



**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury  
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**

**Supreme Governor of the  
Church of England**  
*(and on September 9<sup>th</sup> the longest serving)*

**September 2015**



**50p**



## ***REGULAR SERVICES***

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### **Sunday**

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Family and Parade 3 <sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion 4 <sup>th</sup> Service of the Word 5 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parade Service	St John w St Mark

### **Monday**

Monday@2 49 Fairlands Road

### **First Monday**

7.30 p.m. Listening Prayer 150 Walmersley Road

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday**

2.00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> First Thursday Prayer Christ Church Hall

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion St John w St Mark

Saints days and other services as announced  
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church  
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.



Both churches have the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



## *First Impressions*

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Hello from the (not so) new curate.

If you had never studied the Bible and were asked, after a quick introduction, to give your impressions of the following characters:

Paul Moses Jezebel John the Baptist Esther

which of these adjectives would you be likely to use:

weird beautiful loose privileged arrogant?

Or any other descriptions - from first impressions only? We frequently hear that first impressions matter: how you present yourself for an interview; on a first date; your first day at work... Defendants in court are encouraged to dress well in order to make a good impression on the judge or jury – first impressions are important.

But I try to avoid making any judgements based on first impressions (although I frequently fail and find myself having to reconsider these hasty conclusions). For example, I've just been on a walking holiday in Wales with a group that I only met there for the first time. They were generally very well-to-do, refined, a bit further up the social scale than my own roots – retired solicitors, a surgeon, ballet dancer... and mainly from the Home Counties so had that very particular, nice, English way of speaking.



It turned out that most of the group were members of their local Anglican churches and were happy to engage in discussions around female ordination, parish share, etc. on a very polite level but they generally found it difficult to relate to my previous job as a teacher in central Manchester working with some of the most disadvantaged youth in the country.

So I, quite unwittingly, formed a general impression of English niceness where going to church was just what one does without the relevance or immediacy of the gospel especially in areas of social justice.

However, on one walk chatting with a man, a retired army officer I think, striding along with me who, during the course of our conversation said, "I don't really think it matters what one's church does on Sunday. I don't really go in for all these bells and smells. What really matters is Jesus!" What better précis of the gospel than that? That was my first impressions shot to pieces. So there you have it, what really matters is Jesus!

Now look again at those Biblical characters. Knowing more about them (as you probably do), would your list of adjectives for them be any different:

courageous dedicated patient revolutionary godly?

What we see in people and what God sees in people is sometimes very different. For God created each and every one of us with all our wonderful and diverse, quirky personalities and there is a multitude of exciting challenges in that mix! God the Father who, in community, created the universe, that stars, who set the earth on its foundations and put in place the laws of Physics and Nature, also created YOU. We are all much more than simply what we see and what we think we know from first impressions. Each of us is created out of love, to be loved. We are known intimately by our Creator; loved eternally by our Saviour; and empowered to live out the gospel by the Counsellor. There is much more to each and every one of us than first impressions. We are children of the heavenly King who has given us life – and life in abundance.

It's this abundant life I look forward to sharing with the church family and with the whole community of Walmersley.

Gill



## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER***

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Sep 6 **Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

James 2: 1-17

Mark 7: 24-37

Sep 13 **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

James 3: 1-12

Mark 8: 27-38

Sep 20 **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Jeremiah 11: 18-20

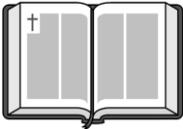
James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9: 30-37

Sep 27 **Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

Numbers 11: 4-6, 10- James 5: 13-20  
16, 24-29

Mark 9: 38-50



## ***Autumn Bible Study***

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We will be running a Bible Study on the book of James from Monday 14th September at 7.30pm at 150 Walmersley Road. The study focuses on putting faith into action and will run each week for 4 weeks. Please contact Ian Banks if you would like more details.

This letter to the scattered Church is a practical, 'how to' book on Christian living. It pulls no punches. James 'confronts, challenges and calls us to be committed to not only hearing the Word, but being doers of the Word also'.

James deals with the gap between belief and behaviour. Many Christians have a tendency to hear God's Word but not put it into practice. This study will challenge you to live your life as God intended.

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* We are seeking to help support children overseas by filling shoe boxes with various items. Urgently required are face cloths and small bars of soap. If you can help, please see Tricia Stokes or Kelly Watson.

\* A reminder that we have a Parish Pass to Westminster Abbey in London enabling up to 4 people free entry up to six times during a 12 month period. Visitors are usually charged £20 for entry into the building unless attending worship. If anyone would like to make use of this concession please have a word with me. Many thanks to Nigel & Barbara for obtaining this pass for our use.

\* Porch Boxes are currently struggling to meet demand and asking for more foodstuff. A box is available at the back of each church. Please support this worthy cause.

\* The MOB (Men Of the Benefice) Group will be visiting the Bank Top brewery in Bolton on Friday 2 October. The tour lasts from 7.30pm-9.30pm and costs £12.50. Numbers are limited. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

\* The Diocesan magazine CRUX is looking for lay people who would be willing to share their story of how God has been moving in their life in the Brief Encounter section of the publication. If you would like to share your story please have a word with me.

\* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet every month – usually on the first Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please have a word with me

\* Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the new choir at Christ Church should speak to Geoff or Tricia Stokes.

\* Any enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc should be made at the Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00.

\* Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the wardens.

\* The Churches Together in Bury organisation meets bi-monthly on the third Monday evening of the month. The next meeting takes place on September 21. Both PCCs are looking for representatives to attend these meetings and maintain our strong association with our ecumenical friends. If anyone is interested, please have a word with me.



## ***FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH***

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Sep 6	Mr J. Clegg
Sep 13	Mr & Mrs R Taylor
Sep 20	Vacant
Sep 27	In memory of the Birtwistle and Slater families

As you will see there is one week this month when no one has donated money for flowers. In addition there are vacancies on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to make a contribution to flowers on any of these dates either in memory of someone or in celebration, please contact Betty Winterbottom.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **Baptisms**

July 4            Amelia Jade Hill  
July 19          Thomas Malcolm Robert Melia  
July 26          Eva Violet Hamer  
August 1        Riley Ainsley James Dures  
August 9        Clark Matthew Edgar, Emmie Grace Edgar.

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

### **Weddings**

June 27         Christopher Shenton & Gemma Hutchinson  
July 4            Jonathan Hill & Deborah Ormes

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

### **Funerals**

July 6            Norman Madden  
July 8            Edith Nicholls  
July 31          Bob Waters  
August 3        Tom Hopkinson  
August 14       Pamela Baumber

### **Interment of ashes in the garden of remembrance**

June 17         Leslie Keating

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



## ***Prayer Chain for the Benefice***

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The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.



Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
give ear to my supplications in your  
faithfulness;  
answer me in your righteousness. Ps 143 v1.

Sometimes we need to bring our prayers urgently to the Lord. A prayer chain is one way of doing that with the voices and support of other Christians.

It works, literally as a chain of phone calls. A request is sent to the prayer chain co-ordinator who will then cascade the request to another person who in turn will phone the request on until the chain is completed by the last person ringing the co-ordinator back. If you would like to be part of this active ministry, you need to think about whether you are easily contactable during the day or would you be better being on an evening list.

Your name and phone number will be published to the members of the prayer chain.

Please speak to Gill if you have any questions about this or add your details to the list in church. This may take a couple of weeks to organise once we are sure we have contacted everyone who wants to take part.

Gill

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2015 PARADE SERVICES  
*with uniformed organisations*

*at both ST.JOHN with ST.MARK & CHRIST CHURCH*

Sunday 11 October 10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 8 Nov 10.30am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Monday 7 December 6.30pm	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

## ***FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 18 JUNE 2015

We have made significant progress on several matters since the meeting of 30 April.

The new Chapel heater was installed mid-June. People who have seen the heater agreed that it looks very neat and efficient, and will serve its purpose well. We have already discovered how well it heats the room (although we were expecting it would be late Autumn before it was first needed, not a Thursday Evening in mid-June!)

We now have a more simplified alarm system in the Hall and Library, which seems to be causing less problems than we have had in the past.

Feedback was also given on the Website, which has recently been given some new sections and features. The feedback was positive and we were reminded by the Vicar of the importance of keeping Ian posted with regular reports and news to keep the site up to date. Ian also informed that we can now identify whether people have accessed us by links from other Websites and that many are looking for children's activities.

Nickie Kelley has volunteered to be a governor at our day school. Nickie was approved by the PCC and her nomination has been sent to the Diocese.

The West Window is ongoing. Although the DAC have now approved our proposal, we must await planning permission from the Council, due to the fact that we are making an alteration to the structure of the building. This is to be applied for shortly. We will get quotes from builders to do the work.

The faculty for disposal of surplus items of Church furniture, 4 pews, 2 chairs, 1 prayer desk and 1 Bishop's seat has been displayed in Church and will remain there for four weeks.

The Treasurer advised us that he attended a meeting in May to discuss the new Parish Share calculation. Three items to note; the share will now be fixed for three years, making the issue of budgeting easier; the income survey, carried out to help calculate the share, will now take place in October to correspond with the attendance survey and the calculation of average income will change.

Dave informed us that a joint PCC meeting with Christ Church to discuss Mission Action Planning (MAP) would take place on Tuesday 30th June. One of the issues from our MAP was the introduction of a 'Men of the Benefice' group, the first get-together of which would be Monday 29th June at the Towler Pub.

A meeting of the Uniformed Groups took place on 14th June, and it was agreed that the Parade Services would continue on the second Sunday of each month for 2015-2016, with the exception of September.

Dave also reminded us that our new Stipendiary Curate Gill Barnett would be ordained on 28th June and for us to remember her in our thoughts and prayers. A Benefice welcome service for Gill will take place on Sunday 30th August at 10.30am.

Next two PCC meetings are Thursday 3rd September and Tuesday 20th October.

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### **A thought from Mother Teresa of Calcutta**



I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I do know that when we die and the time comes for God to judge us, he will not ask, "How many good things have you done in your life?"

Rather he will ask, "How much love did you put into what you did?"

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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### Week One

A prayer for the children in our schools  
Father God  
Be with them today and every day;  
Fill their hearts with joy;  
Fill their minds with learning;  
Fill their classrooms with peace;  
Fill their lessons with fun;  
Fill their friendships with kindness;  
Fill their school with love.

This week we remember the schools in our parishes as a new term begins. We pray for headteachers, teachers, teaching assistants, ancillary staff and governors asking that you will be with them as they seek to nurture and encourage the children in their care.



### Week Two

A reminder that Jesus is there for us whatever our mood

Jesus says, Come to me all of you.  
Come if you like noise,  
excitement and celebration.  
Come if you like quiet and calm  
and a chance to catch your breath.  
Come if you want to grow  
and learn and change.  
Come to me,  
all who work and strive  
and I will give you rest

## **Week Three**

Father we give thanks for the lives of the older people in our parishes, for their experience, their knowledge and their example to us. Help us to realise that although they may not be as active as they were, they have a great deal to contribute to our churches and community. We pray for those who are experiencing difficulties in



health and ask your blessing on those who care for them at home or in the care homes in the benefice. Show us how to reach out to all in need of a helping hand.

## **Week Four**

### **A thought about faith**

During the terrible days of the Blitz, a father, holding his small son by the hand, ran from a building that had been struck by a bomb. In the front yard was a shell hole. Seeking shelter as quickly as possible, the father jumped into the hole and held up his arms for his son to follow. Terrified, yet hearing his father's voice telling him to jump, the boy replied, "I can't see you!"



The father, looking up against the sky tinted red by the burning buildings, called to the silhouette of his son, "But I can see you. Jump!" The boy jumped, because he trusted his father.

The Christian faith enables us to face life or meet death, not because we can see, but with the certainty that we are seen; not that we know all the answers, but that we are known.

## ***MISSION ACTION PLANNING***

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The Manchester Diocese are encouraging parishes to prepare Mission Action Plans as part of our aim to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. MAPs have been on the agenda of both PCCs for 18 months. The process began in earnest in January 2015 with a joint PCC Away day with Bishop Chris. At this event a number of mission opportunities were identified. During Lent a series of study groups focused on the Five Marks of Mission which have formed the basis of this MAP.

At the April Annual Parochial Church Meetings we looked at the Seven Marks of a Healthy Church and the specific issues that make up this MAP were identified.

Issues regarding the benefice as a whole were highlighted as well as individual priorities for each parish. The issues are outlined below:

### **JOINT BENEFICE:**

- \* The creation of a Men's Group to encourage men in their faith
- \* A Christian basics group to be set up to nurture new believers
- \* Issuing a questionnaire to identify specific needs of Electoral Roll members

### **ST.JOHN with ST.MARK:**

- \* Increase the number of midweek Parade Services
- \* Introduction of Café-style services
- \* More ecumenical activity

### **CHRIST CHURCH:**

- \* Engage more with the community groups to heal the rifts caused by the field issue.
- \* Dealing with possible sale of church field and securing agreement about use of current church buildings.
- \* Encourage more baptism services at main 10.30 services
- \* Engage more with our young people and refresh our approach to Junior Church

Mission Action Planning is an ongoing process that will be constantly under review by the PCCs. Please pray for us as we continue to seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ within our benefice.

## Turning Christian values into Action

During the summer months, the Mothers' Union members at local Branch level, Diocesan level and nationally have been busy.



As I write this we are anticipating our Wheels Appeal Coffee and Cake event. Everyone benefits from this sort of event! We gather together in friendship, we can invite our friends and neighbours to a social event and we all eat cake! But the money raised is to finance some of the projects that Mothers' Union supports, both here in the UK and overseas.

This year the money you raised for the Big Wheels Appeal will help people both at home and abroad, who are refugees, survivors of abuse or living in poverty. By coming together and putting our values into action we can make a positive difference to people's lives.

***Away From It All (AFIA)*** is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by Mothers' Union members, to help people who are experiencing stress in their family life. We have probably been away on holiday or are looking forward to a holiday but for some the only way they can have a break is through this scheme. Mothers' Union normally helps with part of the cost of a holiday or with travel expenses, but sometimes can pay for the whole trip. The funds are limited but we will always help as much as we can.



The holidays take many different forms. Some are specially organised family weeks where a number of families and a team of volunteers go away together with activities and outings arranged. Other holidays might take place in mobile homes owned by Mothers' Union, usually sited near a beach. Some holidays take the form of day trips. We usually try to find the most suitable holiday, because everyone is different.

On average, Mothers' Union helps 2,500 people to have a holiday each year. Families are able to spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.



### **New beginnings for the new Students**

Freshers week is almost upon us, and as in previous years goody bags are offered to the freshers. These contain cuppa soups, sachets of coffee and hot chocolate, sugar sticks, wrapped chocolate biscuits, e.g. Penguin or Kit Kats, and tea bags and a mug. If you can help with any of these items please hand them to a committee member . They are really appreciated as the comment below illustrates

"I just want to say THANK YOU for the wonderful reception you gave us when we just arrived in Manchester. You really showed especially to me that you are mothers to all. You did not bother about where we came from. To each you gave a pack of welcome, a bundle of a mother's smile. May the Almighty Lord continue to bless you abundantly in your mission as mothers. I remain one of your many children."

*A post grad student from Zambia*

Three illustrations of some of the projects Mothers' Union supports. Thank you for your help.

Please come along to a meeting – you are assured of a warm welcome.

### **Dates for the diary**

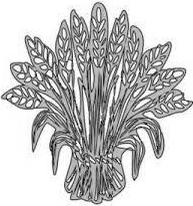
September 2nd 106 Branch Birthday Party - Bring and share buffet meal. Details to be arranged at the branch meetings

September 5th - Diocesan MU retreat at the Schoenstatt Shrine, Kearsley. See Jean Slater for details

September 16th - A return visit from Joyce Herdson - 'Lost Sheep'

September 30th -Celebration at the Royal College of Music. Tickets on sale. See Tricia Stokes

Kathryn Bailey  
Branch leader



### ***Harvest Celebrations***

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at Christ Church and St.John with St.Mark

Sunday 11 October

*Family & Parade Services – 10.30am*

Donations of Harvest produce or dried goods or toiletries welcome – to be distributed locally including via the Porch Project, Caritas and the Booth Centre.

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

## **MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL**

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The Cathedral Church of Manchester serves a large, diverse urban diocese and county with ten towns which includes the two cities of Manchester and Salford.

Our vision is to grow, build community and make a difference in our society and wider world through the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Led by the Holy Spirit we seek to:

- **be a sign** of the presence of God in the world as sacred space for worship, prayer, hospitality and sanctuary;
- **witness** to the inclusive gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed;
- **encourage** and support Christian pilgrimage, spiritual formation and Christian education;
- **be a place of excellence** in supporting the ministry of the bishop, the diocese and its parishes, together with other churches in the city;
- **celebrate our diversity** as a city and diocese; engage prophetically for justice, peace and reconciliation in God's world;
- **engage in critical theological reflection and action** in collaboration with other agencies and especially with the universities;
- **preserve and develop** our heritage;
- **celebrate human flourishing** through music and the arts.

## **SATURDAY WALKING GROUP**

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The August walk was led by Geoffrey Hamilton from Christ Church. We met at the Church, to walk to Norden via Spotland Road and Ashworth Chapel. As we got to Norden the rain started, and didn't really stop for the rest of the afternoon. We ate our dinner outside a chip shop in Norden and then walked up to Greenbooth Reservoir.

The mist was down, so Geoff cut the route short, and we came back via Red Lumb village and Owd Betts. Buckhurst Chapel was passed on the way back before some peeled off to go back to Walmersley or Chesham.



I came directly home, down Castle Hill Road, and got home completely sodden, without a stitch of dry clothing on me. But it was a good walk nevertheless, and took me to some places I had never been to before.

Ralph Mallinson

The next walk is on Saturday August 29th at 11.00.am starting at St. John with St. Mark

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BURY CHURCH of ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

### **Open evening**

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
6pm-9pm

For more information and to download  
the Prospectus and Application form

[www.burychurch.sch.uk](http://www.burychurch.sch.uk)



## ***THE OPEN GROUP***

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On 8th July the Open Group welcomed Mrs Birte Langton to give a dramatic and poignant talk on her experiences in 'Living in Occupied Denmark'. Living with her parents as a child in Denmark she had vivid recollections of what life was like under oppression.



Mrs Langton described the background as to what happened when in April 1940 Nazi armed forces marched into Denmark. The invasion began as what initially was described as a 'Peaceful Occupation' where Germany would respect Denmark's independence if Denmark did not resist occupation.

For families not a great deal happened for a little while but unfortunately the compulsory introduction of rationing brought about great hardship for many with a lack of food and warmth. Ration coupons for families were distributed but the black market took a great deal of what was available often going to the rich and powerful, often under German influence.

Mrs Langton recalls the Spring of 1943 when Danish workers went on strike for higher wages to combat the hardships being experienced. A mass strike taking place in 33 Danish cities and towns began to outstretch the German's ability to control the country. Germany's response to this was to incur full martial law and to round up all Danish Jews for exportation.

Mrs Langton vividly recalls her parents taking in Jews and other oppressed people and helping them escape to Sweden. Such sanctity was found on a large scale in homes, hospitals and

churches and it is recorded that within a two week period fishermen helped ferry almost 7200 Danish Jews and 680 non Jewish families and others to safety across the narrow water separating occupied Denmark from neutral Sweden. This truly brave effort was unique because it was nationwide and to their credit Denmark was the only occupied country that actively resisted the Nazi regimes attempts to deport its 8000 Jewish citizens.

As Mrs Langton commented regularly throughout her talk, the Dane's courage proved that widespread support for Jews and resistance to Nazi policies could save many lives. Albeit that providing shelter to Jews was a crime punishable by death, the Danes were motivated by opposition to Nazi oppression in providing compassion to the oppressed and by religious and moral principle.

In conclusion the group asked Mrs Langton questions in regard to her talk and thanked her for sharing her wartime experiences with us. It was indeed an evening to remember.



Our Next Meeting  
Wednesday 9th September  
at 7.30pm in the Library

**'Latest on the Shoe Box Appeal'**  
Led by Carol Hartley

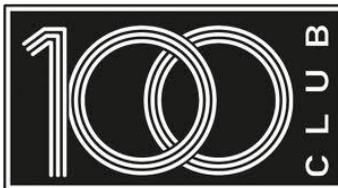
Please remember, the Open Group is just that, open to all.  
We would love you to join us for our meetings.

## **JUNE 2015 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ John Peat

2nd Prize ~ K Drummond

3rd Prize ~ U Kroll



## **JULY WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Stuart Ashworth

2nd Prize ~ Margaret Whittall

3rd Prize ~ Vicky Senior

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



CHRIST CHURCH  
**RACE NIGHT**  
FOR CHURCH FUNDS

Saturday 12 September 2015 from 7 pm

First Race 7.30 pm

Entry £3

Come and have a flutter on your favourite horse  
Refreshments available  
Pay on night

## *Deanery Synod*

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The next meeting of Bury Deanery Synod is on Wednesday the 30th September at 7.30pm in the church hall at the rear of Bury Parish Church. It will be an open meeting which anyone can attend and it is not restricted to members of Synod.

Bishop Christopher, the Bishop of Bolton, will be joining us to talk about two important aspects in the Church of England. The first is "Fresh Expressions".

Fresh Expressions is an initiative which encourages the planting of new Christian churches and congregations. However, these are different in ethos and style from the church which planted them because they are designed to reach a different group of people than those already attending the original church.



The second aspect that he will be talking about is vocations. Perhaps you, or someone whom you know, feel that you have been called to serve Jesus in a specific way, but you are unsure about whether you have been called, or you are unsure as to what you should do about it. In addition to the guidance from Bishop Christopher, there will also be a number of folk who are either in training or have completed their training and who will be able to talk about their experiences as Readers or in other aspects of lay ministry.

Do come along if you can and bring anyone who might be interested in one of these forms of ministry.

Steve Clark, Lay Chair



## ***MORE FROM THE OPEN GROUP***

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On 12th August the Open Group welcomed Peter Smith to give an illustrated talk on the 'Galapagos Islands'. Peter explained that the Island's climate is determined by the convergence of three major oceanic currents, which bring an incredible mix of marine life to Galapagos. Due to their isolation and position on the Equator the Galapagos can be visited all year round, the 'dry' season being June to December and the 'warm' season December to May.

The journey round the Galapagos Islands lasted a week with a cruise ship being the daily base for meals and sleeping. Peter described the daily journey to various islands in a 'Zodiac' cruise (a type of glass bottomed motorised dinghy). This was not for the faint hearted and the need to be reasonably fit particularly when alighting on to the beaches and often negotiating the moonscape like terrain. This gave you a sense of exploring expedition style into the unknown.

Peter gave an excellent illustrated geographical guide round the islands depicting a wide range of visitor's sites; from Los Gemelos and its 'pit craters'; to Alcedo Volcano, Isabela Island with its largest tortoise population; to Devil's Crown, a dramatic snorkelling site with submerged volcanoes and Santa Cruz and its lava tunnels. Finally to Post Office Bay on Floreana, home to a fascinating tradition where a barrel placed there by whalers in the 18th Century was used as an unofficial post box!

Peter described the fearless wildlife on the islands where visitor's can get up close to some of the world's rarest animals and birds. Sea mammals and land birds are most active during the dry season and visitors can see many sea bird courtship displays.

Interestingly the Galapagos was home to the only surviving giant Pinta tortoise 'Lonesome George' who sadly died in June 2012.



Visitors are able to see Galapagos penguins, only to be found in the Northern Hemisphere and able to breed in the tropics; the endemic fur sea lions, the smallest of the world's seven species; the Marine Iguana, being the only marine lizard to exist in the world; the amazing Galapagos tortoise, 4ft long and can outlive most humans; finally the world's largest cormorant and the only one unable to fly; a fascinating collection of animals and birds.

Peter was thanked for a most interesting illustrated talk and answered questions on what can only be described as one of the most unique places in the world.

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## The Wonders of Creation

Join us at Christ Church

10.30 am

Sunday 27 September

for **Café Church**

A great opportunity to bring along your friends to an informal style of worship, in the Church Hall.

## I WILL SING

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*Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;  
protect me from those who rise up against me...  
But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast  
love in the morning.  
For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my  
distress.  
O my Strength, I will sing praises to you,  
for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast  
love. - Psalm 59*



*...and all the Levitical singers, Asaph,  
Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and  
kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with  
cymbals, harps and lyres, standing  
east of the altar, and with them one  
hundred and twenty priests blowing  
trumpets in unison when the  
trumpeters and the singers were to  
make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the  
LORD, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by  
trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they  
praised the LORD saying, "He indeed is good for His lovingkindness  
is everlasting," then the house, the house of the LORD, was filled  
with a cloud...*

- 2 Chronicles 5:12-13

"O sing to the Lord a new song" - (Psalm 98).

Do you enjoy expressing your worship through music? For me it became a passion on joining a church choir at the age of 9.

**Everyone is invited to a singing practice on Friday 4th September, 6.30pm in Christ Church. All are welcome.**

Please enter through the vestry door on the south side.

Geoff Stokes

## ***Men Of the Benefice***

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As part of our ongoing Mission Action Planning (MAP), discussions have taken place over recent weeks and months with regards to setting up a Men's fellowship & social group. The suggestion was for Men of the Benefice to get together on a monthly basis, perhaps at a local hostelry in a relaxed environment to enjoy fellowship and friendship. The (maybe rather appropriately) named new group would be called MOB.

As a result, the first get-together took place on Monday 29th June at the Towler Inn on Walmersley Road. An ideal venue, as this is possibly at the heart of our combined Parishes.

Around ten of us came along to enjoy a selection of the Towler's ales, and each other's company. It was great to meet in a relaxed social atmosphere, away from the regular business of the two Churches.

We chatted about a number of things; crown green bowling, the highs (and lows) of our favourite football teams, walks, our work and family life, our Church and local area and reminisced about the past. We also shared the odd joke and had a laugh together. It was just after the Longest Day on a pleasant evening, which made it all the more enjoyable to sit outside the pub in the late evening sunshine.

During the evening, Dave asked us what activities we would like for future events, and suggestions included various outings, bowling, a night at the football, guest speakers and perhaps another evening at a local pub. Dave thanked everybody for attending and the feeling was that the evening had gone well and enjoyed by all.

Hopefully, you will be reading many more reports from MOB in future editions.



David Robinson



## **WANTED ~ TOYS**

All toys - boys & girls, young & old, noisy toys & quiet toys.  
For our toy stall at the Fairs at St John with St Mark.

**SOFT TOYS    OUTDOOR TOYS    GAMES**

**DOLLS                      BOARD GAMES            TOY CARS**

**AND MORE!!**

If you can help, please contact Jackie Yates at St. John with  
St. Mark Church.    Thank You.

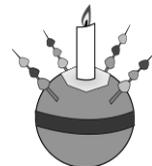
## **CHRISTINGLE SERVICES**

MONDAY 7 DECEMBER

6.30pm

At both CHRIST CHURCH  
& ST.JOHN with ST.MARK

Please bring a toy for a local child in need



## **EVENTS THIS MONTH**



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

St John with St Mark Church Hall  
Saturday 5th September from 10.00am

**BOOKS**

**BRIC A BRAC**

**CAKES**

**BACON SANDWICHES**

**TEA & COFFEE**

**OTHER STALLS**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS**

**ST JOHN WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH  
INVITE YOU TO**

***A BUFFET DINNER DANCE***

**AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC & DANCE,  
WITH DELICIOUS BUFFET**

**IN ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL  
ON FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER ~ 7.30PM**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH  
£7.50 EACH**

***ALL WELCOME***



## ***WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER***

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Sep 2	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Birthday Party (CC)
Sep 3	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sep 5	10.00am	Coffee Morning and Book Fair (SJM)
Sep 6		<b>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Sep 9	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM) The Shoe Box Appeal, with Carol Hartley
Sep 12	7.30pm	Race Night (CC)
Sep 13		<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Sep 14	7.30pm	Bible Study Group begins 150 Walmersley Road
Sep 15	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Sep 16	7.30pm	Mothers' Union – The Lost Sheep
Sep 16	6-9 pm	Open Evening Bury Church High School
Sep 20		<b>Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</b> Services as usual
Sep 21	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury Manna House
Sep 25	7.30pm	Buffet Dance (SJM)
Sep 27		<b>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</b> Services as usual 10.30 am Café Church (CC)
Sep 30	7.30pm	Deanery Synod Bury Parish Church Mothers' Union Celebration



A chance to see friends past and present at Christ Church, with bacon butties and photos of past Walmersley folk

Enjoying a nostalgia moment



Entertaining conversation



Bacon butty skills