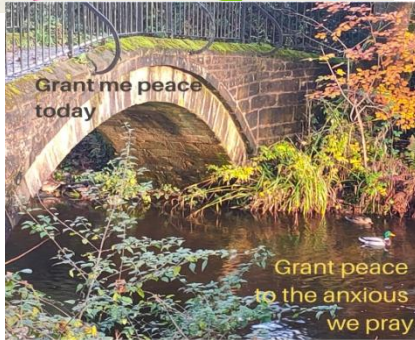


Newsletter

Walmsley Parish News for FEBRUARY 2025

Keeping you connected with your parish and community



@walmsleyparish



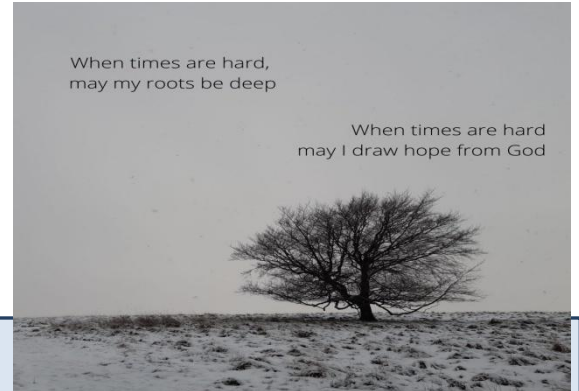
@ChurchWalmsley

**Walmsley Parish
Website:**

www.walmsleyparish.org

When times are hard,
may my roots be deep

When times are hard
may I draw hope from God



SERVICES in WALMSLEY PARISH

1st SUNDAY: Sunday 2 February

8am BCP Service with communion (Rev'd Chris Bracegirdle)

9.30am: FAMILY & PARADE SERVICE at Christ Church Walmsley

- with River of Life Music Worship Group + children's percussion

11am: HOLY COMMUNION at St. Andrew's Church, BX

Wed 5 February 11am: Mid-week Communion Service at Christ Church Walmsley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

2nd SUNDAY: Sunday 9 February

9.30am: HOLY COMMUNION at Christ Church Walmsley

11am: MORNING WORSHIP at St. Andrew's Church, BX

Wed 12 February 11am: Mid-week Communion service
at Christ Church Walmsley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

3rd SUNDAY: Sunday 16 February

9.30am: MORNING WORSHIP at Christ Church Walmsley

11am: FAMILY COMMUNION at St. Andrew's Church, BX

Tuesday 18 February: 7.30pm at Christ Church Walmsley

LICENSING SERVICE of the Reverend IAN HEPBURN
as TEAM RECTOR of the TURTON MOORLAND TEAM

Wed 19 February 11am: Mid-week Communion service at
Christ Church Walmsley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

4th SUNDAY: Sunday 23 February

9.30am: HOLY COMMUNION at Christ Church Walmsley

11am: HOLY COMMUNION at St. Andrew's Church, BX

Wed 26 Feb 11am: Service of the Word at Christ Church Walmsley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

*If you feel unable to join us yet in church, the wealth of wonderful
resources produced from across the Turton Moorland Team will continue.
Stay well – stay safe. As always, our heart-felt message to you is one of
FAITH, HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.*

URBAN
OUTREACH
(BOLTON)

GRUB TUB: PLEASE REMEMBER to bring
in food for those in need across Bolton.
Please put your food contributions IN BAGS
in the tubs at both churches. Thank you!

**FOOD donations urgently needed,
please, as supplies are low!**



We include here the list from our Parish for those in our prayers:
If you know of others to be included, please contact us. Dawn H

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us dear Lord, as we pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in need. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Our prayers and thoughts at this time are especially for: Kathryn Browning; David Lord; Yvonne Ashmore; Chris Foster; Paul Atherton; Marlene Holt; Rev Chris Jamieson; John Evans; Sylvia Hodgkiss; David Spencer; Jasmine Kay; Mary Lowe; Anne Magee; Steve Gregory; Elisabeth Twinn; Ken Holt;

For our community: Teachers, ancillary staff and children at our church and local schools; Walmsley Parish Community Hall and all who use its facilities; NHS workers and those who work in our local health services; Bolton Hospice; Staff and workers for Fortalice and Urban Outreach; RVS; Lions; Rotary; Youth charities – Girlguiding UK & Scouts; Bolton Lads & Girls Club; Our local businesses and all who work in our local area; Priests, Ministers and congregations in our local churches of other denominations.

We remember too those who mourn, that You may provide comfort and help in their loss and sustain them through their grief. We remember the recently departed known to us:

Jacqui Crook; John Douglas Holt; Margaret Tanham (*Mum of window cleaner Frank*); Anne Heather Gorman (*former Health Visitor and resident of Delph Brook Way*)

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ and whose anniversaries fall at this time; according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

w/c 2 February: Jocelyn Mary Foster; Helen Kay; Jack Derbyshire; James Seth Barnes; Joan Patricia Heston; Andrew Rushton; Thomas Lawrence Marsh; Elsie Handley;

w/c 9 February: Christine Howarth; Patricia Cannon; James Weaver; James Charnock; John Charnock; Annie Symons; Winifred Doyle; Patricia Head; Cissie Holgate; Alan William Marsh; Edith Hodgson; Annie Brown;

w/c 16 February: Beryl Hampson; Ernest Ramsden; Barry Houghton Evans; Daniel Horton Robins; Ursula Mary Chapman; Hugh Horstead Tyler; Anne Slack; Charles Henry North; William Johnson; Mary Coucill; John (Jack) Tague; Christopher Anthony Brindle;

w/c 23 February: George Langley; Ronald Booth; Mary Rust; Peggy Pickering; Edna Hignett; Clara Cornelia North; Ted Mellish; Rev D. George Evans; Jack Yates; Barbara Mary Pickering; Eric Smallwood; Enid Paton; Walter Burton; Jack Twemlow; Marion Barnett; Harry Woolley; William John Lord;

You are the Alpha and the Omega; may we one day rejoice with you in heaven.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and all the human family to your unfailing love. Amen.

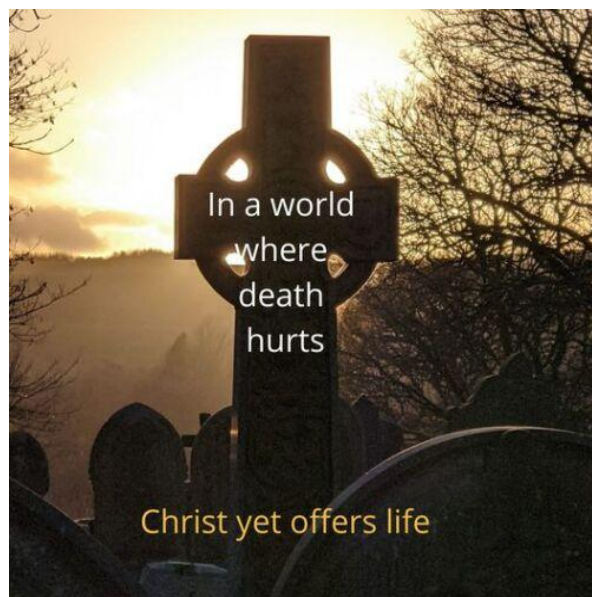
Such beautiful words shared each day in the [#MorningPrayer](#) from Rev Bill Braviner:

Expand our hearts, Lord, and fill them with the love that you call us to show one another.

Let love define our attitudes and actions, our care for one another's wellbeing, our concern for the good of all.

Let love shine its light on all we are, and show us the way.

Amen





We are pleased to announce that the **Rev'd Ian Hepburn** will be licensed as our **Team Rector in the Turton Moorland Team**, Bolton Deanery, Diocese of Manchester in a special Service at **Christ Church Walmsley** on **Tuesday 18 February at 7.30pm**.

Please sign the list at the back of church if you will be attending as this is a Team event and numbers are needed. We look forward to welcoming Rev'd Ian, who currently serves at Bolton Parish Church as the Hulme Lecturer/Associate Vicar of the benefice of St Peter with St Philip Bolton-le-Moors.

.....

Dates for your Diary

There is much going on in our Parish and wider team. Please do make a note of dates and come along to events whenever you can. We would love to welcome you.

Saturday 1 February, 10am-12: Coffee morning at St Andrew's Church

Friday 7 February, 1.00-3pm: TALKIN' TABLES at Walmsley Parish Community Hall

Monday 10 February, 7.30pm: HOUSE GROUP Bible Study at the home of Mark Head

Tuesday 11 February, 2pm: MOTHERS' UNION AGM MEETING

Friday 14 February, 1.00-3pm: TALKIN' TABLES at Walmsley Parish Community Hall

Saturday 15 February, 10am-12: Coffee morning at Walmsley Parish Community Hall

Tuesday 18 February, 7.30pm: LICENSING SERVICE at Christ Church Walmsley of **Rev Ian Hepburn as Team Rector**

Friday 21 February, 1.00-3pm: TALKIN' TABLES at Walmsley Parish Community Hall

Saturday 22 February, 7.30-10pm: CILLA show at **Walmsley Parish Community Hall**

Friday 28 February, 1.00-3pm: TALKIN' TABLES at Walmsley Parish Community Hall



Please support our social & community fund-raising events; thank you.

If you like a good Biblical discussion, why not give our House Group a try. The group meets on the SECOND Monday evening in the month at the home of Mark Head ...when fresh coffee & home-made cake accompany the conversation. The next meeting is **Monday 10 February** at **7.30pm**.

The sessions are lively and cover lots of interesting topics, this time focussing on HEBREWS. We look forward to seeing you. If you would like to know more, please speak to Mark Head or contact him at headmail@zen.co.uk or **07910 816952**



If you would like to join our Mothers' Union group - or find out more about - the Walmsley Parish branch of Mothers' Union, please contact Branch Leader, Kath Grieve on 01204 450088 or e-mail Branch Treasurer, Jenny Murphy at jennymurphy@hotmail.co.uk We meet together again in the home of Marjorie Isherwood, on **Tuesday 11 February at 2pm** when it will be our AGM.



~ Author unknown



Patience visited me...

And it reminded me that good things take time to come to fruition and grow slowly with stability.

Peace visited me...

And it reminded me that I may remain calm through the storms of life, regardless of the chaos surrounding me.

Hope visited me...

And it reminded me that better times lay ahead
And it would always be there to guide and uplift me.

Humility visited me...

And it reminded me that I may achieve it; not by trying to shrink myself and make myself less, but by focusing on serving the world and uplifting those around me.

Kindness visited me...

And it reminded me to be more gentle, forgiving and compassionate toward myself and those surrounding me

Confidence visited me...

And it reminded me to not conceal or suppress my gifts and talents in order to make others feel more comfortable, but to embrace what makes me me.

Focus visited me...

And it reminded me that other people's insecurities and judgements about me are not my problem, and I should redirect my attention from others back to me.

Freedom visited me...

And it reminded me that no one has control over my mindset, thoughts and wellbeing - But me.

And **love** visited me...

And it reminded me that I need not search for it in others, as it lies within me.

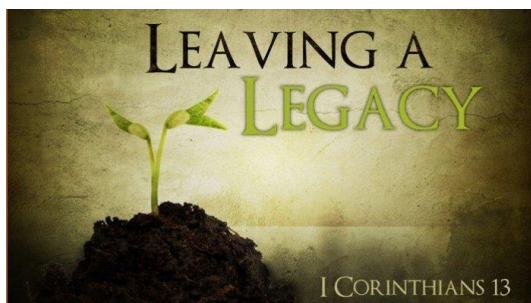
A kiss from the
sun for pardon

A song from the
birds for mirth

You are nearer
God's heaven in
a garden

Than anywhere
else on earth

~ words shared
by Jasmine Kay
as told to her by
her Mother ☺ x



Leaving a gift in your Will is an amazing opportunity to make a final gift to God. This will make a lasting difference to the future of Walmsley Parish and its ministry and mission in our local community. No matter how big or small, every gift in every Will can make a significant impact.

Gifts in Wills are an important part of Christian giving, and leaving a gift to your church is a way to thank God for all the blessings you have received in your lifetime. If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how/if you would like your gift to be acknowledged, please contact Allan Hopkins, Team Council Lay Chair, on **01204 305807** or email allanhopkins9@gmail.com. God bless you!



Sharing a super sermon on Philippians 4:4-7

*given by Angie Foster - Ordinand
on Wednesday 18 December 2024*

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' (NIV)

Rejoice in the Lord always," Paul tells us. And then, in case we missed it, ***"Again I will say, Rejoice!"***

Rejoice in the Lord always. But how? How do we do that? I have been wrestling with these words this week, as we continue to live in these challenging times. How do we rejoice in the Lord always? Because it's been a tough year, hasn't it? Looking back, we might have thought that 2020 was tough, and it certainly was. But this year started out tough, and has just kept on going, with challenge after challenge. So, as we continue to live through all of this, how can we do as Paul commands, and rejoice in the Lord always? Why should we do this? I want to think about that question today and try to answer it by looking for clues throughout his Letter to the Philippians.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians has been called his letter of joy, because you can see joy bubble up throughout. But let's remember that Paul wrote this letter from a prison cell, awaiting probable execution. It would have been easy for him to write a darker letter, more discouraged, with less joy. That is not what Paul did. He found a way to rejoice in the Lord, even there. And if he could do it there, we can certainly do it here.

We can rejoice in the Lord, with Paul, by doing as he suggests, in today's passage and throughout this letter. From start to finish, you can read this Letter to the Philippians as a how-to manual on rejoicing in the Lord. And so, this morning I want to share with you today what I have learned from Paul's letter, on how to rejoice in the Lord always.

Being Thankful

The first thing that we learn in this letter on how to rejoice is that it is very connected to being ***thankful***. To rejoice in the Lord always, it is essential to develop an attitude of gratitude. Repeatedly in this letter, Paul demonstrates this attitude. The very opening of this letter begins with a word of thanksgiving:

"I thank my God every time I remember you", he writes from his prison cell.

And near the end of the letter, in today's passage, Paul again reminds us to let our lives be filled with thanksgiving. When we make our requests known to God in prayer, Paul reminds us to do so with thanksgiving.

Our lives as Christians should be filled with thanksgiving. Every day should be a day filled with gratitude; because we have much to be thankful for. Even during our challenges, we can be thankful. After all, God is with us, even amid our challenges. "The Lord is near". So how can we not be grateful?

And when we do that, when we focus on being thankful, we will always find something to rejoice about. From a prison cell, Paul focused on his blessings: his faith, his friends, and the nearness of his Lord. It filled him with thanksgiving and caused him to rejoice in the Lord.

Paul knew that being thankful and being joyful are really two sides of the same coin. If we focus on our blessings, being thankful for what we have, it is almost impossible not to be joyful. On the other hand, if we focus on what we don't have, and are not grateful for these blessings, it is almost impossible to rejoice in the Lord. Be thankful for our blessings and we will rejoice in the Lord always.

Focusing on Jesus

And along with focusing on being thankful, Paul had another focus.

Simply put, it was Jesus. Paul regarded everything but Christ as nothing of value.

It was all loss compared to knowing Jesus.

Even life itself had value only because of Jesus.

Imagine being so focused on Jesus that you don't care whether you live or die; you just want to find ways to serve him with the time you have been given. With that attitude, rejoicing in the Lord is easy to do.

There is a wonderful book on the Christian faith by G.K. Chesterton, called "Orthodoxy," and in the conclusion of that book, Chesterton states that "**joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian.**" And I love his explanation for why:

He explains this by pointing out that non-Christians are forced to rejoice in the little things but remain sad about the big things. Their lives are lived under the shadow of death, and so their joy is fleeting.

The Christian, on the other hand, lives in exactly the opposite way. We might be sad about the little things, but we can always rejoice in the big things, because we know how this story ends: It ends with life; eternal life. We no longer live under the shadow of death. So even when we find ourselves sad about the little things, as we often do, we have a joy that is far deeper and more permanent. Our sadness is fleeting; but our joy is eternal. For to us, living is Christ. To us, everything but Christ is nothing of value.

Everything else is loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus. And this gives us a peace that surpasses all understanding. If the most important thing in your life is Jesus, then you can rejoice no matter what is happening in your life, because nothing that happens in your life can take that away from you.

Seeing God at Work in All Things

Another way that Paul was able to rejoice in the Lord always, was by learning to see the Lord's hand in all things. Even in his imprisonment. That's not to say that he believed all things were God's will. What he believed was that God could bring good out of all things. Paul was able to see God working in his life even through his imprisonment. He could have focused on all the things that he was **not** able to do for God because of his imprisonment. But, instead, Paul focused on what God was doing through this latest challenge. The whole imperial guard and everyone else was learning the good news of Jesus Christ for one reason: Paul's imprisonment. And that helped Paul to rejoice in the Lord, even in his prison cell. When we believe that God can bring good out of every challenge we face, then every challenge we face gives us one more reason to rejoice in the Lord.

Turn Your Worries into Prayers

There is one final way to rejoice in the Lord always, and that has to do with our worrying. Paul tells us in today's reading not to worry about anything. Now, I must tell you, I don't think I've ever met anyone that never worried about anything. And that certainly includes me! In fact, I don't know what's more difficult for me: rejoicing in the Lord always, or not worrying about anything. Both can be pretty challenging! So, how are we not to worry about anything? Well, listen again to exactly what Paul says in today's reading:

If I had to paraphrase this, and put it very simply, I would say that what Paul is really getting at is that we are to turn our worries into prayers. You may have heard me say this before, but I am saying it again because I need to hear it again. Turn all our worries into prayers. Don't *not* worry. But when you worry, pray.

When we catch ourselves worrying about something, in other words, pray about it. Worries, in this way, can become reminders to pray; our worries can be signals that we are taking too much of the burden from what is rightfully God's. God is in charge. So, if we are worrying about something, we need to talk to God about it. Worrying reminds us to do this.

When we view our worrying in this way, worrying becomes a positive tool in our spiritual toolbox. Our worries teach us what we should be praying about. And what that means to me is that when we turn our worries into prayers, we receive God's peace, which guards our hearts and minds against being taken over by our worries. And that, surely, is reason to rejoice in the Lord!

Closing

"Rejoice in the Lord always." I wanted to preach on these words of Paul's today, not because I find it easy to rejoice in the Lord always, but because I find it challenging. And I suspect that I am not alone in this. Especially this year and probably most years. From a prison cell, Paul rejoices in the Lord. And he teaches us to rejoice in the Lord, too. How? Well, to summarize:

First, by having an attitude of gratitude – by being thankful for faith, friends, and the presence of our Lord. Second, by placing Jesus first in our life. When living to us is Christ, and dying is gain, we are joyful about the big things, even when we are sad about the little things. Third, by believing that God can bring good out of every challenge we face, no matter how bad it may seem at the time. And fourth, by turning our worries into prayers.

When we do these things, we can't help but rejoice in the Lord. Today and always. And so, as you and I do these things, may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

PAYING FOR THE PARISH YOU LOVE: Have you thought about your GIVING to our Parish recently? If not, please could we encourage you to do so?

We don't charge an admission fee - we depend entirely on donations to keep our churches heated, repaired and open ... all with the help of volunteers.

The most helpful way for you to contribute to the running of our churches is by committing to a regular standing order which, with Gift Aid - as we are a registered charity - then provides another 25% on top of your donation at no cost to you. ***Thank you to those who have set up your offertory giving by standing order.*** Thank you for your contribution to the running of our churches and for making a difference. Switching to Standing Order is easy. And, if you pay tax, Gift Aid adds an extra 25% with the form below. If you wish to, contact your bank for a monthly standing order to be made payable to:

Walmsley Parochial Church: Account number 10251161 / Sort code 16-00-06

OR

St. Andrew's: Account number 91505262 / Sort code 40-12-41

Thank you



We're collecting new, unused, in-date personal care & household cleaning essentials: deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, make-up, nappies, toilet roll, laundry detergent and surface cleaner. Thank you.



Tony Foster from Bolton Lions has shared how much good they were able to do across Bolton over the Christmas period, thanks to donations. Thank you.



The amount raised at the Christingle Service for The Children's Society was £82.11, made up of £40.21 from the uniformed groups and £41.90 from the service on the night. Thank you.



Serving the People of Bolton since 1968

Christmas Toy Appeal 2024 - Update

A Very Big Thank You !

with your generous support we were able to...



Provided Christmas Presents for **1830** Bolton Children



Supported **950** Bolton Families



Distributed over **8088** Toys to 0 - 11 year olds (each child received at least 6 gifts)



Provided a £30 Gift Voucher for 482 11-17 year olds in secondary education



Supported referrals from **37** Organisations and Partner Charities in Bolton

Thank You Again From
The Members of Bolton Lions Club

<http://www.boltonlions.org.uk>

Reg. Charity No. 1095924

contact@boltonlions.org.uk

Talkin' Tables



where

Founders Room, Walmsley Parish Community Hall



WALMSLEY PARISH COMMUNITY HALL



TALKIN' TABLES welcomes you **each Friday afternoon 1-3pm at Walmsley Parish Community Hall.**

If you fancy some company and good chat over a cuppa, please do come along; brews & biscuits are free... Please spread the word if you know of anyone else who might welcome this chance to have a bit of chat. Any questions, contact John Clayton, Hall Manager, on **07306129997** or e-mail **parish-hall@walmsleyparish.org**

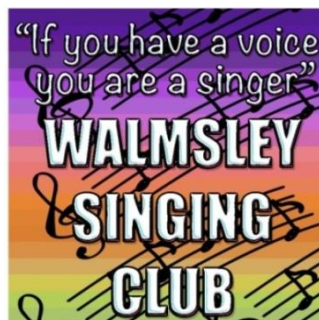
Why not come and give it a try - we've tried to provide something a bit different to get you out of thhouse to meet with other folk for relaxed conversation & a cupp

SINGING WITH FRIENDS at Walmsley Parish Community Hall - THURSDAYS 1-30-3pm

(Please note, there is a small charge for this activity)

An informal group who come together to enjoy a good session of singing popular, uplifting and well-known songs with the aim of improving our health and wellbeing.

Contact Pam Eaton on **07943 546366** if you'd like more info.



Contact the team

- Area Dean of Bolton, Rev Simon Cook: 07745 232662 or simoncook@manchester.anglican.org
- Church Warden, Hilary Dunn: 07858 070669 or hilaryd@walmsleyparish.org
- Church Warden, Kath Pearson: 07814 289589 or kath@walmsleyparish.org
- Ordinand, Angie Foster: angie@walmsleyparish.org
- Reader Emeritus, John Evans: 01204 592197
- Authorised Lay Minister for Pastoral Care, Dawn Hitchen: **01204 304142** or dawn@walmsleyparish.org