

August, September, October 2020

Egerton United Reformed Church

Blackburn Rd, Egerton, Bolton BL7 9TB

Special Dates:

**TBA by Her Majesty's
Government**

August

September

20th Harvest

October

Elders Meetings tba

Church Meeting

September ? tba

Coffee Morning Dates:

Wouldn't it be nice?

(Beach Boys 1966—Pet Sounds)

Do you have a good news story? (for the next edition)

Share your thoughts and prayers through our newsletter. Call **Sue** for details or tel: 01204 308496 or email

suetoppinguk@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday Worship and Sunday School

10am with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month (if allowed!)

Minister:

Something's coming

Another song?

Church Secretary:

Mrs Roma Hooper

romafay@talktalk.net

Church Treasurer:

Mr Nigel Anderson

Dear Friends

They say that moving house is one of the most stressful things you can ever go through and having just completed our second move in 3 years I can confirm there is some truth in that statement!

Moving during lockdown meant that we have had to bring literally everything with us so now we are in the process of deciding what can come out of one of our many boxes and what needs to stay in those boxes in order to be donated or recycled elsewhere.

It's an interesting exercise because this house is quite a bit smaller than we've been used to so we have to be strict on picking out the most useful items and prioritising the things that mean the most to us. It will take time but it reminds us of what is most important.

In Matthew 6.19 Jesus warns against storing up riches on earth but encourages us to cultivate a mind and heart tuned into heaven prioritising the things of the kingdom of God over the things of the world. I suppose I interpret that to mean that rather than live a life that pleases only me and mine I am called to live a life where love for God and neighbour are the main priorities. It's in those values that I need to be investing if I ever hope to see a similar change in our communities. That goes for our churches too. As we ease out of lockdown and begin to think about when and how we might begin to open up our churches maybe a question to ask is 'what stays in the box?'

Does our church need to get back to exactly what it was doing and how it was being before lockdown or are we learning new priorities, new opportunities, a new understanding of what community means and how we might respond?

There are many lessons to be learned and unlearned from this period and I am challenged to think of how we might build on the displays of generosity and community that we have seen and read about. I am challenged also to think about how we value and celebrate the best of what our society has to offer and how we as church can speak into some of the more damaging aspects of our culture and listen to those who have felt undervalued, ignored even persecuted.

I am privileged to be part of the network of church representatives who make up Bolton Christian Community Cohesion. We meet and pray and work in task groups (all via Zoom of course!) to see how the church in our borough can respond and be a blessing around issues like social isolation and poverty, the environment, supporting asylum seekers and refugees, education, the town centre economy and prayer.

I hope that over the next couple of months I will be able to share more with you about this and how we can all be engaged in simple ways to be an even greater blessing to the place where we live. Thinking of ways perhaps in which we can all be focussed on the primary values of loving God and loving our neighbours.

As we start to look ahead and begin the process of unpacking our churches let's challenge ourselves to think on what is really needed here and what can stay in the box.

May God's Spirit encourage and guide you in your walk with Jesus.

Every blessing

Darren

Hello Everyone, we hope you are all keeping well and healthy

Welcome to the second Newsletter of the Covid 19 Pandemic which will hopefully be the last.

At this moment in time all churches within the Partnership apart from Bank Top have not opened up again for Sunday Services, which goes to show how forward Egerton were in their thinking regarding the Coronavirus and keeping everyone safe.

Thank you for all the support we received when the elders decided that we should stay closed until at least September it was greatly appreciated.

There is still a lot to do to make sure that when we finally open our doors again we have done everything that we possibly can to keep you all as safe as possible.

I ask you to pray for the scientists and all who are working on Covid 19 throughout the world and that a vaccine will soon be found so we can all be protected against this awful virus.

We thank God for our N.H.S. and all who work in the caring professions we are so very lucky to be living in the United Kingdom. When you think of people living in Refugee Camps who do not know where the next meal is coming from and now have to contend with the virus. Wrap your arms around them Lord and let them know they are not forgotten.

As you are all aware we are now in a Partnership of fifteen churches so we have decided to find out a little more about our Partnership Ministers Rev. Ruth Watson and Rev. Jacky Embrey, (who we have yet to meet). We make no apology for sending out Jacky's introductory letter to the church again in case you missed it the first time. I have heard only good reports from those who had previously met Jacky.

Some words from Ruth Watson were written when Ruth became our Partnership Minister at the start of the new Central Area Partnership.

The Partnership Missional Mentor Rev. Darren Holland has produced the front page for us.



Prayer

*How to do nothing
and still think you're helping*

To the Elders, the Pastoral Visiting Team and the many members of the Congregation who have given their time to others during this Pandemic, however small this might be, THANK YOU it is lovely to know just how important we are to each other and to the communities who many from Egerton Church have helped if they have been able to.

The message below is for you all.

To faith communities across the Borough of Bolton As members of the Bolton Faith Leaders' Forum, we want to thank the faith communities across Bolton for the ways in which you have adapted and responded to the Coronavirus pandemic. During the period of lockdown, we had to move to holding our prayers and services online and all of us had to experience significant religious festivals without being able to congregate or meet together face to face. Despite this, faith groups stepped up to the challenge of continuing to meet and worship whilst at the same time working to care for the most vulnerable and needy in our communities. We want to acknowledge the hard work you have done and to thank you for being resilient, faithful and committed to your faith and to serving the community. We are now in a time of transition where some places of worship are able to open for private prayers or public worship; others are choosing, for good reasons, to remain closed for the time being. We want to encourage you to continue in the good work you have been doing in following guidance on social distancing and cleanliness, and to continue to collaborate and support one another as we find ourselves in very different stages of opening our faith community buildings. We all hope and pray that we will not have to go through another lockdown but if that were to happen, we are confident that the goodwill and collaboration demonstrated so far will carry us through whatever we have to face.

May God bless you and the good work you are doing.

Canon Dr Chris Bracegirdle
Chair of Bolton Faith Leaders' Forum

Thank you

To those who have been sending their free will offering each week, thank you, this is much appreciated.

If you wish to still use envelopes, these are still available. Please contact an Elder. Please contact an Elder if you wish to hand you envelopes over, this is essential for us to claim Gift Aid.

A letter of introduction from Rev Jacky Embrey

Dear members of the churches of the Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership,
My name is Jacky Embrey. I am currently Moderator of the Mersey Synod and living in Liverpool with my husband, John. We will shortly be moving to Bolton to join you. John is very happy to be doing this, as he works in Blackburn. Our two sons are now independent and no longer live with us. Iain is teaching in Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, and Chris is married and living in Macclesfield.

John and I spend a lot of our spare time orienteering and walking, so we'll be exploring the green spaces round about the town, after we have moved. We also want to get to know Bolton, which we've been told is one of the largest towns in Europe and one of the friendliest. Salford is much larger than we had realised, so there will be a lot to explore there too.

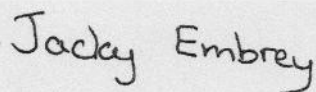
In the (nearly) 18 years since I was ordained, I have worked in three different teams of ministers as well as being in sole pastoral charge. I have ministered in a variety of churches, including ecumenical partnerships and churches from the Congregational, Presbyterian and Churches of Christ traditions. I have also worked as Area minister across thirty very different churches in Birmingham, which is a multicultural city with a huge mix of needs and possibilities.

The churches with which I have worked have varied in size, in worship style and theology, and in outreach, from foodbanks to toddler groups, prayer ministry to café church and beyond. The communities in which the churches were set also varied greatly, with some deprived and others more affluent. In each case it was the people who were important, being church in their own way.

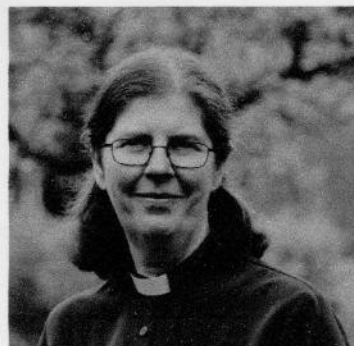
I have been privileged to be involved in the wider councils of the United Reformed Church over a number of years and so have gained a good knowledge of where to find help for local churches in different situations. I certainly don't know all the answers, but I do know a lot of people, who we can ask.

I am looking forward to sharing in ministry with Ruth and Mike and with the churches and the people of the Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership. This is an exciting and a challenging time to be moving, with the lockdown's ongoing impact on us, our churches and our communities as a background. Against this background, we will need to work out together what Missional Partnerships can mean for our church life and our relationships with our communities. I hope that my skills and experience will be useful in doing that.

Shalom,



Revd Jacky Embrey



How to make a loaf. (or not)

1. Think it's a good idea. (March)
2. Buy flour when available during lockdown, in case anyone needs it.
3. Receive loaf from kind neighbour. Very tasty. (April)
4. Decide to try to make a loaf.
5. Remember there is a breadmaker in church.
6. Borrow said breadmaker.
7. Look at the instructions. Main page missing.
8. Search Internet for said page. Success. Download and print.
9. Yeast not available anywhere!!!!!! Problem. (May)
10. Find some fresh yeast. Buy it. (Early June)
11. Read recipe. Need DRIED yeast.
12. Borrow/beg yeast from Jenny. (End of June)
13. Read recipe again carefully.
14. No measure in breadmaker.
15. Order one from the internet plus vacuum bags that I don't really need yet but saves on postage.
16. Following day find out measure is out of stock for at least a month.
17. Ring helpline. After an hour get through and get sent measures equivalent sent by email.
18. Vacuum bags arrive. No measure of course.
19. Wednesday after Zoom, weigh all ingredients carefully. 245pm
20. Add to breadmaker and press start. 4 and half hours baking time. Wrong flour grain not plain.
21. Everything seems okay but noisy when mixing. (of course Ian is on the phone and can't hear over the noise)
22. Sun shining, so go out into the garden.
23. Come in to start tea.
24. Switch oven on—nothing - power off.
25. Reconnect power—has the breadmaker blown a fuse?
26. Look at bread, proving nicely.
27. Try to reset breadmaker—won't reset. What to do?
28. Cook tea and eat it.
29. Think about dough problem.
30. Decide to bake it in the oven.
31. Take dough out of breadmaker. VERY sticky
32. Add loads of flour to make it less sticky.
33. Fingers crossed it will be okay.
34. Find loaf tin and grease it.
35. Shape dough and set to prove.
36. Have to put heating on to have heat to prove bread!
37. Bread grows slowly but is eventually ready.
38. Bake in oven. Fingers crossed.
39. Take out and cool.
40. Eat with lemon curd. Delicious and the bread. 10.30pm.
41. Make the decision to rely on Warburtons, the professionals in future!!!!!!!
42. Large Scotch.



Flower Rota

SEPTEMBER

6th Tricia
13th Doreen
20th Joan
27th Lyndsey



OCTOBER

4th Roma
11th Glenys
18th Doreen
25th Barbara

Tea Rota

SEPTEMBER

6th Liz Jolly
13th Kath Boothman
20th Glenys Collinson
27th Joan Hall




OCTOBER

4th Sue Swannell
11th Rachel Cronshaw
18th Catherine Wardby
25th Tricia Topp

If you are unable to manage any of the above dates please arrange to swap with someone else on the rota.

Thanks

Fruit & Vegetable Word Search

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HARVEST QUIZ

1. Crop Over is the traditional harvest festival in which Caribbean country?
2. Churches traditionally marked the start of harvest at Lammas. But what did the ‘
‘Lam’ of ‘Lammas’ originally refer to?
3. What is the UK’s most grown crop?
4. In 2001, tennis balls used at Wimbledon began being recycled as homes for which
endangered creature?
5. How many Pumpkin Spiced Lattés did Starbucks sell in the drink’s first decade?
6. ‘For whatever a man sows this he will also reap’ – name the book of the Bible.
7. Which painter’s work includes ‘Potato Harvest’ (1884) and ‘The Sower’ (1888).
8. What percentage of global greenhouse gases comes from agriculture?
9. Which BBC radio drama has an agricultural story editor?
10. Name the baked food eaten during China’s Mid-Autumn Festival.

From Christian Aid Harvest Quiz.

Watch out for answers on the blog in September.

Preachers and Readings

August - (Sorry not to be open. Thank you for your patience.)

2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Rachel Cronshaw	Darren Holland	Ian Hoddleston	Barry Bradshaw	Parables
Matthew 14: 13-21	Matthew 14: 22-33	Matthew 15: 10-28	Matthew 16: 13-20	Matthew 16: 21-28

September

6th	13th	20th HARVEST	27th	
Pat Rea	Adrian Yapp	David Schofield	Parables	
Matthew 18: 15-20	Matthew 18: 21-25	Matthew 20: 1-16	Matthew 21: 23– 32	

October

4th	11th	18th	25th	
Wendy Smith	Neil Carter	t.b.a.	t.b.a.	
Matthew 21: 33-46	Matthew 22: 1-14	Matthew 22: 15-22	Matthew 22: 34– 46	

Some Words from Ruth Watson, our Partnership Minister

Welcome from your Partnership Minister! Hopefully this will be the first of many opportunities for me to share some thoughts with all of the churches in the Bolton and Salford Missional Partnership as we journey together to move forward in our mission to our local communities. As many of you will not know me particularly well, I hope you don't mind that I've included a "potted history" for you before some comments about my hopes for the future. If I were to list my past as a label of ingredients on a jar, the contents would be as varied as many foodstuffs we enjoy and there would be some items that everyone would love and other things to which people are allergic! I have moved several times, been involved in various denominations, have spent half of my life in education either learning or teaching – in fact there is a standing joke in my family that I have more letters after my name than in it! I am a wife and a mother and a minister and a chaplain and a tutor and a teacher and.... and....me. So what do I think of the Partnership? Two words spring to mind – Challenging and Exciting. Challenging because it is new and nobody quite knows how it is going to work out. Exciting because it is new and nobody quite knows how it is going to work out!

we can work together as churches to maintain our identify within the communities we know; to make our presence known in the places we serve; then we can help each other to spread the message of the Gospel to those around us, so they can know God too. Our responsibility is to help each other to play to our strengths and support each other in our weaknesses. Our role is to find creative ways to share the Gospel with the resources we have and it is down to each and every one of us to do this. I am passionate about spreading the gospel to those who have not yet heard it – particularly in schools with young people – I'm never happier than when I'm in the classroom, or in church supporting and sharing in Bible study, or being creative in worship. Why don't you join me on this journey as we discover the new together? Every blessing. **Rev.Ruth**

Published at the start of the new partnership.

What's been going on

The elders are busy with risk assessments to make sure the church is Covid secure in order to consider reopening. The Sunday school teachers have finished for the summer and are having a well deserved rest. Everyone is keeping in touch still, some are venturing outside the house for the first time in months. Sue is busy making masks (please call her if you would like one). All the helpers as usual are working to keep the church and grounds ship shape. All the people mentioned in Covid 1continue to beaver away. As we always say Egerton is a good team especially in a crisis and they do not come any bigger than the present one.

The Future

The elders met this Monday afternoon to discuss the final draught of the risk assessment. We have a list of things, which I shall send out shortly, that we would like you to adhere to. Remember that everything we will ask is for your safety or specified by the risk assessment, which is sent by the Synod. We look forward to seeing everyone soon. **Roma.**