

The Parish of Walmsley comprising the churches of Christ Church Walmsley and St Andrew, Bromley Cross. Part of the Turton Moorland Team Ministry and the North-East Bolton Mission Community.

"Building partnership in Christ, church and community"



Walmsley Parish News on Friday 2 December 2022
Keeping you connected with your parish and community





SERVICES in WALMSLEY PARISH

Sunday 4 December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

At Christ Church Walmsley:

8am Communion Service using the Book of Common Prayer

9.30am TOY & Family Service with PARADE [NO Junior Church] with River of Life and percussion by the children

At St. Andrew's, BX:

11am: Holy Communion Service ~ with Sunday School

At Christ Church Walmsley:

<u>Wed 7 December</u> 11am: Mid-week Communion Service Thursday 8 December NO evening Family Worship

<u>Sunday 11 December</u>: 3rd Sunday of Advent 9.30am Family Communion at Christ Church Walmsley ...with admission to communion <u>Junior Church at Hall & Hideaway</u>

11am: Family Communion at St. Andrew's, BX

...with admission to communion ~ Sunday School in adjacent room ~

6pm: EVENSONG at Christ Church Walmsley using the sacred words of Common Prayer.

Wed 14 December 11am: Mid-week Communion service at Christ Church Walmsley

Thursday 15 December NO evening Family Worship

Sunday 18 December: 4th Sunday of Advent

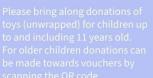
9.30am: Service of the Word at Christ Church Walmsley Junior Church Party at Hideaway
11am: NATIVITY led by Sunday School + FAMILY Communion at St. Andrew's, BX
6pm: Walmsley Parish Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at Christ Church Walmsley
Wed 21 December 11am: Mid-week Communion service at Christ Church Walmsley
Thursday 22 December 6pm: CRIB SERVICE at Christ Church Walmsley

The wealth of wonderful resources from across the Turton Moorland Team continues...

Stay well – stay safe.



Sunday 4th December Family Service, 9.30am





Contact the team

- Reverend Hannah Lane: 07480 065268 or revhannah@walmsleyparish.org
- Team Rector, Canon Peter Reiss: 07935 395040 or turtonteamrector@gmail.com
- Hilary Dunn, Church Warden: 07858 070669 or hilaryd@walmsleyparish.org
- Dawn Hitchen: Authorised Lay Minister for Pastoral Care: 01204 304142 or dawn@walmsleyparish.org



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; Kath Grieve; Brian Porter; Sheila Fairclough; John Lewer; David Lord; Rosemary Clegg; Penelope Booth; Chris Foster; Reuben Baker; Anne Wright; David Spencer; Yvonne Ashmore; John Wallington; Frank Unsworth; Julie Cocks; Bill Hardman.

For our community: NHS staff and volunteers;

Teachers, ancillary staff and children at our local and church schools; Staff and workers of Fortalice and Urban Outreach;

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:

Dr. Allister Cranna whose funeral will take place at Christ Church Walmsley on Monday 5 December at 10.15am.

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

w/c 4 December: Christine Howarth; John Sumner; Joan Gosling; Herbert Ramsden; Jean Hill; Doreen Mary Payne; Agnes Moore; Cliff Hardman; Barbara Jolley;

w/c 11 December: Peter Graham Charnock; Mary (Mollie) Ramsden; Edith Barrett; Linda Mary North; Herbert Vincent Edson; Bessy Jones; Paul Stephen Webster; Freda Scholes; Frank Howarth; Elsie Wilshaw; John Rudd; Sylvia Adelaide Lloyd;

w/c 18 December: Tom Kay; Frank Jones; Jack Pilling; John & Phyllis Longmire;

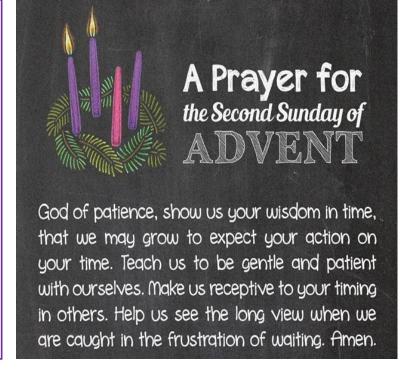
w/c 25 December : Margaret Catterall; Harold Lomax; Len Higginbottom;

Florence Ramsden; Maria Kenlock; Ethel Kay; Robert Holloway; Margaret Tyson; Sarah Howarth; Alex Newby; Doreen Barton; Richard Henthorne; Margaret Smith; Edith Bell;

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.

A beautiful #MorningPrayer from Bill Braviner ... may we open our hearts this Advent, Amen.

Guide us, Lord, on our Advent journey; keep us alert to your presence among us and your working in and around us.
Open the eyes and ears of our hearts; help us not only to see but also to perceive, not only to hear but also to understand, your kingdom in our midst.
Hear our prayer for all nations, for all with power and authority; may all know you as King, and seek your peace.



SOCIAL & COMMUNITY EVENTS

The CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING hosted by the ladies of St. Andrew's Church will be on <u>Saturday 3 December</u> 10am til midday.



Thank you to all who helped at and supported the CHRISTMAS FAYRE hosted by the volunteers from Christ Church Walmsley on Saturday 19 November; a grand total of £2,000 was raised.

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

Flowers at Christmas in Christ Church Walmsley

If you would like to donate towards the church flowers at Christmas in memory of a loved one, please let Edna Welsby or Kath Rushton have the details by 19th December or leave your donation in an envelope with your name and the name of your loved one at the back of Church. Thank you, Kath R

We are looking forward to our Christmas meal at Ciao Baby on Tuesday 13 December. For more information about our local Mothers' Union, please contact Kath Grieve, Branch Leader, on 01204 450088.



A REMINDER ABOUT THE MOTHERS' UNION appeal for children's pyjamas from a charity 'Spreading love through comfort': Any new pyjamas donated will be distributed at the end of November.

Locally, pyjamas have gone to Royal Bolton Hospital and Fortalice, as well as Francis House Children's Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and other hospitals in the Manchester area. Please leave your donation in a bag at the back of church marked 'PYJAMAS', or get in touch with Jenny Murphy on 01204 594539. Thank you.

HAVE YOU DONATED YET TO THE 'NEW BEGINNINGS' BACK PACKS...?

Thank you to those who have already generously donated items for this. Jenny M

As prisoners are released from HM Prisons Greater Manchester & Forest Bank, MU provide them with a back pack containing essential items such as toiletries and underwear and a change of clothes. If you could please help with contributions, we would be most grateful. These can be left in any of our churches, and our local MU Members will collect. Thank you.

40l Lightweight Baishiqi Backpack
Water bottle (optional)
Small towel and flannel
Disposable razors
Shaving stick
Comb
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Soap/soapbox
Roll-on deodorant

Shampoo Hand sanitiser/anti bac wipes

Shower gel Biro & Notebook

Underwear & socks Tissues
Biscuits/sweets/chocolates Toilet Roll

Disposable facemasks (optional)

Winter – hats/gloves Summer T shirt/s

(shaving cream or foam can be included for packs for Out There)

A reflection on the 2021 Census

from our Team Rector, Peter Reiss:

The results of the 2021 Census were published this week, and one of the striking features was that for the first time less than 50% of the population claim to be Christian, just 46.2%, down from just under 60% in only 10 years, and over 70% 20 years ago. The predominant shift is not that people have become



members of a different religion but that they have said they have "no religion" – 37% (25% in 2011). Those self-defining as Muslim increased by about 1.5% from 4.9 to 6.5%.

This shift has been happening for longer, but has accelerated in the last twenty years – what seems to be happening is that those who were happy to put C of E on a form, to claim some sort of nominal allegiance, are now preferring to put "no religion", no longer want to put, or feel they should put, Christian. What is also (more) significant is that the number of regular church attenders is dropping, as is the number of families seeking a baptism, the number of couples wanting to get married in church, and the number of families requesting a Christian minister for a funeral.

There is a quote from an Evelyn Waugh novel, so set just before WW2, in which a character is declared to be *Church of England, in as much as that was the church he was currently not attending.* I have tried to find the exact quote and which novel, but haven't found it. The number of people, baptised in the Church of England who do not go to church is very high. The proportion of those who come to a baptism in a church, who do not attend church, even at Christmas is very high. On any Sunday maybe 10% of the population is in church. That means another 36% of the population are people who call themselves Christian but not in church!

Church attendance was dropping from after WW1, but it rose again in the 1950s and then has dropped steadily since the 1960s. In recent years younger people especially say they find the church "nasty" / homophobic and turned in on itself, rather than caring for justice and the world. Whatever we may ourselves think, headlines about the Church not allowing gay weddings, and the support for Donald Trump from American Christians have influenced opinions. The Church appears on the wrong side of debates on things that matter. And there have been high-profile scandals of child abuse and sexual abuse, and then cover-ups, denials, and obfuscation on the part of church leaders; why would people say they belong?

Some would say that the more aggressive, more divided, angrier world of politics we see today, is – at least in part – caused by an erosion of Christian values – a loss of tolerance and acceptance; truth now just one version among whatever story people want to make up; the loss of a sense of duty with politicians grabbing and grasping and ducking and diving; a growing nationalism which becomes racism. Trust in all institutions is at rock-bottom, not just the church.

The Human Rights Movement is seen as secular, but it developed from core Christian values; But if the fire has gone out in the boiler, then the building will cool down, become more like the surrounding temperature.

It is a thing of sorrow that the figures show such decline – not because we want to be bigger, but because the evidence is that the church is perceived by so many as either or both of irrelevant and nasty. May the invitation of Jesus be heard loud and clear this Christmas. 'God with us', 'Light of the World', Saviour' – may our churches and our lives be neither irrelevant to the needs of the world, nor perceived as 'nasty'. There is a challenge to holiness of course, even more in a world which is getting darker, but holiness is clothed in mercy in the person of Jesus.

If our churches are welcoming and attractive, and if we are inviting people to come, then there is no reason why these census statistics need to continue on a downward trend. Two "ifs" which we have some control over!

We are invited to follow the Star this Christmas

Follow the QR star to see all the Christmas Services across the Team



On Sunday 4 December:
OUR COUNCILLORS invite us to join them at Dunscar War Memorial for the Christmas Tree Lighting at 4:30pm ... then afterwards at Walmsley Parish Community Hall for refreshments organised by our local councillors
We hope that some our younger worshippers will join us to sing Christmas Carols on the stage at the Hall.

(PLEASE NOTE: numbers limited)

ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES across the TURTON MOORLAND TEAM of churches:

to 175 in the Hall.)



Fancy a sing? Come to a Carol Service on Sunday 18 December!

- 9.30 am St Maxentius
- 6pm Christ Church Walmsley
- 6.30pm St Anne, Turton
- 6.30pm St Peter, Belmont

Or maybe you'd prefer a Crib or Nativity Service ?

- 18 Dec, 10.30am St. Peter, Belmont
- 18 Dec, 11am St. Andrew, BX
- 21 Dec, 6pm St, Maxentius
- 22 Dec, 6pm Christ Church Walmsley

Join us for the magic of **Christmas Eve**

- 6pm St Andrew BX
- 7.30pm St. Maxentius
- 11.30pm St. Peter, Belmont
- 11.30pm St. Anne, Turton

Celebrate with us as we welcome Christmas Day!

- 10am St. Maxentius
- 10am St Anne, Turton
- 10am Christ Church Walmsley
- 10.30am St. Peter, Belmont

Intercessions for ADVENT SUNDAY

Given by Angie Foster at Christ Church Walmsley at the 9.30 service of Holy Communion

To the Aramaic word - **Maranatha** - "the Lord is coming" we respond: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus**

This week we are focusing on the theme of **FAITH**:

Faith is the confidence in what we can't see; Faith is trusting God is with us Faith is trusting that, in Jesus, God has brought us new life

A Prayer for the first week in Advent: Almighty God, give us the gift of FAITH, to see you in the world you have made, to know you in the uncertainties we face and to grow into a deeper understanding of your gift of grace.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer, watch over our churches we pray. Guide our leaders and keep us close to you. In our Mission Community we pray for the parishes of Belmont and our own Parish of Walmsley. This Advent and Christmas may we discover your presence with us and discern your light in our dark and confusing world.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for the nations of the world and for our global relations, for a greater concern for our planet and the promises made at Cop 27. We pray too for an end to wars, especially in Ukraine and a time for peace. We thank you that we can live in peace and pray for those serving in the Armed Forces at home or abroad who are keeping us safe. May we not take our peace and security or others for granted.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for the leaders of our nation and particularly our new King, Charles. We pray for our councillors and leaders, for the well-being of all and the common good. We thank you for the beauty of our area and for all who look after our land. May God bless those in authority with wisdom and right judgement and may we be led in God's ways.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

We pray for our homes, for families and for those who live on their own. We pray for our schools and we thank you for the educational opportunities we have. We pray for our GP surgeries, pharmacies, hospitals and all the staff who work in the NHS. We thank you for those who give so much to help others, particularly Urban Outreach and Fortalice.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for those in our community and those known personally to us. And we remember those who have died in the faith. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

God of Salvation, wake us up Lord! The night is nearly over.

Let us begin our Advent journey. Move us from our lives of greed and selfishness, from our globalised world of inequality and exploitation, to your kingdom of righteousness and mercy.

To a transformed world, where peace is built on understanding, not weapons, the poor are empowered to live their lives to the full, businesses are built on need, not greed and your Creation is nurtured, not abused.

Wake us up Lord! Let us live as people of the light.

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



Prayer Reflection ~ A Mystical Way of Life

by Angie Foster, Authorised Lay Minister for Worship + Prayer & Spirituality

Having been asked to write the prayers for a recent Family Service, I came across this famous prayer: *Lord, make us instruments of your peace.*

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is discord, union;
Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love; Through the love of thy Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

This prayer, as many of you will know, was written by St. Francis of Assisi and this led me to do a little further research about him: Francis experienced a profound conversion as a young man. When he was on his way to fight in the Papal Army, he was told in a dream to leave his fellow soldiers and return to Assisi where it would be shown to him what he was to do. He listened to the dream and returned home confused and despondent. One day, he met a leper on the road. Something impelled him to dismount his horse and not only place coins in the leper's hand, but to embrace the leper. In so doing, he was filled with indescribable joy. In that instant he knew he had embraced Jesus Christ. He knew then what he was to do with his life: to embrace Jesus in the poor and rejected, in those who had previously repulsed him.

Shortly afterwards, praying before the crucifix in the dilapidated chapel of San Damiano outside Assisi's walls, he heard a voice from the crucifix saying, "Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is falling into ruin." Francis responded immediately, begging stones and rebuilding this little chapel with his own hands. As he was to learn later, it was the Catholic Church itself that he was to restore. How he was to do this he learned while attending mass one day. He heard in the Gospel that the true disciples of Christ should take no gold, or silver, or copper in their belts, no bag for their journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff (Matthew 10:9–10). He was filled with joy and said, "This is what I want; this is what I desire with all my heart." He renounced his patrimony, gave away all his possessions, and began the life of an itinerant preacher who dwelled among the lepers. Others followed, and the Franciscan way of life began.

In all of this it was Jesus whose footsteps he followed. It was Jesus who was his all. He fell in love with Christ in an intimate, almost overwhelming way.

Two years before he died, Francis was given one of the most extraordinary of mystical experiences. He was praying on a mountain in Tuscany in preparation for the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel when suddenly he was caught up in ecstasy and saw above him a sixwinged flaming Seraph angel. Four wings were outstretched and two covered the body of the Crucified Christ. Francis' response to this image was so intense that when he awoke, he bore within his own flesh the Sacred Stigmata, the wounds of the crucified Christ in his feet and hands and side. And they remained all the rest of his life as visible signs of the profound mystical life of St. Francis.

As we approach Christmas time, it is good to remember the simple life of St. Francis and his concern, compassion and love for the poor and needy in his community. There are many opportunities like Christingle, the Toy Service and Christmas on Jesus for example, where we might be able to help those who are struggling and finding life's demands challenging this year.

I hope we all hear the message of love, kindness and generosity that St. Francis demonstrated and can do our bit, however small. **Thank you.** (With acknowledgement to Richard Rohr)





DR. ALLISTER CRANNA RIP

[pictured here with Rev Carol Hayden for his 103rd birthday in August] Dear friends,

I share with you the sad news of the passing of Dr. Allister Cranna, who died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday 5 November at the amazing age of 103 years. I realise that many may already be aware of this and apologise for repetition.

His daughter, Jane Rogers, contacted me by telephone to tell me and we enjoyed a really lovely conversation about her remarkable Dad.

Allister's funeral will take place at Christ Church Walmsley on Monday 5 December at 10:15am (with a committal for family attendance at Overdale at 11.15) and will be conducted by Rev Chris Jamieson, who has known Allister for many years. As a stalwart of Christ Church Walmsley for so many years, we are sharing this important event and hope to have an idea how many are likely to attend. You can contact Dawn Hitchen or e-mail dawn@walmsleyparish.org; thank you.

Allister's son, Chris, has been in touch to say that donations in memory of his father will be to Christ Church Walmsley, where he served faithfully for many decades, including ringing the church bell before the 8am Sunday Service each week until well into his nineties.

Donations may be made via this QR code

May Allister rest in peace and rise in glory. Love and blessings, Dawn H x







REFLECTION FROM A PARISHIONER on DAILY BIBLE READING...

Over the years I've developed the discipline of reading the 'ONE YEAR BIBLE' each and every day. I don't study the readings; i don't make notes; I don't always understand it. I just precede my reading with this simple prayer: "Bless O Lord, these holy words of scripture into my heart and my mind!"

I don't read the Bible in this way in order to 'get into the Word'; I just read it and allow the Word 'to get into me'.

Reading the Bible in this way is an important part if how we come to understand and respond to the Covenant agreement which Christians have made with Almighty God, through the person of Jesus.

Consider these words which the Archbishop of Canterbury said to Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of her Coronation: "Receive this world's most treasured possession ." I'm confident that reading the Bible was part of the Queen's everyday life. Could you spare ten minutes out of every day to make it part of yours?

If you see something that inspires you, or makes you smile, please share it so that it can be included in a future edition of the Walmsley Parish News. Thank you.

Love and blessings ~ Dawn H x

We have wished a fond farewell to Gemma Gardiner, our (former) Hall Manager at Walmsley Parish Community Hall from January 2021, as she leaves us to take on a full-time post with Manchester Diocese. Gemma worked incredibly hard to raise the profile of our wonderful Hall in the heart of our local community – including the installation of a brand new kitchen - and has now handed over the reins to John Clayton, who came to post earlier this month.

John introduces himself to us here:

Having lived just a few hundred yards from the Parish Hall for the best part of 30 years, it's a great thrill and honour for me to be given the opportunity to take over the role of manager of this important community facility. I'm following in the footsteps of Gemma Gardiner who has done a brilliant job and will certainly be a tough act to follow, but I'm ready to give it my best shot and, as T S Eliot once said: "If you aren't in it over your head, how do you know how tall you are?"



My career up to now has been almost entirely in the radio business. I spent 10 years at Piccadilly Radio in Manchester starting out presenting programmes through the night before progressing to become the programme controller to launch Key 103. In the 90's I switched to the BBC, working at BBC Radio Oxford and then back home in the North-West at BBC Radio Lancashire where I was managing editor from the turn of the millennium until 2020. Since leaving the Beeb I have been focusing on my passion for making music; I play guitar in a covers band and have a recording studio at home but, having spent almost all my working life helping build and working with different communities in the North-West, the chance to play a part in our local community here in Egerton and Bromley Cross was one that held enormous appeal and I am really looking forward to getting stuck in over the coming weeks and months.

I'm a born and bred Wiganer, but well into my third decade of living in Bolton. I'm married to Jill and we have three children who have all grown up in Egerton and still live in the area. Our youngest, Katy, is an actor who you may have recently seen in the world premiere of the musical 'The Book Thief' at The Octagon. Katy is also a teacher with regular Parish Hall users Interact, so there's no shortage of customer feedback for me.

There's lots to be done of course. The Parish Hall is a great asset but, like so many buildings of similar vintage, it needs a lot of TLC. Top of the list of my priorities is sorting out the toilet facilities which are not great, closely followed by improving access to the building for people with disabilities or mobility issues. Solutions here are not cheap and that inevitably means more fundraising and grant applications, at a time when all of us are feeling the financial pinch more than ever, but with the support of the whole community I do believe that we can bring these facilities up to standard, and in doing so, hopefully attract even more people to use the hall.

It's early days but I have a good few ideas for events in the coming year which I hope will prove to be a big draw (and raise much-needed funds) but in the meantime if you or anyone you know wishes to book the hall or one of the rooms for an event or function, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

A reminder about the opportunity to get involved to help your local COMMUNITY HALL: We're looking ahead to the toilets refurbishment next. Do you know of any local companies or trades people who might be willing to donate materials or offer their services to keep our costs down? If you have any known contacts who might help, please message our new Hall Manager, John Clayton at parish-hall@walmsleyparish.org We are always looking for volunteers, so if you can help us in any capacity, please do get in touch.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to reach this point. Your support is appreciated.

A thank you from Laura Bagley, Food Team Leader at URBAN OUTREACH:



Harvest 2022 THANK YOU!



Harvest 2022 is our biggest yet!

Together, along with other schools and churches, a huge 21.4 tonnes of food was donated over the harvest period! That is the weight equivalent of around 50 grand pianos! It truly is humbling to see the food come in on such a large scale, especially this year with increased prices hitting everyone. Please pass on our sincere thanks to all involved in your collection. The Urban Outreach Team





Please pass on our thanks to all who contributed to the Harvest collection from Christ Church Walmsley Egerton and St. Andrew's Bromley Cross. We had our most generous harvest yet with **21.4 tonnes** of food donated!! This is the weight equivalent of 50 grand pianos and will feed over 1400 households (about a month's worth of food parcels with current demand). We have attached an image for you to use to share with your church however you wish to do that.

Thank you so much for your involvement and generosity. It really has been an amazing town wide effort to see the food come in at this scale.

Please pass on our thanks to all. Laura Bagley - Food Team Leader

GRUB TUB: 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. 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.

Thank you for reading... Please know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. Stay safe and keep well. Love and blessings from the 'TEAM' at Walmsley Parish.

As always, our heart-felt message to you is one of FAITH, HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. If we can help you in any way, please contact a member of the 'Parish Team'. Stay well – stay safe – Dawn H x

Please share your feedback with us: Which resources do you access? What have you enjoyed and found useful? It would be great to know, please contact us:

Dawn Hitchen: 01204 304142 or dawn@walmsleyparish.org
Nikki Barlow: stanneswithstjames@gmail.com

If you would like to write anything for the Walmsley Parish Newsletter, please give Dawn H a call.