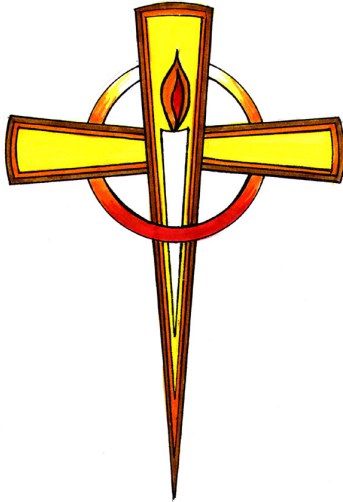


Christ Church
Walmersley



Magazine

Spreading the Word

March 2010

Thought for the month

I saw my first spring lamb yesterday (Sunday Feb 6th). Nigel and I were on our way to Scargill, for a service of welcome and licensing of the new Director of Scargill House, the Rev'd Phil Stone. We have been going up there as volunteer caretakers on a regular basis and had seen the "multicoloured" sheep which we nicknamed "Joseph Sheep" and only on Friday had I wondered when the lambs would be born.

Some of you might have been to Scargill in the past for a week-end with church or to one of the many courses there. For those of you who have never heard of the place, it is a Christian community (within the C of E) near Kettlewell in Wharfedale, North Yorkshire.

It started just over 50 years ago, and for me a very special and spiritual place that has had a deep influence in my Christian journey. However about 2 years or so ago it got into a financial mess and had to close. We only found that out in October when we read that it was to re-open with a new Team in charge (our Bishop Chris is the chair of the Scargill Movement council).

To me it is a real story of resurrection. The old was well and truly dead, the new is growing in life.

As Christians we are into resurrection and at Easter we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, but what does this mean?

For many it is a complete mystery, especially for children. For others it equates to chocolate egg time, and who could blame them if they have been fasting through Lent? And isn't it amazing how many people still give something up for Lent, Christians and non-Christians alike?

For Christians, Lent is a time of preparation. Nothing happens without sound preparation. The sheep have to be prepared for lambing and brought down from the fells. Scargill will not be able to re- open without substantial preparation, planning, re- building, financial, etc.

We will not be ready for Easter without the preparation of Lent. So what are we doing to prepare? Simply giving something up; increasing our own private devotions; maybe attending a Lent course; no doubt, some will be taking part in the Mothers' Union "Count your Blessings" - or something completely different? Whatever it is, I hope that it will lead you to celebrate and appreciate what Easter is about even more this year than last year. We have a living and growing faith which needs continual nurture.

This year to help children learn more about the Easter story we are opening church for schools to come in and "Experience Easter" through a series of interactive reflective areas from Palm Sunday through to the resurrection of Jesus. You might be wondering "Why should children get all the fun?" but don't worry, adults and children can come along on the morning of Saturday 27th March to "Experience Easter" for yourself. (More details elsewhere in this magazine and on the web site.)

All this reminds me of my Scouting and Guiding motto –
BE PREPARED.

My prayer is that we all will be.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Scargill', written in a cursive style.

SERVICES AND READINGS FOR MARCH



- March 7th **Third Sunday of Lent**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13: 1-9
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13: 1-9
- March 14th **Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
2 Corinthians 5: 16-21; Luke 15: 1-3,11b-32
- 10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service
Luke 2: 41- 50
- March 21st **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8
- March 28th **Palm Sunday**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Psalm 118 1-2,19-29; Luke 19: 28-40
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (CW)
Psalm 118 1-2,19-29; Luke 19: 28-40
- 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

ARE YOU ON DUTY?

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

READINGS

Mar 7 th	Shelagh Beetson
Mar 14 th	Tessa and Leah Walker
Mar 21 st	Bill Noble
Mar 28 th	Ian Riddick

INTERCESSIONS

Barbara Taylor
Patricia Stokes
Joe McDermott
Margaret Schofield

SIDEMEN / WOMEN ROTA

Mar 7 th	Bill Noble	Bob Taylor	David Thew
Mar 14 th	Geoff Hamilton	Ian Riddick	Chris Standring
Mar 21 st	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters
Mar 28 th	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Alan Spencer

LAY ASSISTANTS

Mar 7 th	Cath Hilton	Nigel Silvester
Mar 21 st	Margery Spencer	Jean Slater
Apr 1 st	Margery Spencer	



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

Experience Easter

Most people know the Christmas story but what about Easter?

How much do you know about the events which took place during the last week of Jesus life on earth?

Here is an opportunity to learn, experience and reflect on all that happened. You are invited to come and experience these events through a tour of interactive reflective areas specially set up in our church.

Some children from our local schools will visit this experience earlier in the week and then it's your turn. Church will be open on:-

Saturday 27th March.

Tours start at 9.30 a.m and take about one hour with the last tour starting at 11.30 a.m.

Each tour can only take 6 people at a time every 10 minutes, but if you have to wait you will be able to have a quiet drink of coffee or tea to pass the time.



Church accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009

The accounts for last year have been prepared and are currently with our independent examiner for checking. The figures confirm that it was a tough year for church finances. Unrestricted income for the year totals £64,911 against expenditure of £71,455 – a loss of £6,544 which had to be met from our reserves. Shortage of funds led to a failure to pay, in full, our Parish Share to the Diocese – we were £5,000 short of the amount asked for.

Whilst income levels from most sources remained fairly steady our payments rose by almost £10,000 over the previous year – mainly due to the £19,000 we have had to spend on our buildings. A lot of money is required to maintain our buildings; some years more than others, as essential work arises.

The PCC – and every church member – will need to reflect on our financial situation and decisions will have to be made to address the ongoing problem of raising enough funds to keep Christ Church, Walmersley, in business. Clearly we cannot keep overspending like last year – our reserve funds will soon disappear!

Giving is at the heart of our income, so let each of us have a heart for giving – heeding the words of Jesus and other Biblical teaching. We must do so if we are to maintain the witness of Jesus in our community.

Thank you for the financial support you have given over the last year. Please prayerfully consider the challenges which face us. Copies of the accounts will be available in church at the end of the month and, as usual, a full report will be given at our church annual meeting in April.

Nigel Silvester – Church Treasurer

Because this week is Holy Week

- a family activity



Palm Sunday *Place 6 candles and a palm cross on the table*

Today we remember how all the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by waving palm branches. Mark 11:1-11

Monday *Place 5 candles and a copy of the Lord's Prayer on the table.*

Today we remember that Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple. "My house shall be called a place of prayer," he told them. Mark 11: 15-19

Tuesday *Place 4 candles and a bottle of perfume on the table.*

Today we remember the woman from Bethany who anointed Jesus' head, who recognised that he was the King of Kings and would soon die. Mark 14: 3-9

Wednesday *Place 3 candles and a purse of money on the table.*

Today we remember that Jesus was betrayed for money, and that Jesus wants us to give what we can to help those in the world who are poor. Mark 14: 10-11

Thursday *Place 2 candles and a bowl of water and a towel on the table.*

Today we remember the last Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Mark 14: 22-26, John 13: 2-5, 12-15

Good Friday *Place 1 red candle on the table with a wooden cross.*

This is the day that Jesus died for us. Mark 15: 21-39

Saturday *Make an Easter garden or place spring flowers on the table.*

This is the day we remember Jesus was placed in the tomb. Mark 15: 42-47

Easter Sunday **Christ is Risen. Alleluia!**

John 20: 11-18

March 2010

We have had a very strange start to the year and I feel rather cut off having had to cancel so many of our meetings this year.

It was a difficult decision to postpone the AGM but there was no alternative. There is a great deal to discuss so we have rearranged the meeting for March 3rd.

Lent is already upon us and this month (17th) we will enjoy "An Evening wasted with Margery Spencer"! As we all know, any time spent with Margery is never wasted! I will update you next month on the content of the evening.

March 27th is Spring Council so there will be much to say about that together with the visit of Rosemary Kempself, the Worldwide President.

Rosemary will preach in the Cathedral on Lady Day where Bishop Nigel will reaffirm Barbara as our President, whilst I shall be among those commissioned to the role of trustee. Please come and hear Rosemary and give us your support.

Dates for your diary:

March 25 th	Service for Lady Day, Manchester Cathedral 7.30 p.m.
April 7 th	Poetry Evening with sherry and shortcake
April 21 st	Alison Fewtrell giving us an insight into her art work

Cath Hilton
Branch Leader

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a Christian festival celebrated throughout Europe.

A religious festival celebrating motherhood has been in existence in Europe since neolithic times. In the Roman religion the festival was in honour of the mother goddess Cybele and it took place during mid-March. As the Roman Empire and Europe converted to Christianity, Mothering Sunday celebrations became part of the liturgical calendar as Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent to honour the Virgin Mary and the "mother church".

During the sixteenth century, people returned to their mother church for a service to be held on Laetare Sunday. This was either a large local church, or more often the nearest Cathedral.

In Victorian times it was the day on which young girls in service were allowed to go home to visit their parents. In some churches the congregation formed a ring round the church, holding hands. That would be novel!

How will you treat your mother or remember her on March 14th?

Please consider the ethical gifts available through the Mothers' Union. Details are available in church and proceeds will support the work of Mothers' Union in some of the poorest regions of the world.



Make a mother's day

Prayer Mat

Week One

Heavenly Father, we pray for our troops in Afghanistan. May they stay safe. Bless all the families who mourn the fallen soldiers and also those who are injured or traumatised. Bless also the Afghan troops. May they learn to lead their country in safety and may there be peace at last in that country and freedom from terror for all the population. O Lord, let there be an end to wars everywhere. May we all learn to live in peace and harmony with one another. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.



Week Two

Lord, we pray for the people of Haiti. Bless them as they learn to survive in the most atrocious circumstances. May the world lend their support in more than just money. May the money that is given be spent totally for the aid of the people as they rebuild the infrastructure of the country again. Bless all who mourn and those who are still suffering the effects of injuries. Lord, the people of Haiti are our neighbours and you love them. Let us not forget that we are as one people and give them all the help we can. Amen.

Week Three



Father, on this week of Mothering Sunday, we thank you for the privilege of motherhood, for the gift of children who are so precious. Help mothers everywhere to love their children unconditionally and totally and wisely. May mothers be always there for their children to guide and nurture.

Father, our children are your children, help us not to forget that. May we bring our children up to know you and your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. May your Holy Spirit empower us to always do our best for our children. Amen.

Week Four

This week sees the anniversary of the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Holy Father, Mary was the perfect mother. Her obedience to you was total even though for an unmarried mother it must have been very hard for her in her community. Thank you that Joseph also was obedient to you in taking Mary to be his wife. They then formed the perfect family with the arrival of Jesus. Help our families to be like them, totally loving and obedient to you in every way. Thank you, Father, for their example to us. Amen.

Bible readings and Intercessions

At the ten thirty service each Sunday the lessons from the Bible and intercessions are led by members of the congregation. We believe this is an important feature of our worship. If you feel that you are able to participate in either of these roles we would be delighted to hear from you. Resources for prayers are available and help can be provided if necessary.

Cumbria Flood Appeal

Our church Christmas charity appeal was for the Cumbria Flood Relief. As a result of your generosity we were able to send a total of £160 to Christ Church in Cockermouth as a donation towards the work that they, and other churches in the area, were doing to help those whose lives had been devastated by the flooding.

We have received a letter of thanks from the Team Rector there, Revd Wendy Sanders, and here are just a few extracts from her letter –

'a great surge of water raced down Cockermouth Main Street, completely destroying every shop in its path and damaging over 850 properties'

'devastation wrought on people's lives.....despair at what we were seeing and then tears as we cried with many people for whom the trauma was just too much to bear'

*'community spirit is tremendous...people helping one another'
'Christ Church has become a Drop In Centre where people can come for help and advice from a variety of organisations.'*

'we are currently making about a thousand sandwiches a day! Along with lots of soup, baked potatoes and bacon butties!!'

'we have set up a Foodbank....bags of food are being distributed'

Thank you for the donations you made – it clearly went to very good use!

Nigel Silvester – on behalf of the PCC

First Thursday Prayers



March 4th will be the next meeting of First Thursday Prayers.

We apologise that the meetings for January and February had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

The first week in March is “**Global Poverty Prayer Week**” and as our church representative for Tear Fund, Barbara Silvester will be leading the meeting. She will focus our thoughts and meditation and encourage us with thousands of others around the world to pray for justice, mercy and an end to poverty.

We hope you will be able to join us to hear Barbara.

Where Lower room in the church hall
When Thursday March 4th 2010
Time 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information please speak to Rev. Don Altham

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The Bishops of Manchester and Bolton have launched a website which lets people leave prayers via computer or mobile phone.



When you send a prayer online during Lent the Bishops of Birmingham, Huntingdon, Leicester, Manchester, Worcester and the Archbishop of York will pray for you in their Easter prayers.

www.SayOneForMe.org

Children's Corner

Happy Mothering Sunday



- M** - is for the million things she gives me
- O** - means only that she is older and wiser than I am
- T** - is for the tears she sheds for me
- H** - is for her heart of gold
- E** - is for her eyes with love light shining
- R** - means right the way she will teach me to go

Mother's Day Anagram

Find the hidden word in the letters in bold

velo _____

shgu _____

estflorw _____

eemawso _____

lateoocch _____

essski _____

eeeratbcl _____

Sudoku

						1		4
2					6			
		5	8				2	
		9	1				6	
6					4			
						9		7
	5	6	7	1			8	
	2			3				
	7	4	6	2			3	

Working with young people at Christ church

Do you know how many people work with young people in our church? It is a staggering 36! That includes Junior Church leaders and helpers and the leaders of the uniformed organisations, many of whom are there week in and week out to help our young people grow in faith.

It is a considerable commitment and one that is greatly valued. Last month they all met together along with members of the Ministry Committee at Falshaw's Ice Cream Parlour for a hotpot supper to celebrate the work with young people and to get to know each other better. It helped to cement relationships and was a lovely evening of fellowship and friendship.

(See also back page)



Jottings

On a recent visit to Dubai, Sue Walker read this poem in "Express Dubai" and thought it appropriate for Jottings.

Thank you Sue.

As we are constantly being reminded to reduce our carbon footprint these words really make you think.

Voice of Earth

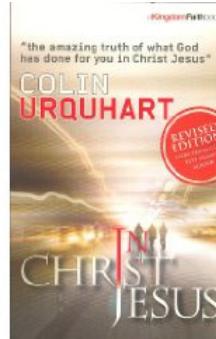
Am I not worth anything to you?
I give you a home and what do you do.
I am sick of the sound, the pollution, the heat.
Even I have a soul and a heart that beats.
Toxic waste has been spilt in my sea,
Wild fires have destroyed my flowers, bushes and trees.
The poisonous gas that your factories produce
Damages the ozone layer,
Is that of any use?
As the tornados turn, as the rivers flood,
As the volcanoes erupt my flaming hot blood.
And the day you all are stuck in the dirt,
You will take time and remember the Earth.

Khadija Patanwala

If you have a contribution for Jottings please contact Jean Slater



Book Review.



Colin Urquhart says that the book explains how you can live life to the full through the freedom that God gives, all because of the inheritance He has given you. Living in the truth of God's word will truly set you free.

The first part covers "What God has done for you in Jesus", the second part "Your new life in Jesus", and the third part "How you are to live in Jesus"

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

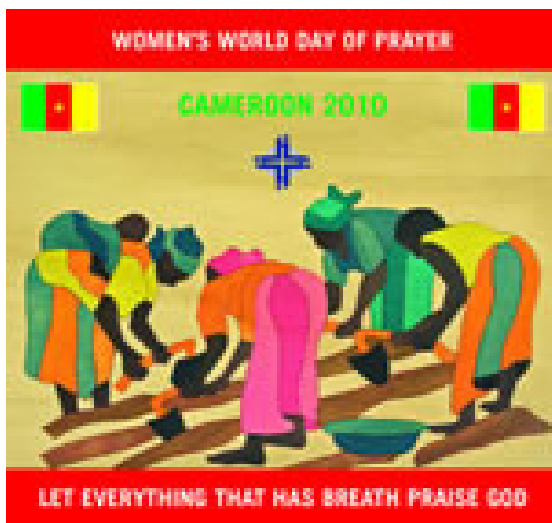


We are sorry that we have had to postpone the Wine tasting until later in the year. There was simply too much going on in the church during that week.

However we have prevailed on our "expert" to find another date and as soon as this is confirmed we will let you know. Please accept our apologies.

Margery and Alan Spencer

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God



World Day of Prayer

A Service
Prepared by
Christian
Women of
Cameroon

on

Friday 5th March 2.30pm

at

Bury Baptist Church, Manchester Road, Bury

Everyone welcome --- Men, Women and Young People

If you need transport please contact
Jean Slater



THE WDP LOGO

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was designed by an Irish man for the 1981 service written by Irish women from both north and south of the border. In 1982 it was adopted as the international logo.

Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all diversity.

Following the Bishop of Liverpool's suggestion that we should take the opportunity during Lent to conserve energy, these words from the Iona Community seem appropriate.

The be-attitudes

Blessed are those who use low energy light bulbs,
for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.

Blessed are those who travel by train,
for their lives are on God's track.

Blessed are those who choose a car with low fuel consumption,
for they are in God's fast lane.

Blessed are those who insulate their homes,
for theirs is the warmth of God's love.

Blessed are you when you put yourselves out
to use energy from renewable sources,
for you have kindled the flame of the future.

John Polhill

What's on in Walmersley

March

Mon 1	Ministry committee
Wed 3	Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting
Thu 4	First Thursday Prayers
Fri 5	World Day of Prayer at 2.30 p.m. Bury Baptist Church
Sun 14	Mothering Sunday
Wed 17	Mothers' Union – An evening wasted with Margery Spencer
Tue 23	Experience Easter – schools' visit
Tue 23	PCC
Wed 24	Muslim Christian Forum AGM
Thu 25	Mothers' Union Commissioning Service, Cathedral
Sat 27	Experience Easter from 9.30 a.m.
Wed 31	Seder Meal

FUTURE DATES

Apr 27	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
May 2	Confirmation
May 5	Archdeacon's Visitation



Celebrating work with Young People

