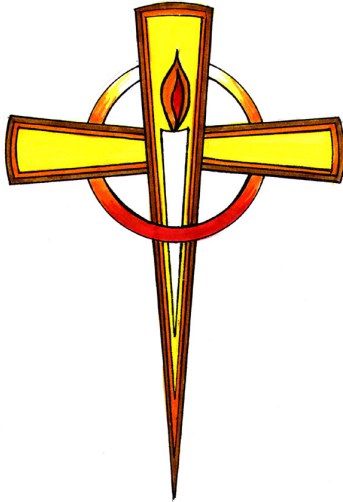


Christ Church
Walmersley



Magazine

Spreading the Word

April 2010

Thought for the month

A few days ago, Alan and I returned from a holiday in Malta. We had a wonderful break, a good hotel, enjoyable sightseeing and lots of superb food. Needless to say after four days of sunshine the weather changed and we encountered winds, rain and storms which brought the sea lashing onto the promenade. It was rather like Blackpool in November.

I now know how Saint Paul came to be shipwrecked on the island of Malta. A tiny ship of the type found in the first century would have had no chance against such gales.



I should have expected it. We have been on holiday in Sorrento, the south of France, the Italian lakes and have found the heavens opening. And we must be one of the few families to encounter thunder and lightning in Egypt. Inclement weather is a feature of most of our holidays and we expect it and are prepared for it.

I wonder if the disciples and followers of Jesus were expecting the events of the first Easter time and were they prepared for them.

They had set off with Jesus to Jerusalem even though they must have known, and Jesus certainly did, of the plots against him and the likelihood of conflict with the Roman leadership.



They could hardly have imagined the events of that week. They certainly would not have been expecting the joyful ride into Jerusalem. They would not have anticipated the rapturous welcome by the crowds.

For the disciples expecting a traditional Passover meal there must have been considerable surprise when Jesus took the role of servant and washed their feet. And even greater consternation when Jesus told them that he would be betrayed by one of them. Had they any idea of who it would be?

And then there was the great shock of the arrest of Jesus, his trial, his sentencing and his crucifixion. They certainly were not expecting that. They became frightened. What a change from the joy of the ride into Jerusalem only six days earlier.

And the greatest surprise was yet to come. Mary Magdalen and the women visited the tomb on the day after the Sabbath with spices and perfume to prepare the body and found the tomb empty.

The first reaction was that someone had removed the body – the thought of Jesus having risen from the dead did not enter their minds. And as Mary stood in the garden weeping she saw a man she believed to be the gardener and asked where they had taken Jesus. It was when he spoke to her that she recognised the voice of Jesus.

Mary would never have been expecting to meet the risen Christ - she would not have been prepared for it. But what joy she must have known.

Are we prepared for an encounter with the risen Christ this Easter time?

May the joy of Easter be with us all

Yours in Christ,



SERVICES AND READINGS FOR APRIL



- April 1st **Maundy Thursday**
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1- 17,31b-35
- April 2nd **Good Friday**
10.00 a.m. Reflective Service
- April 4th **Easter Day**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20: 1-18
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26; John 20: 1-18
- April 11th **Second Sunday of Easter**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Acts 5: 27-32; John 20: 19-31
10.30 a.m. Family Service
Acts 5: 27-32; John 20: 19-31
- April 18th **Third Sunday of Easter**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19
- April 25th **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Acts 9: 36-43; John 10:22-30
10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (CW)
Acts 9: 36-43; John 10:22-30

ARE YOU ON DUTY?

If you are unavailable, please arrange to exchange with someone else.

READINGS

April 4 th	David Peters
April 11 th	Alison Fewtrell
April 18 th	Ian Riddick
April 25 th	Bill Noble

INTERCESSIONS

Bob Taylor
Alan Spencer
Joe McDermott
Margaret Schofield

SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

April 4 th	Roy Warburton	Shelagh Beetson	Sybil Fryer
April 11 th	Bill Noble	Bob Taylor	David Thew
April 18 th	Geoff Hamilton	Ian Riddick	Chris Standing
April 25 th	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters

LAY ASSISTANTS

April 1 st	Margery Spencer	
April 4 th	Barbara Silvester	Tricia Stokes
April 18 th	Jennifer Wood	Gill Pilkington

FLOWERS

April 4 th	Congregation
April 11 th	In memory of Susan Melling and Jack Illesley
April 18 th	Mr & Mrs A Spencer
Apr 25 th	In memory of the Leake and Rushworth families



Church Registers



Marriage

Antony Mariani and Clare Postlethwaite

March 13

Please pray for all, adults and young people, who are preparing for Confirmation at this time.

Emma Holt. Lauren Keyworth. Denise Ramsden.
Alison Standing. Christine Storey.

Jake Greaves. Katie Jones. Erin Storey.
Ben Thornton. Leah Walker.

The confirmation will take place at St. John with St. Mark
on Sunday May 2nd at 6.30 p.m.

We hope that members of the congregation will support
the confirmation candidates at this service.



Thank You

I never imagined that breaking my leg could bring me happiness. All the cards, the calls, the messages and, above all, your prayers have been wonderfully uplifting. Thank you and God bless you all, our Christian family.

Sybil Fryer

Liya - It was amazing I really enjoyed looking at the photographs of the wedding in 'Remember Me'

Daniel D. - I enjoyed the bit in the Garden of Gethsemane

Naomi - I loved everything but most of all holding the ribbons and praying.

Daniel R. - Hopes and Dreams and the Supper were the best.

Elliot - I liked sharing out the Bread.

Connor - I learned that the body of Jesus was buried in a tomb. It was brilliant and the bread was yummy.

Ellie - I enjoyed writing my Hopes and Dreams on the stones and the music.



Georgia - It felt really peaceful

Grace - I liked doing the modelling in the Garden and the displays. It was very interesting.

Emily - The display round the donkey was my favourite.

Sam - I liked the whole Experience



Lemmie - I learned the donkey was called Eli and it was brilliant because we could eat some bread. I think they all deserved a big thank you.



Sentinee - The bit I liked best was when we were given some clay and had to make something about 'Alone'

Just a few comments from the children of Springside School.

See next month's magazine for full report and photographs.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday, 27 April at 7.30 p.m. in the Hall. Officers and members of the Parochial Church Council will be elected; the church accounts will be presented together with reports from the various organisations.

The coming months will bring changes as the new parish of Walmersley Road is formed. It is vital that we, and all at St John with St Mark's Church, give careful consideration to the future mission of the church in our enlarged community.

Your voice matters! Your prayers are essential!

This is an important opportunity to make your contribution to the organisation of the church. Please try to attend.

Come and Sing!

Messiah - Handel

(Selected choruses and arias)

Bury Parish Church

Good Friday – April 2nd at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets for singers and audience £5



www.buryparishchurch.com
for further details



Our Annual General Meeting proved to be positive and productive. We expressed gratitude to all who continue in office, and thanked Pat Mongey and Shelagh Beetson who have served as secretaries. We are pleased that Kathryn Bailey has taken on this responsibility.

Our branch is flourishing and we are in a strong position both in terms of membership and finance. We had a very busy 2009, contributing a substantial amount to the MU charities and are now able to give more from our reserves.

Margery Spencer led our meeting on March 18th – An Evening Wasted with Margery Spencer! Of course it was anything but wasted as we were led on a personal journey looking at turning points in her life and then at the turning points in Christ's life beginning with His baptism.

We considered His first miracle, the gathering of the disciples, the journey into Jerusalem and the subsequent events that would never have taken place without the entry into that city. Next, we contemplated the effect on the disciples at



Pentecost, the road to Damascus with Saul's conversion and the change that occurred in the life of the Samaritan woman at the well.

Margery asked us to think about turning points in our lives and how unexpected they can be. The challenge for us is to be open to the path that God has for us and to be prepared for whatever he has in store for us, however unlikely.

A number of our members were in the Choir for the Lady Day Service in Manchester Cathedral which was particularly memorable for me as I was formally commissioned as a General Trustee. I feel very privileged to be part of the organisation at this level as well as excited at the prospect. I shall be attending a course at Mary Sumner House to prepare myself more fully!

The Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempell, attended the Church Hall as part of her Archdeaconry visit and a very pleasant afternoon was spent chatting to members from many different branches. More information and photographs next month!

This month we are looking forward to

April 7th Poetry Evening with sherry and shortcake

April 21st Alison Fewtrell - "Every picture tells a story"

Art and Flowers with anecdotes.

We are planning a Recruitment Event soon. Watch this space!!!

Catherine Hilton, Branch Leader

Flowers in Church

Unfortunately due to the accident and illness of two of our team of flower arrangers we need help over the next few months. Would you be willing to come perhaps once or twice a month on Thursday or Friday afternoon for about two hours? You would be working with an experienced flower arranger and you could either do the actual arranging or tidy up the previous week's flowers.

One of the other flower arrangers is expecting to go into hospital in the early summer and will be out of action for several weeks. So you can see we are desperate for help. If you are willing to try it out and you then decide you would like to join the team, tuition will be given if needed and we would be delighted to welcome you.

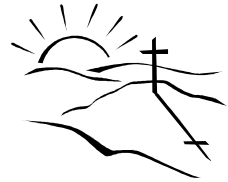
Please speak to Betty Winterbottom or Alison Fewtrell if you can help us in this emergency.



Prayer Mat

Week One

Dear Lord, how you suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane and then on Good Friday the ultimate suffering when you were on the Cross dying for our sins. The world went dark, but alleluia on the third day you rose again, a triumph over sin.



Rejoice, rejoice, let the world rejoice
Let us sing out with a loud voice
That you have arisen from the grave
For us sinners who you came to save
So, Lord, let the world rejoice

Praise, praise, let your name be praised

For from the dead you have been raised
So that we could begin life anew
And be free to be always praising you
So, Lord, let your name be praised Amen.

Week Two

Father, as our church year begins, please may we begin again also. As you rose from the darkness into light to forgive our sins, so may we come into your light and your presence and your forgiveness. Let us be refreshed in you. We know that you never turn away from us, that you are always there to listen again and again. Thank you, thank you, Lord.

Week Three

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

The LORD Almighty is with us,
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Come and see the works of the LORD,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
he burns the shields with fire.

“Be still and know that I am God,
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

The LORD Almighty is with us
The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Week Four

As we celebrate St. Mark's Day and at the end of the week St. Philip and St. James, we remember your apostles, Lord, and thank you for the example they set us. We thank you for their faith, their obedience, their love for you, their bravery and their trust. May we exhibit all these qualities for you, Lord. We thank you that they proclaimed your holy name fearlessly and ask that we may do so without fear or embarrassment. O Lord, may we learn by their example. Amen.

* * * * *

First Thursday Prayers



April 1st will be the next meeting of First Thursday Prayers. It is Maundy Thursday and the events of the Thursday before Good Friday will be at the forefront of the prayers. Meet in the lower room of the church hall at 2.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

For more information please speak to Rev. Don Altham

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Visit to Kenya

If you missed Barbara Taylor's talk about her visit last year to Kenya, you will be most welcome at St John with St Mark's Open Group on Wednesday, 14 April at 7.30 p.m.



Jottings

This prayer of thanksgiving I found in "Praying for the dawn," a Wild Goose publication from the Iona community.

How beautiful is the blossom

How beautiful is the blossom
spilling from the tree,
the hidden primrose
and the bluebell
ringing out the news.

**He is risen
He is alive
we shall live
for evermore.**

The dark winter is past,
the slow, cold, foggy days are over.
May the warmth of your resurrection
touch our hearts and minds
as the warmth of the sun
blesses our bodies.

I pray that we will all experience the warmth of the resurrection touching our hearts and minds this Easter.

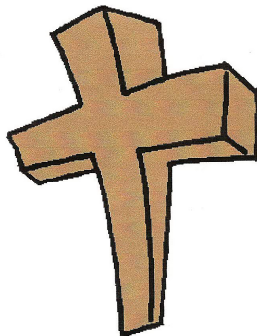
If you have a contribution for **Jottings** please contact Jean Slater



Easter Word Search

B M A L M H B B K I N G R N R
N O I T C E R R U S E R E O O
A P O S T L E S E Y S C D I O
S E C I F I R C A S H J E T S
N S N A M O R O O R R E M A T
R C D S G T T R I I K S P V E
O Y R A M B C S S V Z U T L R
H L O V E L T E M M A S I A Y
T C R O W N N Y L O H S O S Z
X C R U C I F I X I O N N K Q

APOSTLES
CHRIST
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
HOLY
JESUS
KING
LAMB
LOVE



MARY
REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION
RISEN
ROMANS
ROOSTER
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
SAVIOR
THORNS

Happy Easter (remember it's not just about eggs)

We hold close to our hearts
The cross where Jesus died
But so much more than the blood stained cross
Is that Jesus came back to life

The stone's been rolled away
The tomb lay open and bare
They looked for Him, and then the angel said
That He is no longer here

Oh what joy they must have felt
To see Him once more
To eat with Him, to drink with Him
To receive Him back as Lord.

So much did He accomplish
Through His death on the cross
And in His raising from the dead
He reconciled us back to God

Nothing else could bridge the gap
That sin had wrenched apart
Now we can freely go to God
And receive Christ in our hearts.



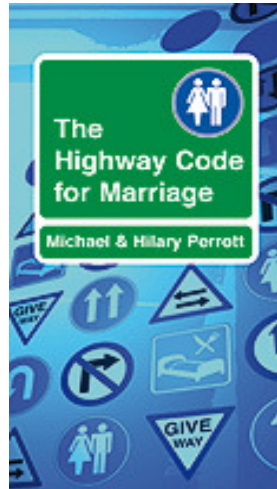


Book Review.

The Highway Code for Marriage

Having bought this book recently to give to our granddaughter who was married on March 13th, I would like to recommend it to anyone who is about to be married, thinking about getting married, or wanting to make your marriage even better, as it is packed full of sound advice and practical wisdom. It gives clear directions for building a loving, healthy and lasting marriage.

If you have a Christian book that you would like to be included in *Book Review* please send details to Jean Slater



Bolton Archdeaconry Quiet Morning

at St Margaret's Prestwich
on Saturday, 8th May, 9.30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Chaplain for Bolton Hospice, Mark Brackley, will be leading the morning. After an opening act of worship he will speak about "Jesus the Healer" and then there will be time to reflect and meditate on his words.

For further details contact Jean Slater.

Have you noticed?

- The back room in the church hall has been decorated
- The outside lighting has been professionally updated
- The wall in the bottom room has been re - plastered ready for decorating
- The outside wall of the bottom room has been re - pointed

To help fund all of this there will be an

"Open House"

at 5 Thames Close
on
Thursday May 20th

Lunch

12 -2.00.p.m.

Soup, sandwiches and sweet
with coffee or tea
£5.00

Evening meal

6.00 - 8.00 p.m

Lancashire Hotpot, Peas and Pickles
Sweet
With tea or coffee and wine
£7.00

Tickets available from Alan or Margery Spencer

How much do you know about Christ Church?



When was the first church built in Walmersley?

What was it called?

When was the current church built?

What did it cost?

In whose memory was the lych gate built?

When was the tower added to the church?

Why was the churchyard amended in 1915?

When was electricity installed?

Where is the aumbrey?

What did the bird bath near the vestry use to be?

What is depicted on the reredos behind the altar?

What form does the lectern have?

What scene is depicted at the centre of the window in the lady chapel ?

.....

What is the font made of?

There are no prizes but the answers will be given next month.

Quiz Night

The Tennis Club Quiz Night held on the 27th February was once again a very enjoyable occasion with forty one contestants demonstrating their mastery, or otherwise, general knowledge trivia. It would be a wild exaggeration to say that it was cut-throat competition as various teams in turn descended into helpless laughter at their own wild guesses at the right answer. In fact, at one point the Question Master declared that he would do something spectacular "in Woolworth's window" if anyone got the right answer to one of the rare difficult questions – much to his dismay at least three teams did know the right answer, fortunately Woolworths is now closed thus saving him considerable embarrassment!



However that may be at the end of the evening the team of Margaret and Bob Gerrard and their friends Cathleen and Les Russell received their highly prized certificates recognising them as Brains of Walmersley 2010. Added to the universal enjoyment of what many of present said was one of the best quizzes ever was the bonus of raising £130 for church funds.

There was one final treat to come which, unfortunately, was only seen by the few who had lingered on after most had gone home to watch Match of the Day, David Harrison and Margaret Lord (Harrison) got up on stage to perform songs from the Walmersley Scout and Cub gang shows of the distant past – together with the accompanying actions! With any luck we will try to persuade them to enlist some other old troupers from that era and put on a half time cabaret at the next quiz which is due in early June. Definitely not to be missed.

Stan Parkinson

What's on in Walmersley

April

- Thu 1 First Thursday Prayers
- Wed 7 Mothers' Union: Poetry evening
with sherry and shortcake
- Thu 8 Churches Together AGM
St John's Hall, 8.15 p.m.
- Wed 14 Open Group: at St John w St Mark
- Wed 21 Mothers' Union: Alison Fewtrell
"Every Picture tells a story"
- Sun 25 Mothers' Union: Commissioning of Bury Deanery
Leaders at All Saints' Church, 3 p.m.
- Tue 27 Annual Parochial Church Meeting

FUTURE DATES

- May 2 Confirmation 6.30 p.m. St. John with St. Mark
- May 5 Archdeacon's Visitation
- May 20 Open House: 5 Thames Close
- May 26 Evening of Celebration
hosted by Mothers' Union in the Bridgewater Hall

*On Mothering Sunday
over 100 bunches of flowers
were distributed in church.*



*Members of Teatimers
receiving theirs on Tuesday.*