

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



October 2026



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

THANK YOU



to all who supported the evening

and contributed to (as we go to press)

a wonderful

£677

for the work of The Christie



The winning team was Snacktastic

Bury
Mission
Community

Cover Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash, with added cross

The time has come.....

Those are the opening words of a nonsense poem by Lewis Carroll from "Alice Through the Looking Glass." No, I hope I am not going to write nonsense or even pen words about shoes and ships and sealing wax and cabbages and Kings. But for me the time has come to hang up my Reader's robes. My licence is up for renewal at the end of November and after much thought and prayer I have decided not to renew it. It has not been an easy decision, but age and health issues mean that I am no longer reliable, which for me is unacceptable.



It doesn't seem possible that it is thirty nine years since I was licensed alongside Barbara in Manchester Cathedral. I honestly had no idea in 1987 what the future would hold. It has been an eventful span of years. I have served with five Vicars, weathered periods without an incumbent, preached more than 200 sermons, given a multitude of talks, led countless services and undertaken many home visits. There have been highs and lows along the way. I have taken the funerals of too many friends, which has been challenging but a great privilege.

But there has been joy in celebratory services when the Bishop of Manchester visited the parish and when we held the festival of talents to celebrate the millennium. I have been there in many Carol services and I remember especially the ones shared with members of other churches in the area.

The world has changed significantly in those 40 years. I remember driving with Barbara on dark evenings to deliver essays to our tutor in Bolton, now we would just press send on an email. There was no internet and research was painstakingly slow through the written word. My computer was a "state of the art" Amstrad and essays were recorded on floppy discs!

Working practices have changed – who knew we would have “hybrid working” – education has changed, academies flourish, eating habits have altered and we are more likely to charge our cars at an electric socket than a petrol pump.

Church life too has changed. We are now part of a United Benefice and there has been joy in meeting and working with our friends down the road.

We have a female Archbishop; who would have thought forty years ago that that would happen.

Now the church faces new challenges to be relevant in today’s world where there are many demands on people’s time and energies, when priorities have changed and there is less consensus on ideas and attitudes.

But amidst all the change some things remain constant. From the start of my ministry I have been supported and encouraged not only by my family and close friends but also by countless parishioners whose prayers and words of support have enriched my time as a Reader. For this I am enormously grateful.

And throughout my ministry the great constant has been the love of God, unchanging, life enhancing. It has been there in the good and the bad times. Saint Paul assures us in the letter to the Romans that nothing can separate us from the love of God and I am certain that it has been with me throughout my time as a Reader.

To everyone who has been with me on this journey, my grateful thanks for your prayers, your support and your love.

Yours in Christ,
Margery

PS. As Cath has reminded us, there is no retirement in the kingdom of God. I shall still be doing things in church, just not in my Reader's outfit.



BAPTISM

31 August Elodie Grace Hardman
Ben William Wood

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

MARRIAGE

28 August Jamie Hart & Gemma Laverick

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

FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

Sep 18 Keith Magnall

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

Jottings

- * Our Harvest festivals take place this month. There is news on events and ways to be involved further in the magazine. However, we would like to remind you that the work of Porch is always valued and donations greatly appreciated all year round. Boxes are at the back of both Churches with lists of food items most needed.
- * The annual income survey takes place during the four weeks of October. The survey is important as it forms a key part of the parish share calculation. Please complete a form if you in Church.
- * Contributions for the magazine are always welcome. Please send to wrub@live.co.uk or contact Barbara Taylor or David Robinson. The deadline for the November issue will be 14th October.



BIBLE READINGS

Oct 4	18th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 5: 1-7	Philippians 3: 4b-14	Matthew 21: 33-46
Oct 11	19th Sunday after Trinity - Harvest	Deuteronomy 8.7-18 or 28.1-14	2 Corinthians 9.6-end	Luke 12.16-30 or 17.11-19
Oct 18	20th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 45.1-7	1 Thessalonians 1.1-10	Matthew 22.15-22
Oct 25	Last Sunday after Trinity – Bible Sunday	Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18	1 Thessalonians 2.1-8	Matthew 22.34-end
Nov 1	All Saints' Sunday	Revelation 7.9-end	1 John 3.1-3	Matthew 5.1-12



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

- Oct 4 Kath Whipp, for family anniversaries
- Oct 11 Vacant
- Oct 18 Mrs J Wood, in memory of her parents
- Oct 25 In memory of Mr & Mrs W A E Dighton

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).

Meeting at Christ Church on 3rd September

G. Hamilton led prayers.

- No progress made regarding the field contract with Morris Homes
- Safeguarding: No issues to report.
- Financial Report: The level of reserves was discussed and also that there should be an agreed level of spending without prior reference to the full PCC.
- B C Taylor informed the PCC that she had been in touch with Archdeacon Simon, who has offered to attend PCC. He would also like to preside one Sunday to meet the congregation.
- Committee Reports:

Church and Churchyard: The infestation of pigeons in the Church tower was reported and permission of the PCC sought and agreed to have the tower cleared, cleaned and made secure against future ingress.

Wigwam has checked the sound system and elements replaced.

The electricity checks have been completed.

Church Hall Management Committee: Dates have been fixed for work on refurbishment of the gents' toilets and on the hall roof.

- Outreach: Book Sale arranged: 19th September
Harvest Lunch: Sunday 11th October.
Toys & Games: Sale end of November
Christingle: Monday 30th November 6.30pm
Christmas Lights: Decision not to hold a tree festival 2026
Carol Service: 20th December at 6.30pm
- A.O.B A request for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner for the Hall. It was decided to try one of the Church vacuum cleaners first before making a decision.
P Stokes reported the delicate matter of what is and what is not acceptable regarding a particular plot in the Churchyard. Consideration be given to the matter.
Day of Prayer for Schools – prayer pointers have been shared.

Date of the next meeting: To be arranged.

Closing Prayers: The meeting closed with The Grace.

Meeting at St John with St Mark on 10th September

- John Westwell, chair of governors at St. John with St. Mark attended the meeting to provide an update on the school's aim to gain academy status and joining The Sycamore Church of England trust.
- Service arrangements for the next few months were confirmed, particularly around Christmas time, which have now been covered. Our Christingle this year is on Wednesday 2nd December. There will be a small number of people hoping to join the Confirmation classes and services in the Prestwich Mission Community later in the year. John Brennan (Jnr) has been accepted on the Diocesan Foundations for Ministry course starting in October.
- Only 3 people attended the Mission Community meeting in July. The quiz night is to take place at St. John with St. Mark on Friday 18th September. A good number of tickets have sold.
- There was an update on priority items from the Quinquennial inspection. We are also seeking quotes for the hall boiler.
- The plan to replace the chapel altar frontals is still ongoing.
- We have now permanently introduced tables and chairs at the back of church for enjoying tea and coffee after the service. These are new tables which have been bought by a generous donation.
- A question has been raised about the possibility of providing disabled access in the toilets on the corridor next to Church. We will look into this to see how the facility can be provided.
- Finance: Parish share is currently up to date; the coffee morning on 1st August raised £380.00; we have recently paid the premises licence.
- The Pantomime will go ahead next year from Thursday 11th to Saturday 13th February. Debbie will liaise with June and Ian regarding suitable rehearsal days.
- We had a healing and wholeness service on 6th September during the 10.30am service. The general feeling was that people benefitted from the experience and it could take place every quarter, with an extra person to help with the laying on.
- Dates: Saturday 3rd October – coffee morning & book fair; Saturday 28th November – Christmas Fair.

We are part of something much bigger

- ❖ **Loving Your Muslim Neighbour** A conference on 17 October, at St Peter Bury. Details on poster in church.
With Bury's Muslim community growing to 9.9% at the last census, many of our churches are warmly welcoming new faces from the Muslim community but we fail to reach them with the gospel. However, it is easy to feel intimidated or wonder how to gently and boldly share our faith.
Let us not diminish the power of the Spirit! Whenever we share the gospel, the Spirit moves. Come along to be empowered, excited, and captivated.
The Day's Schedule:
History of Islam: Understanding the roots.
Islam in the UK Today: Navigating our current cultural context.
Sharing & Praying: Practical, relational steps for connection.
- ❖ **Celebrating 15 years of Street Pastors** Thursday 29 October at 7.30pm at Bury United Reformed Church. A service of worship and thanksgiving for God's faithfulness, with the commissioning of new Street Pastors, and also an opportunity to thank all those who have been part of the journey to this point.
- ❖ **Toy Appeal** – lots of info in earlier magazines and in our churches – are you able to spare even a couple of hours to carry out admin or help receive and sort donations for the neediest of our children? Help is especially needed for a morning or afternoon, at Seedfield Methodist Church (who have kindly agreed to be a collection and storage point), on Tue 8th, Wed 9th and Thu 10th December. Please let David Robinson or Barbara Taylor know if you can help.
- ❖ The annual Churches Together **Carol Singing** event will be held in the Millgate Centre, on Sunday 6th December. Times are to be confirmed but please put the date in your diary.

Bury Mission Community Quiz Night

It was agreed at our earlier meeting in January that the Mission Community would once again hold a quiz event to get us together and also to raise important funds for a charity. This year it was suggested that we support Christies Hospital as it means a lot to many people. Friday 18th September was the chosen date at St. John with St. Mark and it is always stark to realise how quickly these dates come round even when plans are made in the spring. Tickets were produced in July; the quiz was assembled soon after and pies were ordered nearer the time.

The night itself was very well attended with around 60 people from most of our Churches represented. It was great that so many got involved on the night to ensure things went as smoothly as possible. There are too many to name, but this ranged from people who had prepared posters, sold tickets and ordered pies beforehand, to those who worked on the night setting up tables, cooking food and taking payment on the door. Special thanks should go to Jill Brady of the St. Peters' congregation for acting as our quizmaster and producing the questions. Subjects included Bury, nature, musicals, general knowledge and picture quizzes including 'name the dog'. As usual, there were some great team names, such as 'Not Got a Clue', 'Snacktastic' and the Stamp Collection (this was formed by the family of former Incumbent Canon Ian Stamp). There was a prize after each round so if you were stronger at one subject rather than another, then there was still a chance of winning a box of chocolates. The overall winners were 'Snacktastic' and actually home grown, with members of our own Benefice triumphing.

The main aims of the evening though were to get people together across the Mission Community in fellowship but also to raise funds for charity. Both of those aims were met and the hard work was rewarded with £677.00 raised for Christies and the important work they do. It is hoped we may be able to hold future Mission Community events. Please see page 2 for more.

David Robinson

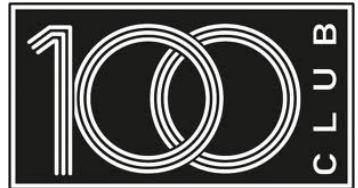
Scarecrow still on duty

Following the scarecrow festival in July, Tricia and Geoff took some of our friends down to the tip. The staff on duty were so impressed with Australian Bruce that they decided to employ him. This picture shows him settling into his new role at Every Street. We wish him well.



ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

We have not currently completed the draw for September 2026 as we are still in the process of renewing the numbers. Once everyone has renewed, we will catch up.



Quiet Moments for October

World Homelessness Sunday 4 October

We pray for 3898 rough sleepers each night in England, which would be a staggering 22% higher if not for faith and community projects.

(image by vladvalkonen from Pixabay)

A prayer of John Henry Newman



Stay with us Lord, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine; so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you; none of it will be ours. It will be you who shines through us upon others.

O let us in this way praise you in the way you love best, by shining on all around us. Make us preach you without preaching; not by words but by example and by the catching force, the sympathetic influence of what we do, by our visible resemblance to your saints.

Amen



12-18 October, is an opportunity for us to pray for those in custody; for their victims; for officers, chaplains and all who serve in the criminal justice system; for families; for those leaving prison:

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for everyone in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal anyone who has been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Mothers' Union

*On 18 October we mark **Luke the Evangelist and Physician***

This is the Collect from Common Worship

ST LUKE

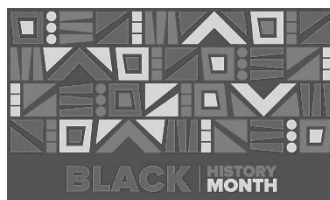


www.catholicprintshopforchildren.com

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

A Prayer for Black History Month

Throughout October, communities, schools, organisations and institutions across the country will honour the contributions of Black people to Britain's past, present and future.



Compassionate and just God,
We thank You for the rich heritage, resilience, and brilliance of Black communities across the world.

We honour the stories of those who came before us — voices that sang through struggle, hands that built through hardship, and hearts that loved through injustice.

Grant us the courage to confront prejudice wherever it hides,
the wisdom to listen deeply to one another,
and the grace to celebrate the beauty of every culture and every life.
May this month not only be a time of remembrance,
but a call to action — to build a future where dignity, equality, and hope are not dreams, but daily realities. In unity and love, we pray.
Amen. AI

In September Evening Worship was led by Barbara and Nigel Silvester. All that Mothers' Union is and does is founded on prayer so it is important that our programme gives these opportunities to worship together.

Although Mothers' Union 150th celebrations have been the focus of so much this year, in September we did not forget to mark the 117th birthday of the group here in Walmersley.



The tables were dressed in MU blue and white, white roses and a 150th cake added a welcome touch. Around the walls were displayed the 6 jigsaw pieces which had been contributed by CCW and its members to the overall display in Manchester Cathedral on Mary Sumner Day.

We welcomed Pauline Greenhalgh, who is our Archdeaconry President. She most certainly "sang for her supper" as she contributed to the delicious Bring and Share spread, first saying Grace for our food and fellowship.

Then once everyone was satisfied, Pauline cut the cake, which baker Barbara Silvester undertook to cut up and distribute. Pauline spoke briefly about the importance of her membership before presenting certificates for long service to several members. Not all were able to be with us on the evening but the full list (marking 0s and 5s) is:

Ethel Hilton	10	Rosemary Taylor	25
Margery Spencer	25	Jean Slater	30
Gillian Smith	35	Miriam Hamilton	40
Christine Standring	40	Hilary Riddick	40
Hazel Bamford	40	Claire Altham	45

We thank them all for their commitment and dedication.



Pauline with Margery, Christine, Hilary, Hazel and Jill

A retreat was held at St John's house in September. Very well organised and much enjoyed, but sadly not by very many. I hope word gets out and the next one attracts more people. The theme was:

Looking inwards, looking outwards, looking forwards

Catherine Hilton has written about it in the September newsletter (which includes SO much more). There are copies in church, or ask for it to be e-mailed, or download it from Facebook.

In October we move our meetings to afternoon, to avoid the dark nights. Unless otherwise stated we meet at 2pm.

We shall welcome Emma King on 7th and everyone is very welcome to come and be pampered as we share a "Cozy Corner Retreat" led by Emma.

On 21st we shall reminisce with Philip Openshaw, who will show a selection of films showcasing our church, and the Bury we used to know. All are most welcome to join in. I am sure there will be memories galore, so why not come and add yours?!

Manchester MU Council and AGM will be held just down the road at St John's House, on Friday 23rd October from 10am. This a great opportunity to find out just what is going on and to meet like-minded

members from across our diocese. Take a packed lunch, drinks are available and the meeting will end early afternoon. For the first time this will be held in the new ground floor space, which is easily accessible for everyone and very well equipped.

If you would like to know more about the work of Mothers' Union please speak to any of our committee members:

Claire Altham, Denise Booth, Belinda Leung, Joan Riggs, Barbara Silvester, Bob Taylor.

Barbara Taylor,
Branch Secretary

The only Advent calendar with a free 24 page story book

*Why do we need a **Real Advent Calendar**?*

- In 2013 surveys showed that 35% of 5-7 year olds did not know whose birthday was celebrated at Christmas
- It tastes good and does good – it is Fairtrade and charitable (providing care and support for mums and babies in African villages)
- Reach out to UK families facing difficulties, by donating directly to foodbanks

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Visit

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Men (and ladies) of the Benefice

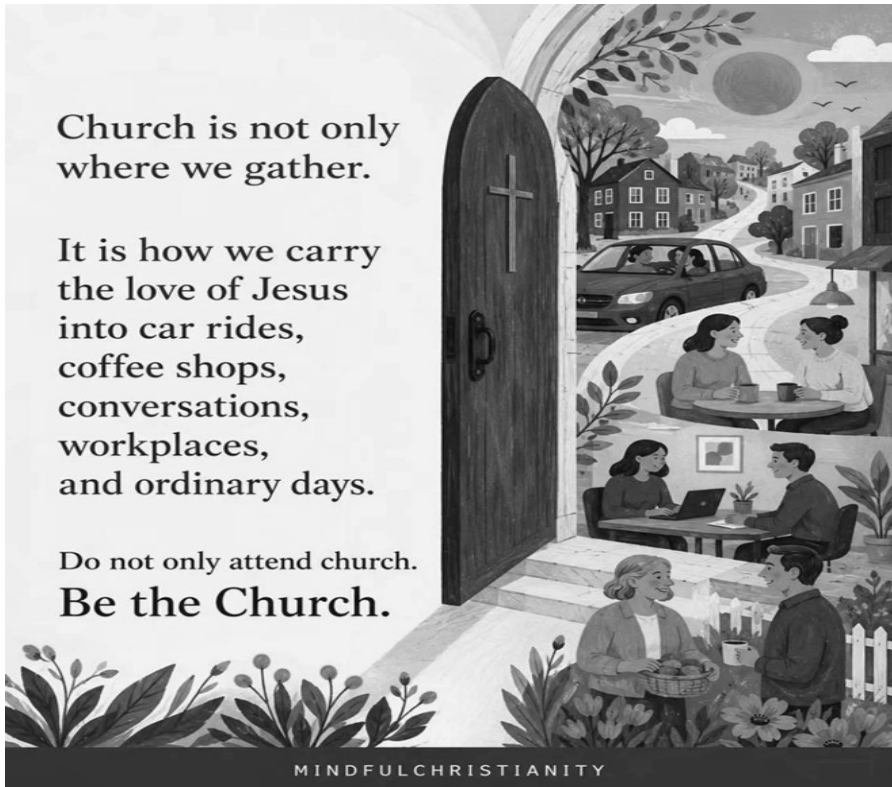


We were pleased that a good number of us joined at the Hark to Dandler on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August. There was the usual array of discussion and humour and a chance to meet informally.

If you are reading this early, we will next meet on Mondays 28th September and again on 26th October, at the same venue.

Barry is also looking into the possibility of us having a Christmas breakfast in Falshawes on a Saturday during December. We will confirm details if this goes ahead.

Barry Evans and David Robinson



COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR



SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER
from 10.00am
until around 12noon



ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL

REFRESHMENTS & CAKES

OTHER STALLS

LOADS OF BOOKS!!

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS AND ALL WELCOME

HARVEST LUNCH

11 OCTOBER

at midday, in Christ Church Hall

homemade soup with roll

fruit pie

tea, coffee, cordial

£5 ADULT
£2.50 CHILD



Third Thursday 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!

So come along on 15 October, 19 November, 17 December

Springside School Harvest Service

The pupils and staff would be delighted if you joined them,
as they celebrate God's generosity at their Harvest service



in Christ Church
at 10am
on Wednesday
21st October

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday			
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Venue tba
Tuesday			
6.30pm	4 th	Campfire Church	Christ Church yard
Wednesday			
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion		St John w St Mark
Thursday			
12.30 p.m.	The Gathering		Zoom
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (3rd – Compline)		St John w St Mark
Other services as announced.			
Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.			

If you need transport to church, please contact the wardens.

St John with St Mark's Church has Fairtrade status



We are members of the Manchester Diocese Transforming Prayer Community

FOR YOUR OCTOBER DIARY

Sat 3	10.00am	Book Fair and Coffee Morning (SJM)
Sun 4		18th Sunday after Trinity
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Wed 7	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 11		19th Sunday after Trinity - Harvest
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Wed 14	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Thu 15	12 noon	Thursday Light Lunch (CC Hall)
Sat 17	9.30am	Diocesan Synod (St John's House)
Sun 18		20th Sunday after Trinity
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
Wed 21	10.00am	Springside School Harvest (CC)
	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Fri 23	10.00am	MU Diocesan Council and AGM (St John's House)
Sun 25		Last Sunday after Trinity – Bible Sunday
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (Barritt Room)
Mon 26	7.30pm	Bury Mission Community Leaders - TBC
	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Hark to Dandler)

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.

Whilst the Vicar is unwell enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made to the Wardens through our websites or at the parish office which is open each Wednesday evening from 6.30 – 7.00pm at St. John with St. Mark's Hall.

Lots more info on our websites:

<https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk>

<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Check out Facebook

@christchurchwalmersley

@stjohnstmark

X

@cofewalmersley

Instagram

cofewalmersley

and YouTube

CofE Walmersley

SUNDAY @ SEVEN

***COME AND JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF
RELAXED CHRISTIAN WORSHIP AT
7PM ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH.***



***25th October at the Barritt Room
St. John & St. Mark Hall***

“On Higher Ground”

***Come and join us as we lift our eyes and minds to the hills
and mountains of the Bible.***

***If you want to know more ask Nigel Silvester, Ian Banks
or Cor van der Woude.***

You can also join us via Zoom.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

CELEBRATED IN BOTH CHURCHES

ON SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

We give thanks for God's generosity

giving practical foodstuffs or a donation to **PORCH BOXES**

At Christ Church financial contributions to the DEC's

MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

are welcome (you can pay by card)

We would love to see you at one of the services below,
but if that is not possible and you would like to give thanks
there are suggested prayers and links on our website.

Christ Church:

9.00am Holy Communion (traditional)

10.30am Family Service

St John with St Mark:

10.30am Parish Communion