



Dear friends,

Thank you for the positive comments received following last week's updates on progress within our Parish to move forwards even though we still have many restrictions, particularly here in Bolton.

Thank you also for contributions received for this week's 'Parish News'.

It was lovely to report how well the children have settled back into our local 'day' school. Reading up a little about its history, you learn that the first Walmsley School was built in 1797, at Dimple, and transferred to its present location near church when Walmsley Parish Community Hall was built in 1882, our church having been completed in 1839. Initially the school was an all age school, becoming a primary school during the 1930's with the creation of Turton High School. It would be wonderful if anyone who attended/taught at the school when it was housed in the Community Hall - up to 1981 when the current Walmsley CE School was built - would like to share any of their memories of the 'old' school ...?

**SERVICES IN THE WEEK AHEAD:** On Sunday 20 September at 9.30am, there will be a service of Holy Communion at **Christ Church Walmsley** led by Canon Peter Reiss, and a mid-week service at 11am on Wednesday 23 September. [Please note: The Book of Common Prayer is used on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at Christ Church.]

**St. Andrew's Church** services are fortnightly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, the next one being on Sunday 27 September at 11am led by **Reverend Carol Hayden**.

**Please note: We encourage those who are not working to please come to the mid-week Wednesday service at 11am to ease space at our Sunday Service. Thank you.**

**May we remind you also to keep to the 2 metre rule within our buildings and we hope that people will feel safe and welcome. You should wear masks or face coverings as you enter and leave and throughout the service, although those reading and leading prayers may remove them when speaking to the congregation.**



**Please keep your face covering in place as you receive the communion bread and only remove this to take communion after you have walked away; thank you.**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (delayed from April): Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10.30-11.30am** (after the 9.30am service at Christ Church Walmsley.)

The **APCM** is going to be different this year: with masks and socially distanced but it is happening and it is important that the people of Walmsley Parish attend wherever possible. Everyone living in our Parish and on our Church Electoral Roll can attend, vote and have their say. **We welcome new people; there are always tasks to be done for which we would love more volunteers to help. Please support us if you can. Thank you.** 🤝🙏

**The Electoral Roll** A note from our Electoral Roll Officer, Steve Brannon:

It's the time of year when the Church requires us to submit the number of adult parishioners who attend church - our Electoral Roll.

If you are already on that Roll, you need do nothing! If you are not sure if you are on the roll, e-mail me, [stevebrannon2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stevebrannon2003@yahoo.co.uk) (or telephone **01204 307274**) and I will check and get back to you. If you wish to be on that roll, e-mail me and I will send you a form to fill in three simple questions (this form is also attached to today's e-mailed Parish News).

Please note: the form is for each person not per household; if you have any questions, please just ask. You can return the completed form by e-mail or by post to me c/o:

Reverend Carol Hayden: Walmsley Vicarage, 2, Higher Dunscar, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9TE.

**(Thank you, Steve. Remember: if you are on the roll you can have your say 😊! - DH)**

## Welcome Back Egerton & Walmsley Playgroup!

After our feature last week about how our Walmsley Parish Community Hall is again echoing to the sound of children's voices and laughter, with various groups now making use of the facilities offered in this grand building, here is a report from Kate Leamy at Egerton & Walmsley Playgroup:



Through these unprecedented and strange times our utmost concern was the health, wellbeing and safety of our children and staff. We held a staff meeting to discuss the safest way to open whilst keeping it as normal as possible for our children and all staff came in to do a deep clean before we reopened our doors.

Before the children enter, all toilet facilities are thoroughly cleaned as well as any toys and activities set out. We had to change our drop off and pick up procedures, firstly, as we couldn't have anybody entering the building. The children now enter via the outside play area, met by the Aunties, taken in and wash their hands straight away. We still enjoy a full range of indoor and outdoor activities, ensuring we wash our hands at regular intervals and all equipment is given a deep clean at the beginning



and end of each day. We aim to use the outdoor area as much as possible. It has been a challenging time for us all, but we feel we are keeping our children as safe and happy as possible. Kate xx

Becky Morphet, founder of [Wake Up Walmsley!](#) has responded to give a write up about this amazing CHILDREN'S **BREAKFAST CLUB** 😊!!

Back in September 2012, after a chat with friends, **Wake Up Walmsley! Breakfast Club** was born. From our humble beginnings in the Hideaway, wondering if anyone would come along, we quickly grew and needed more space than the Hideaway was physically able to offer us. So we moved - to the wonderful Parish Community Hall, which remains our home now.

The ethos of Wake Up Walmsley! has always been the same - somewhere fun that the child enjoys. As a parent, I have taken my children to settings and it has broken my heart to have to leave them upset or crying; this is something that I never wanted for Wake Up! Wake Up! is fun and noisy - but is an amazing way to burn off some energy before school. And the space that the Hall has allowed us to have is incredible. Not only this, but we had the most amazing Walmsley School Leavers of 2019 party there too.

I have since moved on and left Wake Up Walmsley! in the safe, nurturing and very capable hands of Vicky Hodgkiss, but I wish everyone success in the future. Becky M x



## Our Team Rector, Canon Peter Reiss's letter this week:

Normally this is Harvest but in this strange world of 2020 it is the preparation for the Annual Meetings. These should have happened by the end of May, but they have been delayed.

We will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting – for the election of Church Wardens – and then immediately after, our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in Christ Church Walmsley.

If you are not able to attend because you are shielding, please let us know and we will try and find a way to include you remotely. The papers and reports for the meetings will be available on our website as will the nomination forms for those wishing to stand for Deanery Synod or PCC or Church Warden. We are looking at ways for others to join the meeting and even take part.

First a huge **Thank You** to those who have been in office this past 18 months or more, as the last months have been particularly demanding – thank you for all that has been done, often in difficult circumstances and when communicating is harder.

Second **please pray** for our church council and officers, and for the meetings whether or not you can attend; the coming months are not going to get any easier and the Council has a legal as well as spiritual responsibility to enable the church to flourish.

Third, an annual meeting is a good chance to **take stock** of our contribution to church life. In some cases God is asking us to step down so others can take on a role – even if we think they may not (yet) be as good as us. If Jesus could entrust the Gospel to his disciples we have to trust that God can entrust his work to others! Some of us may be able to offer a role, or offer some time and find out what role is needed – one new role that may well be needed more are folk to help Covid-wipe the pews and areas of the church that need cleaning down before the next use: we did not have that role last year!

As with all organisations (apart from Amazon and a chosen few) our finances have taken a huge hit this year. Maybe you can consider a further gift to the church or a regular donation, and if so – please – could it be by Standing Order so it reduces bureaucracy and helps us budget for the year. And if you can, please Gift-Aid it.

**Fourth, please tell us what you would like from your church, what we are doing well, and what we could do differently. The church is for all, and for others, not a club for the few.** As William Temple a previous Bishop of Manchester said: "**The Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.**" He was not quite right as there are others who are altruistic, but he was completely right that we are blessed by God so that we may share that blessing and others too may discover it.

And fifth – if I am allowed a fifth point – we need to **plan and prepare** for Remembrance, for Advent and for Christmas, again not just for ourselves but to share the news of God with us with others, and especially to help our youngsters know God is here with us. God is calling us to live longer in this "exile" / different state, but we have a real chance to discover God in a new and potentially more meaningful way.



Canon Peter has been sharing the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in his posts this week, with beautiful images to accompany the powerful words of this much-loved Psalm. Thank you, Peter.

During the week, I try and speak to as many church friends as I can ...although apologies that, often it seems, it's not always easy to make as much time as I would like to do this. Chatting with Eddie Hampson this week, he said he had enjoyed the article about the WOMBLES and recalled a 'Wombling Walk' he had done alongside my husband. They got into conversation about Slaidburn ...and the 'Hark to Bounty'.

Eddie recalled having written a poem about a walk round Slaidburn, but first quoted a poem by A.E.Houseman, which had been in his mind. This is 'Poem XI' by Houseman:

**Into my heart an air that kills from yon far country blows  
What are those blue remembered hills – what spires, what farms are those?  
This is the land of lost content – I see it shining plain  
The happy highways where I went and cannot come again.      A.E.Houseman**

And, with a little arm-twisting (according to Eddie, it was down to my 'silver tongue' ☺), I have managed to persuade Eddie to share the poem he wrote following a walk with his friends Malcolm & Bryian Barlow around Slaidburn: Enjoy... (And thank you, Eddie, for sharing Dx)

### **Slaidburn Stroll**

***The neat grey village soon gives way, ahead the first real test,  
A climb with scrambling feet, and pay with panting breath, reach the crest.***

***Broad luscious meadow now fill the eye, and in the distance a ribbon of wall  
To reach by an unmarked path gain nigh a point where it stands tall.***

***To climb the proud steps one must draw a breath and start  
To put one foot forward and let your trust be with the hands that guide.***

***Safely now on terra firma, smile, follow the helpers on  
Guiding yet for another mile find a grassy knoll to rest upon.***

***Above us curlews mew, and soaring hawks float on high  
Man made birds then into view but swiftly roar on by.***

***Refreshed, restored and feeling new, delighted in what you see  
Seek another path and rue losing that short time of reverie.***

***Carry on, now by a rill upon its banks wild flowers:  
Primroses, violets, bluebells still nodding away the hours.***

***Listen to the calls from ewes summoning the lamb  
Happily nibbling sweet fescues, now running back to mam.***

***Sadly, the walk now nears its end, but one last prize we hail:  
"Hark to Bounty," the cry is rend. "Gladly," answer you, to a glass of English ale.***

***Into my mind a picture fills from that fine walk that day:  
Each rise and fall through the hills, the styles, how many, how tall, might you say?***

***This is the land of gained content, I see it shining plain.  
The happy highways where I went ...and hope to go again!***



Thank you to those who have already contributed to the donations from Walmsley Parish (being collected by Jo) to this worthy charity ☺! This is a final reminder if you have yet to act. Jo Woods will be hosting a **POP UP PLANT EVENT** on **FRIDAY 25 SEP** from 10am to 4pm: **MAKE A DONATION to MACMILLAN AND TAKE A PLANT**. This will be held in Jo & Stephen's garden, *opposite the entrance to Dunscar Wood*. (Doe Hey, Dunscar Fold, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9EH) With no Macmillan Coffee Morning this year, Jo Woods will forward donations instead. If you wish to send a cheque payable to 'Macmillan Cancer Care' via Jo or online at [Macmillan.org.uk/coff](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coff)

A #MorningPrayer is posted on Twitter each day by Reverend Bill Braviner from the North East. I share it on our Church Twitter page and it is always worth re-reading and taking to heart. *May we always remember God's call on our lives, each and every day. Amen*

*Keep us always open to you, Lord,  
that we may be ready to hear anew from you,  
as you refresh our faith and understanding  
and take us beyond what we already know.  
Remind us daily of our call to journey with you;  
help us not to get too comfortable, or refuse to move.*

Thank you to those who continue to telephone and connect with others who are alone or self-isolating ...these friends are really grateful for your continued help and support. If anyone has any poems, prayers ...or words of wisdom to share, it would be lovely to include them here. Local news is always welcome. Thank you.



Please know that all of you, our church friends continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Stay safe and keep well. Love and blessings,

Reverend Carol Hayden, Jane Dent - *Church Warden*,

Dawn Hitchen - *Church Warden + Authorised Lay Minister for Pastoral Care*

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** For those who don't have internet or social media, do check out the Church of England free resource: '**DAILY HOPE**'. Friends continue to tell me that they have enjoyed this resource. Please do use it.



**The Church of England free phone: 'DAILY HOPE'**

**0800 804 8044** to listen to hymns, reflections and prayers.

**Thank you to those who have now set up your offertory giving by standing order**  
**Thank you for making a difference.**

For those of you who wish to continue your offertory by cash or cheque, you might like to combine the number of weeks missed into one for when you return to church.

**Thank you for your contribution to the running of our churches.**

**Switching to Standing Order is easy and, if you pay tax, Gift Aid adds an extra 25%;** we can send you a Gift Aid form to be returned when church re-opens.

If you wish to contact your bank for a monthly standing order to be made payable to:

**CHRIST CHURCH WALMSLEY:**

Payable to **Walmsley Parochial Church - Account number 10251161 –**  
**Sort code: 16 – 00 – 06**

**OR ST. ANDREW'S:**

Payable to: **St. Andrew's - Account number 91505262 -**  
**Sort code: 40 - 12 - 41**

**GRUB TUB for URBAN OUTREACH**

**Please do continue to remember those who rely on food donations. As a church we have supported Urban Outreach in a number of ways, including donating to the Grub Tubs in each church.**

Whilst our churches are closed, you can place your food donations in the GRUB TUBS in our local supermarkets. URBAN OUTREACH rely on the generosity of food donors to provide food parcels to those in need across the borough. Thank you to those who have given recently.



**If you need to speak with a church representative, please contact Wardens:**

Jane Dent [jane@walmsleyparish.org](mailto:jane@walmsleyparish.org) or telephone 595695

Dawn Hitchen [dawn@walmsleyparish.org](mailto:dawn@walmsleyparish.org) or telephone 304142. Thank you.