



**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury**



Lent

February 2013

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
9 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion	Christ Church
	2 nd Family and Parade	
	3 rd Holy Communion	
	4 th Morning Service	
	5 th Holy Communion	
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St John w St Mark
	3 rd Parade Service	

Wednesday

10 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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Thursday

2 p.m.	1 st First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Saints days and other services as announced
(see calendar on page 21)

If you need transport to church
please contact the wardens.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

What's In a Card?

At last, after having Christmas cards in the shops for so long, I could now go into a card shop and actually have more choice in buying just the right birthday card. But no, as it turns out this was still not the case. Christmas cards, which had been in the shops since August 2012, had been now replaced by another set of cards. There they were, sitting there rows of them staring back at me, 'I love You', 'To That Special Someone', 'Guess Who Loves You'. The Christmas cards have now been replaced by Valentines cards!



Three hundred years after the death of Jesus Christ, the Roman emperors still demanded that everyone believe in the Roman gods. There are many legends about Valentines. One being that Valentine was a Christian priest who had been thrown in prison for his teachings. Valentine was beheaded on the 14th February, not only because he was a Christian, but also because he had performed a miracle. He allegedly cured his jailer's daughter of her blindness. The night before he was executed, he wrote the jailer's daughter a farewell letter, signing it "From Your Valentine."

Another legend tells us that this same Valentine, well-loved by all, received notes to his jail cell from children and friends who missed him. This may have been the start of Valentines being sent. Since the 1800's it has become commercialised and a big business encouraging us to send that card or gift to say what we feel.

At this time, we are leaving the Christmas season, where we have celebrated the joy and love of the arrival of a baby born in a stable. We are now moving towards Lent where we will reflect on the pain but in unconditional love that a young man gave to us in death on a cross, there is one thing that stands out a mile. **LOVE.**



Love is much more than a card that "says it all". It is more than a 4 letter word. It is more than a tender caress and hours of happiness that you bring to those you love. A lasting love is made up of sharing in times that are happy and sad. It is made up of patience and deep understanding. It is never stubborn or jealous or demanding. It helps us to face with courage life's stormiest weather. It helps us to climb those steep mountains in front of us. Nothing on earth or in heaven can come between a love that is grown from the heart. Just like the sun, the stars and the sea, this sort of love can soar and will last on through eternity.

"For true love lives on when earthly things die, for it's part of the spirit that soars to the sky."

We have all the above in our relationship with our Lord. We have the gift of a loving and a lasting relationship with our Lord. His spirit soars within us and is in everything we do. We just have to be open and live the life he wants us to. We receive a valentine's message every single day through love, gifts, spirit and relationships we have, but especially within our personal relationship that we have with God.

If you could send that special Valentine's card to that extra special someone who came for you, gave His life for you, that someone who loves you so unconditionally, what would that card say and what would you write inside that card?

Blessing and Love Janet xx

BIBE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

2 PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE - CANDLEMAS

Malachi 3: 1 – 5 Hebrew 2: 14 - end Luke 2: 22 – 40

3 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Genesis 2:4 -9; 15- Revelation 4 Luke 8: 22-25
end

10 SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Exodus 34: 29 - end 2 Corinthians 3:12 Luke 9: 28 – 36
– 42

13 ASH WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 58: 1 -12 2 Corinthians 5 20 - Matthew 6 : 1 – 6,
6: 10 16 – 21

17 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Deuteronomy 26 1 – Romans 10: 8 - 13 Luke 4: 1-13
11

24 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 15: 1 – 12. Philippians 3: 17 – Luke 13: 31 – end
17 – 18 4: 1



*"Lord, now lettest Thou thy servant depart
in peace according to Thy Word. For mine
eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou
hast prepared to be a light to lighten the
gentiles and to be the glory of Thy servant
Israel" Luke 2:20 - 32*

*Simeon's words when the child Jesus was
presented in the Temple*

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

25th November Poppy Freya Whitbread
 Seth William Campbell

We welcome them into the Lord's family

Marriages

28th December Maarten Magee and Lisa Joan Rigby

Those whom God has joined together let no-one put asunder

Christian Funerals

29th October Edith McGuinness

9th November Sheila Parkinson

6th December Kathleen Sylvia Garvey

18th December Johnathan Mark Crossley

May they rest gently in the arms of God

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCILS

CHRIST CHURCH PCC January meeting

There was again discussion about the sale of part of the field and the Village Green application made by The Friends of Walmersley Village. The treasurer reported that we had paid the Parish Share in full, £33,301.00 for the last year. A full report on the extent of the dry rot and estimates for repair will be sent to the architect this week to determine the best course of action and then applications for grants and loans to cover the cost will be made. Even with these, we will have to raise a considerable sum toward the cost.

The PCC of St John with St. Mark will meet later in the month.

CHURCH FLOWERS

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK



I have said I will be responsible for the flower rota during the interregnum and I feel that perhaps I need to put my feelings about the church flowers in print. I feel there are two sets of flowers in church, one is decorative flowers and the other memorial flowers.

Memorial flowers have a place in church no matter what the church season providing that in Lent or Advent they are kept to the memorial table or around the memorial book. If people want funeral flowers in church they should be encouraged to ask for this. If a person signs the flower list and gives a donation for a particular flower the two ladies doing the arranging will do their best to adhere to this.

Memorial flowers, whatever the personal choice, are important to people. Decorative flowers help to make the church look nice and bright. In this day and age flowers can be expensive and so we should keep spending on these as economical as possible. At this time of year this is reasonably easy because the flowers last well.



I hope many of you will sign the flower list which I have put at the back of church. If anyone wants to see me with a donation or talk to me about flowers, please do so.

Rosemarie

CHRIST CHURCH

Feb 3rd In memory of Mrs D Ronson and of Fred Williams

CONGRATULATIONS

The church fellowship is delighted that Arthur Smith the organist at Christ Church since 1935, has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year honours list.

This has been given in recognition of his long service to Christ Church. Arthur became a choir boy at the age of seven, later becoming choir master and organist and has held this role continuously since, with the exception of five years' war service. Several generations of choir boys and latterly girls have been influenced by him.

He must have played more 60,000 hymns and it is almost impossible to count the number of brides who have entered the church to the accompaniment of Arthur's playing. He has also played for many concerts including several "Last Night of the Proms."

Despite being 97 he never misses a church service and is always cheerful and willing to attempt new things musically.

Apart from his interest in music he has always been a keen sportsman, playing for Bury FC and Leicester City. Until very recently he was an active golfer playing at Walmersley golf club and also a regular member of the church walking group.

Arthur carries out his duties in a quiet unassuming manner and is embarrassed by this well-deserved recognition.

His commitment to the church is a great example of steadfast Christian ministry and we give thanks for his devoted service.



BISHOP NIGEL'S FINAL MESSAGE

(Taken from Bishop's final letter in Crux before his retirement)

I believe there is no reason, under God and through his grace, why, by 2025, there should not be nearly 350 worshipping, missionary congregations, committed to the service of Christ at the heart of every community in this diocese:



- _ IF you encourage enough vocations to lay and ordained self-supporting ministry
- _ IF you support clergy and congregations in what will be (and is already becoming) a massive culture change
- _ IF you give money realistically as an offering to support God's mission
- _ IF you support and encourage the deprived and unloved
- _ IF you release yourselves from life-squeezing shackles of unsuitable church buildings.

Above all, IF you fix your eyes upon Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despised the shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

And so I leave you with my love and gratitude for our sharing together in God's mission and ministry across the Diocese of Manchester since 2002. I really have loved being among you. May the riches of God's blessings rest upon my successor and each of you, in all that you do in his name, through the years ahead.

CHRISTMAS - A TIME OF GIVING AND THANKFULNESS

Christmas - a special time of year when the positive sides of our human emotions come strongly to the fore. Not least of these is our desire to give and to share. This was particularly evident this Christmas on two fronts - the Annual Benefice Carol Service and the appeal for foodstuffs for our local food bank.

- The Carol Service saw a church full of people from both our churches and St Joseph's gathered to embrace and express the spirit of the season with singing led by the Haslingden and Helmshore Band. The collection taken amounted to £388.86 which has been donated to Christian Aid for their work to help alleviate poverty around the world.
- An earlier request to the congregations for mince pies to accompany a hot drink after the service brought forth an avalanche of pies. More than enough to satisfy even the most eager devotee of this seasonal delicacy! Hilary Riddick and her team served drinks to help the pies on their way!
- Outside, candles lit the pathways around the church. The Nicol Family (Carole, Peter, Freddie and Archie), together with Pam Hoyle, Geoff Hamilton and David Thew joined me in setting out over two hundred jam jars and doing battle against the fresh breeze to ignite the delicate wicks!



- And then there were the food bank donations. Over the Christmas period the congregations gave lots of tins and packets - two car boot loads were taken to Porch Box. A worthy contribution to help those in our community who need support this winter. It is amazing how giving promotes thankfulness and thankfulness promotes giving.



A cycle of emotion/action which grows and grows the more we do it.

Thank you to everyone

Nigel & Barbara Silvester

DIOCESAN WEEKEND OF PRAYER

FEBRUARY 1 – 3

THE THEME IS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

*At this time it is appropriate that in prayer
We give thanks for the **past**
rejoice in the **present** and
prepare for the **future***

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for all those
who have encouraged and supported us in the past
especially Bishop Nigel;
We ask your blessing on those charged at this time
with leading our benefice and
we place in your hands our joint future.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One



Heavenly Father, at this time of Candlemas when Christ was presented at the temple, may we bring our children into church so that they may learn of you and your ways. Help us to nurture them and bless all who are called to teach the children. Lord, furnish them with the knowledge they need and give them love for those in their care. In Jesus name, Amen.

Week Two

A prayer for Marriage Week UK

Lord help us to preserve the sanctity and the purity of marriage. May all abide by the vows that were made and honour them and their spouses. Where there is unhappiness and discord, let love abound, your pure love, and heal all hurts. Marriage is so special, Lord, it is ordained by you. Let us sanctify this and extol the benefits of marriage by example. Thank you for the love and the closeness within marriage and for the gift of children. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Week Three

Dear Lord, now the season of Lent is here, let us reflect upon your days in the wilderness, the temptations that you endured, and your path to the cross. Let us be prayerful at this time and diligent in our reading of the Bible and learning. Bless those who are going to Lent groups, bless the leaders and help them to impart wisdom and knowledge.

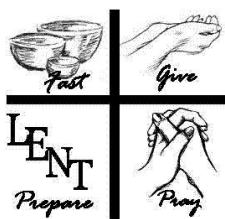
Remember those who must pray alone at this time and help them to know we are so blessed that you are always with us, we are never alone. O Lord, help us to be holy at this time and resist temptation. Amen.

Week Four

O God of love, O King of Peace,
Make wars throughout the world to cease;
The wrath of sinful men restrain,
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Remember Lord, thy works of old,
The wonders that our fathers told;
Remember not our sin's dark stain,
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but Thee, O Lord?
Where rest but on Thy faithful Word?
None ever called on thee in vain,
Give peace, O God, give peace again!
(A Book of Prayers, edited by C. P. Taylor)



Lent Study

As usual, groups are being arranged

There will be groups at
Christ Church Hall on Thursday afternoons
from 2.00pm

150 Walmersley Road on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

14 Springside Road on Monday evenings at 7.30pm

Lists will be available in both churches to sign up.

The January meeting on 16th was Holy Communion followed by Soup Supper which was once again greatly enjoyed.

Our next meetings are :

Feb 6th AGM
Feb 20th Barbara Silvester
March 6th Elizabeth Binns
March 20th MU members Bible readings Lent

All our meetings are open to members and non-members. If you haven't been before come along and try it! A warm welcome awaits.

By the time you read this Cath Hilton will have been commissioned as Diocesan President at the Cathedral. Many of our members will have joined her in support and celebration.



Mothering Sunday 10th March

Make a Mother's Day

This Mothering Sunday help change a life

"Make A Mother's Day" provides a range of ethical gifts specifically to mark Mothering Sunday. Each gift gives twice over - a loving, thoughtful gift for the mum or loved one you give it to (or in memory of) , and also a helping hand to mothers and carers, families and communities, through Mothers' Union work. Just 3% covers the actual costs of delivering the assistance to a family in need.

Ask Mother's Union Members or www.makeamothersday.org

The word of God

by a Mothers' Union member from Nigeria

Brighter than a star,
Deeper than the sea,
Gentler than a dove,
Higher than heaven,
Quicker than light,
Sharper than flint,
Stronger than steel,
Sweeter than honey,
Wider than the ocean,
That is what the word of God is to me!



A Prayer of Conservation

Living God,
Where there is waste, let us bring recycling;
Where there is recycling, let us bring re-use;
Where is re-use, let us bring sustainability;
Where is sustainability, let us bring justice;
Where is justice, let us bring love

John Polhill

Change a life –

The Real Easter Egg campaign



Churches, schools and individuals are being asked to Change a Life by giving a Real Easter Egg this year.

Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter eggs sold each year in the UK, The Real Easter Egg is the first and **only** Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the meaning of Easter and it remains a unique way to share the Easter story.

This year the Real Easter Egg has a free activity pack in the box which includes the Easter story, activity poster, free i-tune download and a sticker set. The resurrection text from Mark can also be found inside the lid along with the greeting 'Happy Easter!'

Change a life - through faith

The Real Easter Egg is now in its third year of production with more than 200,000 sold so far. Last year stories began to emerge of people whose life had been changed after being given a Real Easter Egg.

A grandmother from Oxfordshire gave an egg and explained; "Tracy saw the book that was included in The Real Easter Egg and wanted her mum to read the story to her... The following week Tracy attended Sunday School."

Change a life - through trade

But it is not only at home that lives have been transformed, with each sale of The Real Easter Egg a donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange to support some of the poorest farmers in the world - over £40,000 has been donated so far. A Fairtrade Premium is also paid to farmers allowing them to invest in their community buying everything, from school books and solar panels, to providing fresh water supplies.

Join the campaign - How to buy

Last year churches across the UK joined the campaign to establish the first religious Easter Egg. Congregations promoted the egg, put sign-up lists in church, took orders, money and placed a direct order. More than 90,000 eggs were delivered through the post to churches in this way. Each Real Easter Egg costs £3.99 for a 125g milk chocolate egg and includes the free activity pack in the box and a 15 pence donation to Traidcraft Exchange. The buying options are below:

- **Church orders** – if you want a Real Easter Egg, please sign the list at the back of church no later than 10th February or contact **Barbara Silvester** before that date. Late orders you will have to pay carriage!
- **Pick up one or two** eggs while supermarket shopping – you will only find 12 eggs on supermarket shelves at any one time. Check the How to Buy section at www.realeasteregg.co.uk to see which supermarkets, if any, are stocking the egg

DAYS OF LENT

Shrove Tuesday – the word shrove comes from Old English word “shrive” meaning to confess. Pancakes are eaten as they use up all the eggs, fat and milk in the house only using flour, before the fasting began.



In some countries it is called Mardi Gras meaning “Fat Tuesday” when there would be celebrations and carnivals before the start of Lent.

Ash Wednesday – named after the ashes used by priests to make a cross on the heads of Christians to show their acknowledgement of sins. The ashes come from the burning of palm crosses from the previous year

Mothering Sunday - or mid-Lent Sunday. Is so named, because on this day people returned to visit their “mother church” i.e. the Cathedral, and this meant that families came together and celebrated.

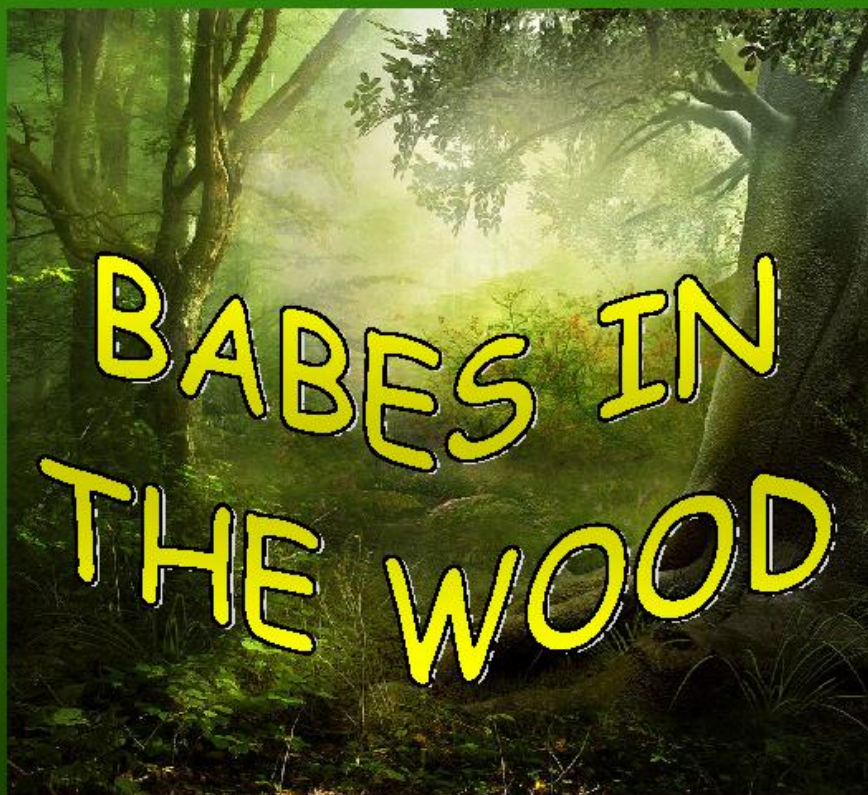
Maundy Thursday – the Thursday in Holy week when traditionally Kings and Queens washed the feet of their subjects in remembrance of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. Today the Queen distributes purses of Maundy money.



Good Friday – the day on which Jesus died. Why is it good? Answers to the editor.

PS - Why is it called **Lent**?

**THIS FEBRUARY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF
ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PRESENT**



**THURSDAY 7th & SATURDAY 9th FEBRUARY at 7.30 PM
SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY at 2PM**

**ST JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH HALL
PARKINSON STREET BURY**

**TICKETS PRICED AT £3.00 FOR CHILDREN & £5.00 FOR ADULTS.
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE ON THE THURSDAY NIGHT PERFORMANCE**

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL 0161 761 6592 OR CONTACT THE CHURCH WARDENS



CHANGE TODAY CHOOSE FAIRTRADE

FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT
25th February
– 10th March

Fairtrade items can be
purchased from
Amanda Dunn
at St John with St Mark

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

2	9.00am	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (SJM)
3		Services at the usual times
5	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
6	7.30pm	MU Barbara Silvester
7	9.15am 2.00pm	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJM) First Thursday Prayers (CC)
7 & 9	7.30pm	Pantomime "Babes in the Wood" (SJM)
9	2.00pm	Pantomime "Babes in the Wood" (SJM)
10		Services at the usual times
13	10.00am 7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (SJM) ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE (CC)
14	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJM)
17		FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Services at usual times
20	7.30pm	MU Elizabeth Binns
21	9.15am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM) Lenten Course (CC) PCC (SJM)
23		Coffee Morning and Book Fair (SJM)
24		SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Services as usual
25		Fair Trade Fortnight begins

Have a coffee break
at
St John with St Mark
Buy a bargain book



Saturday 23rd February 10 – 12



Thank You

Thank you for all the letters, cards and the verbal congratulations I have received during the past few weeks. They are all very much appreciated.

Thanks to you all

Arthur

INTERREGNUM MATTERS



If you have any queries during the interregnum please call in at the office at St John with St Mark on Wednesday evening - 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. or contact the wardens, clergy or readers.



Arthur Hoyle Smith B.E.M.

*Honoured
for Service to
Christ Church Walmersley
in the
New Year Honours List 2013*