed to catch the bird gently and put it out. We are happy to report a happy ending, as the pigeon flew out into the garden and freedom. Despite the mess which had been left behind and feathers everywhere, which has since been cleaned up, the congregation remained unflappable (sorry!) during the service. Thanks to all involved in the rescue. It was something to coo about (sorry again!).



## *The Open Group*

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Our Open Group met on Wednesday 14th June. Barbara Taylor was invited to lead a presentation on being a recent recipient of Royal Maundy Money. I should start by apologising again to all

who attended for the frustrating technical difficulties we endured at the start of the meeting, resulting in the meeting being delayed. Although, the option to move tea and coffee before the meeting did provide a solution, albeit unconventional for the Church of England!

We were first of all given a potted history of the origins of Royal Maundy and how recipients were mainly poor and less privileged people. It was not always money which was distributed, but initially items such as food and clothing.

In more modern times, recipients are now selected for services provided to our community or Church, and earlier in the year Barbara received a letter from the Lord High Almoner's Office to confirm she would be a recipient at this year's service held at York Minster. A very special place by all accounts.

The presentation talked us through the day, from arrival to photographs at the end. Of course, this was a more poignant occasion, as it was the first time the gifts had been presented by King Charles iii since becoming monarch. The fine detail of such an event was clear to see, from seating arrangements, to order of service, to what style and size of hat should be worn! There were some good pictures and videos to give us an idea of what goes on during such a service.

There was of course an opportunity to see some of the coins which Barbara and 147 more people received on Maundy Thursday this year. The tradition is that the number of men and women who receive the gifts represents the Monarch's age, so 74 of each this year. The coins and the wallets they are presented in are obviously unique in size and design but the value is in being a recipient.

Thank you to Barbara for giving us an insight into what is a truly personal experience and to share with us a part of our traditions that we rarely get to hear much about.

*\*Thank you also to everyone who was involved in ensuring that the meeting could actually take place in the first place!*

Our next Open Group meeting will be on Wednesday 12th July at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room and Nigel Silvester will lead a talk on shipwrecks. All are welcome. I will keep people updated about the August meeting, which should be on Wednesday 9th August.

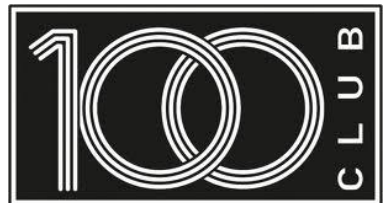
David Robinson

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

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The 100 Club is returning in July. If you are reading this edition of the magazine early, then there is still chance to pay your £15.00 subscription for the year by the end of June and there are still numbers available.



The first draw will take place in July and we will aim to publish results in this magazine on a regular basis.

Joan Wild is now responsible for this, so please contact Joan for any enquiries.

## ***Men of the Benefice***

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We opted for a change of venue for Bank Holiday Monday, 29th May, and ventured to the Hark to Dandler on Walmersley Old Road. No set agenda, being a Bank Holiday, however there was plenty of inspired conversation about a variety of subjects between the seven of us who attended. We did get a cryptic 'Manchester quiz' from Colin, where the aim was to guess the local town from a word clue that was read out.

It was a pleasant evening of good company and conversation. The MOB will next meet on either Monday 24th or 31st July and we will confirm details on the weekly sheets. On the next Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August, Nigel Silvester will present a talk on the Scilly Isles for anybody who may have missed this previously. This time we will meet at Christ Church Hall at 8.00pm for ease of the presentation. However, there will be drinks and nibbles served. It would be good if could you let myself or Barry Evans know beforehand if you intend to be there, so we have an idea how many drinks etc to bring.

David Robinson



## ***KNITTING APPEAL***

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Could you spare some time to knit items for Francis House Children's Hospice? Following a recent drop in support, we have received an appeal for items of newly knitted goods. Wool can be provided and knitting patterns

are also available if necessary.

If you are able to help out, or need more information about what items are most required, please contact Wendy Kier.

Thank You

## *Events this Summer*

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### **LIGHT LUNCH**

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!***

Upcoming Dates: 20<sup>th</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> August

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## **COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR**



**SATURDAY 22ND JULY**

**from 10.00am until around 12noon**

**ST. JOHN WITH ST.  
MARK CHURCH  
HALL**



**BACON SANDWICHES**

**REFRESHMENTS**

**OTHER STALLS**

**LOADS OF BOOKS**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS AND ALL ARE WELCOME**

*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.*

- SUNDAY:** For all our worship services.  
All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes.  
Those who read, lead intercessions and serve in our churches.
- MONDAY:** Our music ministry. Study Groups.  
Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry.  
Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- TUESDAY:** All the educational establishments in the parish.  
School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools, Primary Schools, St.John with St.Mark CE School.  
Our pastoral care to all the community, especially to those bereaved.
- WEDNESDAY:** Ecumenical Links within the community. Mothers' Union.  
Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning.
- THURSDAY:** Our ministry with young people. Our baptism ministry.  
Those preparing to be married in church.
- FRIDAY:** Community involvement. The PCCs and their committees.  
Those who provide and arrange church flowers.  
Those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY:** Our retired clergy and all leading worship.  
The Licensed Readers and ALM.  
Future ministry in the benefice.

## **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> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5th	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.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



## **FOR YOUR JULY DIARY**

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Sun 2		<b>4<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Tue 4	7.30pm	PCC (SJM)
Wed 5	2.00pm	PCC (CC Hall)
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 9		<b>5<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family and Parade Service (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (SJM)
Wed 12	7.30pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
Sun 16		<b>6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Service (SJM)
		Parish Communion (CC)
Tue 18	10.00am	Springside School Leavers' Service (CC)
Wed 19	7.30pm	Meet Bishop Matthew (CC Hall)
		No Mothers' Union meeting
Thu 20	12 noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury (MCC)
Sat 22	10.00am	Coffee Morning & Book Fair (SJM)
Sun 23		<b>7<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Mon 24	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice – <i>may change to Monday 31st</i>
Sun 30		<b>8<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both) <i>*Not a joint service</i>
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)



## FOR YOUR AUGUST DIARY

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Wed 2	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall tbc)
Sun 6		<b>Feast of the Transfiguration</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Benefice Communion (CC) <i>*Note changed date with celebration of ministry</i>
Wed 9	7.30pm	Bolton Mothers' Union Archdeaconry Festival
	7.30pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
Sun 13		<b>10<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (SJM)
Wed 16	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall tbc)
Thu 17	12 noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 20		<b>11<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Service (SJM) Parish Communion (CC)
Sun 27		<b>12<sup>th</sup> after Trinity</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)
Mon 28	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (CC Hall) – Bank Holiday

*Please let us know by 14 August if you have any dates  
you wish to publicise for September / October*

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>

Check out Facebook      @christchurchwalmersley  
                                     @stjohnstmark

Twitter                      @cofewalmersley

Instagram                cofewalmersley

and YouTube              CofE Walmersley



## Sunday @ Seven

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

**July 30th at 7pm**

*"Sorry - is it the hardest word?"*



We are going to have a look at forgiveness – toward others and ourselves.

**August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**



*"Psalms for Life"*

A little trip around the Book of Psalms – uplifting words of poetry

Both these meetings will be at Christ Church hall. You can join us via Zoom for August but not in July – sorry! Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks for more details.

All the fun of the Fair ...  
the Summer Fair to be precise!!



Thank you  
to all who attended on  
Saturday 3rd June  
in the Hall at  
St. John with St. Mark.

And, of course,  
to all those who  
helped.

