



Photo by Radoslav Bali on Unsplash

Harvest

October 2019

50P

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

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

**in the United
Benefice of
Walmersley Road**

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark (Barritt Room)
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 4 th Sung Eucharist 3 rd Morning Prayer	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th United Service	Alternately CC/SJM

Monday

7.30 p.m.	1 st Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road
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Tuesday

7.30pm	Christian Meditation	St John w St Mark
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Wednesday

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

2.00 p.m.	1 st First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

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 Fairtrade status



Letter from the Vicar

This month we celebrate Harvest – always a significant event in the life of our church and community. Both our church school and Springside School will hold services in church to mark this event and goods will be distributed to those in need within the locality.



The celebration of Harvest has its roots in the Jewish celebration of "Sukkot" also known as the Feast of the Tabernacles. Sukkot commemorates the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering through the desert, living in temporary shelters – as God brought them out of the land of Egypt.

In contemporary Judaism, Sukkot is a week-long celebration of God's care and protection. This year it begins on Sunday 13 October which coincidentally is also the day we hold our Harvest Festivals.

The original Christian observance of a harvest type thanksgiving was kept in the early days of August when the first of the corn harvest was made into bread for the Eucharist. This was known as "loaf mass" or Lammas.

In 1863, the Revd. Robert Hawker – Vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall – revisited the Lammas custom on the first Sunday in October. From that small incident, Christian historians regard that as the forerunner of our modern Harvest Festivals.

Today Harvest is observed throughout the nation as a form of thanksgiving for God's goodness and the produce of the earth. The Harvest collect mentions that the season should be used for

- The glory of God
- The relief of those in need
- Our own well-being.

As the chorus to the hymn "We plough the fields and scatter" says:
"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love"

May God bless us as we celebrate His goodness and share His gifts with others.

With best wishes,

Dave

An open invitation

Dear friend

I write to invite you to an open Deanery Synod meeting at All Saints Elton on Monday 30 September at 7.30pm to discuss the proposed new Deanery arrangements as part of the Diocesan Strategy.

As part of the strategy proposals have been put forward to review the boundaries of deaneries and the role of the area deans. The briefing document can be found here:

https://cofemanchester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2019/07/Fit_for_Mission_Briefing_Document_July_2019_FINAL.pdf

The implications of the proposals for Bury Deanery are significant, and worth consideration and reflection ahead of the Diocesan Synod vote in October – for this reason, the Deanery Synod meeting is being called at rather short notice. The main item for discussion is naturally the proposals, but we will also reflect on how we can use the existing Deanery Synod most effectively to explore shared mission and discipleship during what may be the last year in its current form.

Simon Cook, Area Dean of Bury

If you are unable to attend please ask one of our synod representatives to share your thoughts at the meeting.



HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

at Christ Church & St.John with St.Mark

- Harvest Festivals – Sunday 13 October
Family & Parade Services – 10.30am

HARVEST SOCIAL: St.John with St.Mark after the service

Donations of Harvest produce welcome.

Gifts will be distributed locally via the Porch Project
and the Booth Centre.

- ST.JOHN WITH ST.MARK SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE
Tuesday 15 October 9.15am St.John with St.Mark
- SPRINGSIDE SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE
Wednesday 16 October 10.00am Christ Church
- PRIORY Highbank HARVEST SERVICE:
Wednesday 9 October 2.30pm
The Priory Highbank Centre, Walmersley Road

ALL ARE WELCOME

"Come ye thankful people come....."



HARVEST LUNCH

St. John with St. Mark Church Hall
Sunday 13th October after the Harvest Parade Service

ORGANISED BY THE SCOUT GROUP

COST & MENU TO BE CONFIRMED BUT TICKETS WILL BE
AVAILABLE FROM ROSEMARIE ASHWORTH IN DUE COURSE

CAFÉ CHURCH 2019

Next Café Church Services, all at 10.30 am

Please put these dates in your diaries:



St. John with St. Mark

6 October (with Holy Communion)

15 December

Christ Church

8 December



Sunday @ Seven

We meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship on October 27 at 7pm at Christ Church Hall

“show yourselves to be my disciples” - John 15: 8



Do come and join us – it lasts about an hour
tea/coffee + cake/biscuits.

You will be most welcome!



BIBLE READINGS FOR OCTOBER

Oct 6 **16th after Trinity**

Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2:1-4 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17: 5-10

Oct 13 **17th after Trinity – HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Deuteronomy 26 : 1-11 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35

Oct 20 **18th after Trinity**

Genesis 32: 22-31 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18: 1-8

Oct 27 **Last after Trinity (Bible Sunday)**

Isaiah 45:22-end Romans 15: 1-6 Luke 4: 16-24

Nov 3 **All Saints' Sunday**

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1: 11-end Luke 6: 20-31



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

At Christ Church

- Oct 6 In memory of the Slater and Birtwistle families
Oct 13 In memory of Mr & Mrs Tasker
Oct 20 In memory of Pat Mongey and Joe and Flo Atkinson
Oct 27 In memory of Mr & Mrs W.A.E. Dighton

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Aug 25 Grace Hardman

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

Funeral services held at the Crematorium

Aug 22 Felicity Wilding

"I am the resurrection and the life"

CHRISTIAN MUSLIM FORUM



Our co-chairmen Saqib and Peter have called a meeting to discuss the future programme of the Bury Christian Muslim Forum.

Tuesday October 1st 2019 at 7.30pm

in the Barritt Room, St John with St Mark's Hall, Parkinson Street.
Refreshments will be drinks and biscuits.

We need to discuss our thoughts and plans for our meetings in Autumn/Winter. If you would like to contribute to the future programme please come along.

Jill Smith

Thanks

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all of those who have sent cards, best wishes and visited me after my spectacular exit from CCW on Sunday 18th August. The staff at North Manchester Hospital and Spurr House (Unsworth) have been great.

By the time you read this hopefully I will be back at home, with my bionic ankle. I am always pleased to see people, just give me a call beforehand so you don't have a wasted journey.

My take on a few medical phrases

ARTERY: The study of paintings

BACTERIA: The back door to a cafeteria

CATSCAN: Looking for the cat

CAUTERIZE: To make eye contact with a lady

COMA: A punctuation mark

DILATE: To live long and prosper

ENEMA: Not a friend

NITRATES: More expensive than day rates

OUTPATIENT: Somebody who has fainted

Well I had to pass the time somehow.

With Love

Pam Hoyle

2nd Walmersley Rainbows

Please see the photos on the back page

'Random Act of Kindness' plants

The Rainbows delivered these plants to local nursing homes, schools, the Jubilee Centre and to random people on the street. Everyone was so grateful to receive them and it put a smile on their faces!

Well done girls.

Lisa Greenhalgh

From the Vicarage

- * Thanks to those who helped to organise the Afternoon Tea at Christ Church at the end of August. A good time was enjoyed by all! A similar event will be held on Tuesday 26 November.

- * Next year sees both the 10th anniversary of the creation of the United Benefice of Walmersley Road and 250 years since the parish of St.John was formed.
The main event at St.John with St.Mark's will be held over the weekend of June 6/7 with our Summer Fair and a Celebration Service to be attended by the Bishop of Manchester.
There will be a service to mark a decade of the Benefice in the autumn.

- * A service of Holy Communion with hymns takes place at Burrswood House on the last Thursday of each month at 2.00pm. The residents and staff are always keen for people to join them at this service. Everyone is welcome to attend. An ecumenical group also visits Burrswood House and Limefield Court on a monthly basis for a short service. Once again anyone is welcome to join us. Please have a word with me for the exact dates.

- * Please let a member of the ministry team know if anyone is ill and requires a home or hospital visit. At the heart of our ministry to the parish is pastoral care. This is not the exclusive concern of the clergy but part of each Christian's duty to love one another.

- * 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.

- * The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet every month – usually on the second Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please contact one of the team.

- * The next meeting of the MOB – Men of the Benefice – takes place on Monday 28 October. We meet at The Towler from 8pm. It would be good to see some new recruits!

* Porch Boxes are always in need of food items to meet their current demand. A box is available at the back of both churches. Items are also sometimes donated to the Booth Centre in Manchester – to where some of our harvest gifts will be donated this month. The Centre was previously based at Manchester Cathedral and aims to bring about positive change in the lives of people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness - to help them plan for and realise a better future. Thanks to those who regularly support these worthy causes.

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

* If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

* Both of our Church Halls are available for a whole range of activities for use by church and community groups. Please however check with the bookings officers (June Banks for St.John with St.Mark and Jennifer Wood for Christ Church) if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged.

* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk



The Editors would be delighted if anyone wished to contribute a prayer(s) for our "Quiet Moments" pages at any time.

To focus your minds, how about ones on the themes of Advent, Christmas or Epiphany for inclusion in the December/January edition. Remembrance is the theme of November's edition but the deadline for those would be 14 October please.

We enjoyed an illustrated talk by Jill Smith on "Amber, Resin and Jet" with samples to enjoy from Jill and other members. We look forward to 'part two' on 2 October when Jill will engage us again, this time with "Ivory, Jade and Soapstone".

In September 1909 a branch was formed here at Christ Church and we marked 110 years of work and witness. Firstly we shared an evening at Falshaw's who opened their doors especially for us – great fellowship, pies and, naturally, ice cream. A sung evensong was held in thanksgiving for members past, present and future and for all they have and will achieve. We thank member Dave who led, all who came and those who provided the almost obligatory "tea and cakes" afterwards. An especial thanks to members of the choir from St John with St Mark's who joined Tricia to lead our singing, with Geoff (another member) at the organ. Dave, in his homily, stressed the word "witness" encouraging us to continue faithfully for the next 110 years – not personally, we hope!

Sad to say, although there have been opportunities recently to worship and share fellowship with members of our wider Mothers' Union family, there have been few from our branch. New Archdeaconry President, Ruth Taylor was commissioned at the festival, held this year at St Anne Tottington. The Deanery Festival was hosted by members of St Mary the Virgin Bury where we afterwards shared a cake to mark 120 years of that branch.

Barbara and I were able to attend the annual celebration and General Meeting, held this year in Portsmouth. A lovely service in Portsmouth Cathedral was followed the next day by a very lively meeting. Worldwide President Sheran spoke enthusiastically about the future of Mothers' Union, four dioceses (two from the north – Liverpool and Durham) spoke of new initiatives in their area and the Reverend Barry Hill spoke of working hand in hand with clergy and the importance, in his eyes, of all we do to make a difference. Why not put the date in your diary for next year? – September 26th in Belfast. Also announced was the theme for 2020, "Building Hope and Confidence".

Find out more about Mothers' Union, especially in the Diocese of Manchester, by joining us at Church House, 90 Deansgate (just before Kendal's) on Saturday 12th October for our Council Meeting. Open to everyone, you will be most welcome. The meeting starts at 10am and finishes by about 2.30pm. Take a packed lunch as there is so much to do and see and there is plenty of tea and coffee on hand to keep you refreshed.

On Wednesday 16th we welcome Julie Lancaster, Bury Deanery Leader, to talk about her experiences since she became involved with the charity Nightstop.

At our 110th Thanksgiving service Dave chose to highlight just two of the initiatives in which we take part here at Christ Church, namely the Gift Bags given at baptisms and the Welcome Cards available for new neighbours. The offertory at the service was just over £55 which will be used for these and other Mothers' Union projects in the parish.

One presentation in Portsmouth was "Myths about Mothers' Union". Ask me if you do not already know the answers to this sample of myths:

- to join I need to be a mother
- only those baptised can become members
- I must attend branch meetings if I am a member
- the Vicar can decide who can belong

I am happy to discuss Mothers' Union with anyone, so please just ask.

Bob Taylor

Branch Leader

Quiet Moments for the Harvest season

Week One

A Harvest prayer from Tearfund

Gracious God

For the way in which we have become disconnected from the land –
Lord, have mercy.

For when the church has failed to speak out in defence of creation –
Lord, have mercy.

For the way in which we have failed to see climate change as the
threat that it is –
Lord, have mercy.

For the crucial days ahead –
Give us your strength, O Lord.

For when difficult decisions need to be made –
Give us your wisdom, O Lord.

For this year's harvest –
Give us your provision, O Lord. Amen.

Week Two

A children's prayer during Harvest celebrations

Dear God,

Each season brings something new for us to see and enjoy

With sunny days and rainy days our crops go larger

Fruit and vegetables ripen, ready for us to harvest

Thank you for all the food we have to eat

Let us remember people who may not have enough

Help us to be kind to others in thoughts, words and deeds.

We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Week Three

A harvest from ourselves

What a privilege to serve,
to share your love
through word and deed.
What a joy to know
that what we say
can bring such peace.
What a blessing to see
hearts touched
by the riches of your Grace.
What a harvest to be
when seeds we sow
produce fruitfulness.

@John Birch, faithandworship.com

Week Four

A 'season of change' blessing from Christian Aid

May the God who woke earth out of its slumbers
ever create new life in us.

May the God whose seed fell on a cross of death
ever create new life in us.

May the God whose brightness is our path to hope
ever create new life in us

And may the God of harvest
send us out as prophets
to reap justice
proclaiming that this year of the Lord
is the Season for Change
in all we say,
in all we do,
in all we are,
now and forever. Amen



THE OPEN GROUP

I would normally begin an Open Group meeting by introducing the guest speaker. However that was a little difficult on Wednesday 11th September as the guest speaker was yours truly! I thought it was about time that I did a talk myself as people possibly don't know everything about me (and there's probably things they still don't) and also as I have nagged others to fill slots over the last couple of years, it only seemed right that I did the same thing.

I did a similar talk for Men of the Benefice earlier in the year but in a different setting. A circle in the Barritt Room seemed slightly more daunting than a table in The Towler but I managed to settle in quite well. I do not intend to write a full report here about my own talk as it doesn't seem right however I pretty much did a 'from birth to now' tale of my life including education, work, hobbies, family, and of course Church. Visual aids always help with a talk such as this as it means people don't have to listen to constant ramblings, and as well as a couple of photographs there were certificates, paintings, a bronze shiny star, contents of my wardrobe, a packet of polo mints and my favourite chocolate (which doubled up as a raffle prize later).

I managed to succeed in not sending any of our regular members to sleep and I heard a few laughs, and oohs and aahs so I think the talk went down well. I even managed to get through a brief question and answer session at the end, as it wouldn't be an Open Group meeting without one.

Thank you to everybody who came along and listened attentively. I did get some positive feedback so I'm pleased it wasn't a waste of your evening.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th October

**An as of yet untitled evening led by
our newly commissioned ALM Ian Banks**

All are welcome at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room

David Robinson

The Real Advent Calendar

The 2019 Real Advent Calendar is available again this month. It is a great way to share the Christmas story.

MEANINGFUL FEATURES:

- * Behind each window there is a line of the Christmas story
- * Free 24 page Christmas book
- * Charitable Donation
- * Uses quality Fairtrade chocolate
- * 24 festive milk chocolate shapes
- * Foil sealed for freshness
- * recyclable box and tray

The picture on the cover is a beautiful illustration of the Nativity scene, featuring all of the main characters from the Christmas story. It reminds us that the birth of Jesus is at the heart of Christmas.

The accompanying book has a page for every day of advent which illustrates the story as well as providing a range of challenges and activities throughout Advent.

The Real Advent Calendar is available directly on-line, from larger Tesco stores and a range of independent retailers.

PART OF THE MEANINGFUL CHOCOLATE COMPANY –
making a big chunk of difference

Why not make a difference to another family too?

Buy a calendar (online) and MCC will cover the additional costs of sending a full priced single Real Advent Calendar to the Trussell food bank hub for national distribution. It's a great way to make sure a family in need receive a Fairtrade Real Advent Calendar this year. Donations need to be made by 20th November.

Anti Slavery Day

UK Anti-Slavery Day is on 18th October and is an opportunity to raise awareness of modern slavery. What can we do? Maybe start with this reflection, based on the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.

(Written by the Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Chair of The Clewer Initiative)

There are five themes in this passage which can help us explore freedom, especially through the lens of Modern Slavery.

The Widow... a character controlled and exploited

This story offers a relevant insight into one of the great challenges to freedom in our times - the continuing growth of modern slavery.

In a complex and highly organised society, the widow represents someone whose place is totally dependent, someone who is under the control of others. A place of great vulnerability, always open to opportunities for exploitation. A place of silent suffering and restriction, hardly recognised by others, because of an apparently respectable, religiously endorsed term: 'widow'.

The same could be said for those designated as 'slave', in biblical times, but also in our own times. A term describing those largely hidden providers of the goods and services we are constantly encouraged to consume - the only issue being the price we are expected to pay. Like the widow in the story, so for us with those in forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced organ donation, organised begging, forced marriage, or those who have been groomed to carry drugs. The only concern for the rest of us is what price do I pay for services I want? How often do we ask, what price is paid by the providers of what I consume? The character who teaches from this parable is hidden, exploited, and controlled.

The Social Context

The Judge is a good representative of lives lived for selfish ends. He is indifferent to the plight of others, indifferent to the big questions of God, our purpose in creation, and judgement for justice. He is determined to live in his own safe world. What echoes do we see in lives lived online, in falsely cheerful Facebook pages, curated Instagram accounts, and anonymous Twitter feeds?

Connecting the Extremes

The Judge and the widow seem to be trapped in separate environments. One of 'the haves', the Judge is concerned just with his own wellbeing. The other, 'a have not', is trapped, invisible, frustrated, fearful.

These separate worlds prevent any proper understanding of justice, and can only be opened up to each other through prayer. The widow cries out continually: a prayer for justice. Her Hidden Voice eventually touches the Judge - he cannot be comfortable once the sound of such suffering begins to be heard. He listens. He is changed from selfish priorities to a concern to share freedom with this exploited and excluded pray-er.

A Challenge for Us

God grants justice to those who call out - this is the message of this Gospel. He does this by empowering the oppressed to call out, and by touching the hearts of the powerful to hear and respond. In our world today we have a moment of opportunity to be priests and mediators of this desperate human praying. We can teach ourselves to hear the Hidden Voices of the exploited and excluded of our own times - those in Modern Slavery being the most abused and vulnerable – and say we see you to those society has turned away from.

We can try to practice justice in our own dealings as consumers of services and ask the questions we have been encouraged to silence. More, we can play a key role in amplifying these Hidden Voices so that their prayers are better heard by those in power - in government, business, law enforcement, church and voluntary organisations, the media, and our own workplaces and community groups.

Do Something Now!

The Clewer Initiative has produced materials to enable all kinds of communities to learn about listening to and responding alongside Hidden Voices. Discerning the widows of our time and becoming agents of that 'praying always' that brings empowerment to the vulnerable, and a readjustment of perspective and practice to those in places of power. Visit the website, download the Safe Car Wash app, contact the team, and take the widow seriously! When the Son of Man comes, will He find such faith on earth?

ALL SOULS

Service for the bereaved
including the reading of a list
of those who we love
but see no longer.

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

3.00pm

St. John with St. Mark

ALL WELCOME

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

Parade Services with
Act of Remembrance

AT BOTH CHURCHES

10.30am

QUIZ

for the
Stan Parkinson Trophy

Sat 9th November

7.30pm

Christ Church Hall

Home Made Pie Supper

Quiz £3,
with Supper £6.50

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

CHRIST CHURCH:

MONDAY 2 DECEMBER

ST. JOHN with ST. MARK:
WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

Both services at 6.30pm

Please bring a toy
for a local child in need.

Toys will be distributed via the
local Salvation Army &
Wood Street Mission

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

26 November at 2pm

Christ Church Hall

Tickets £5

OCTOBER EVENTS



Saturday 12th October from 10am

BACON OR SAUSAGE SANDWICHES

£3:50 including tea and coffee

(drinks otherwise 50p per cup)

BOOKS FOR SALE

At Christ Church Walmersley Church Hall, School Lane

Third Thursday Light Lunch

at CCW Hall
12 noon - 1pm



The next lunch will be on **Thursday 17 October**

As always there will be no set charge – if you are able, please give a donation but if you can't just come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

YOU will be most welcome.

There really is such a thing as a 'free lunch'!!

RNIB Ramsbottom Branch
Pre Christmas Coffee Morning
Tuesday October 22nd, 10am–12noon
Christ Church Hall
Cake Stall, Souvenirs, Christmas Stall, Raffle
£2.00 including refreshments

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Sep 30	7.30pm	Open Deanery Synod (All Saints' Elton)
Tue 1	7.30pm	Christian Muslim Forum (SJM Barritt Room)
Wed 2	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 6		Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
		Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM Hall)
Tue 8	9.15am	SJM School's Harvest Service (SJM)
Wed 9	2.30pm	Harvest Service (Priory Highbank)
	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM Barritt Room)
Sat 12	10.00am	Bacon/sausage sandwiches, books (CC Hall)
		Diocesan synod
		Mothers' Union Diocesan Council (90 Deansgate)
Sun 13		Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity - Harvest
		Services as usual
	12.30pm	Baptism (SJM)
		Harvest lunch (SJM Hall)
Wed 16	10.00am	Springside School's Harvest Service (CC)
Wed 16	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 17	12noon	Light Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 20		Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
		Services as usual
Sun 27		Last Sunday after Trinity - Bible Sunday
		Services as usual
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)
Mon 28	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Towler)
Wed 30	7.30pm	Joint PCC (SJM)

Please let us know what events you are planning so we can include them on our calendar.



*2nd Walmersley Rainbows
'Random Act of Kindness' plants*

(see page 9)