

Welcome to Richard and Lisa!

Richard Moore and his partner Lisa are celebrating their first six months as landlords of The Victoria Walshaw. They are getting married in May 2018 and, with a child on the way, they are putting their roots down in Walshaw. The couple are members of Bury Parish Church where Richard is a youth leader. They both enjoy being involved in church community activities. Lisa supports Seedfield Methodist Church's annual pantomime, assisting with choreography.

Richard's early working life was spent in hotels, starting at the bottom by washing the dishes. Aged 22, he changed direction and joined Marks & Spencer and it was work as a section manager and then store manager which brought him to Bury in 2010. Richard readily identified the changes in M&S's fortunes as clothing sales dropped whilst the food department thrived. He was lured away to spend two years with Aldi where he managed stores in Bury, Rochdale and finally Bolton before taking the plunge and coming to the Victoria. Whilst it is presently owned by *ei publican partnerships*, it is the couple's ambition eventually to be able to buy the Victoria outright.



For the present, Richard and Lisa are now busy implementing a strategy to upgrade facilities which will be completed in January 2018 when the Victoria will close for two weeks to allow a wholesale refurbishment. All this is planned before the couple pop back to Richard's native Northern Ireland to marry in Londonderry Cathedral next May.

Richard and Lisa are clear about their vision. "We want The Victoria Walshaw to be a community pub at the heart of the village, working alongside Christ Church and Christ Church Primary School and with local business and residents. So far we have moved these relationships forward, holding book clubs, craft clubs and providing a venue for Christ Church Primary School's PTA to meet. We look to developing these relationships."

The partnership with Christ Church has already been forged. On 1 December, vocalists from the church will be singing carols at the Victoria's great Christmas Tree Switch-on. The Baby & Toddler Group will be decorating one of the Victoria's Christmas trees for the season. Lisa and Richard are providing refreshments – including mince pies and mulled wine – at Christ Church's Community Carol Service on 17 December. In the New Year, the Victoria will host a Bible Study course on Saturday mornings during Lent in the lead-up to Easter.

Welcome additions to the community in Walshaw, Lisa and Richard are clear-sighted about their objectives and the role they wish to see the Victoria fulfil. We wish them every happiness and success!

