



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



The Road to Emmaus

April 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 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Morning Service 5 th Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 3 rd Parade Service	St John w St Mark

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 pages 25 & 26)

If you need transport to church
please contact the wardens.

AN EASTER THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
Psalm 30, verse 5).

No, not another Easter sermon – though nowadays it seems rare for sermons to start with a Bible text! Instead, some thoughts on our Easter faith, when we celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

One of my favourite Easter stories is in St. John's Gospel, when we read of Mary Magdalen going early to the tomb of Jesus and finding it empty. Not surprisingly she was heartbroken; not just because of the death of Jesus but because she couldn't anoint his body as was the custom. She turned to ask the man she thought was the gardener what he had done with the body. She only recognised who this man was when he turned to her and called her by name: Mary. At once she went to share the good news with Jesus' disciples.



And another favourite Easter story is told by St. Luke. He tells of what happened to two of Jesus' friends, Cleopas and A N Other, that Sunday evening. Full of sadness at what had happened they went out for a walk; they shared what was on their hearts with a stranger, who joined them as they walked. Arriving at the village of Emmaus they invited him to join them in the village inn for some tea. Then as he broke the bread, they recognised who the stranger was, and ran back to the city to share the good news with the disciples.



In both these stories are vivid examples of what the writer of Psalm 30 said. Here were people whose hearts were full of heaviness because of what had happened. The bottom had dropped out of their world, their hopes for the future had been dashed, there was now nothing left to live for. And then, quite

out of the blue, their heaviness was turned into joy because they met the risen Jesus and knew that all was not lost, that things would be well.

I take two things from these Easter stories. Firstly: almost all of us have, from time to time, periods of darkness and heaviness in our lives. Maybe we have been bereaved, or been diagnosed with a serious illness; maybe we have been made redundant or facing the breakdown of a marriage; maybe in the hard times we wonder how we are ever going to make ends meet. Our Christian faith won't suddenly magic all this heaviness away – wouldn't it be good if it could? But our faith does assure us that come what may, we are held in the palm of God's hand, that we are never separated from the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is the joy that comes in the morning; this is the belief that all is not lost.

Secondly: I take from these two stories that what happened to Mary Magdalen and to Cleopas and his friend can happen also to us. The risen Jesus can appear to us as he appeared to them, in the most unexpected ways and the most unexpected people, if we have the eyes to see him and the faith to recognise him. St. Patrick wrote in his great hymn, *I bind unto myself today*:

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all who love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

There is no place, no person, no time, where the Risen Lord is not; he is always there to bring the joy that comes in the morning, no matter how heavy our hearts, if we will recognise him and allow him into our lives. So let us rejoice at this Easter season in the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and remember that:

We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!

Ralph E. Mathison

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

7	Easter 2 Psalm 150	Acts 5: 27 - 32	John 20: 19 - end
8	Annunciation Hebrews 10: 4 - 10	Isaiah 7: 10 - 14	Luke 1: 26 - 38
14	Easter 3 Revelation 5: 11- end	Acts 9: 1- 6	John 21: 1- 19
21	Easter4 Revelation 7: 9 - end	Acts 9: 36 - end	John 10 : 22 - 30
23	Saint George Revelation 12: 7 - 12	2 Timothy 2: 3 - 13	John 10: 1 -- 10
25	Saint Mark Proverbs 15: 28 - end	Ephesians 4: 7 - 16	Mark 13: 5 - 13
28	Easter 5 Genesis 22: 1-18	Acts 11: 1 - 18	John 13: 31 - 35

Linda and I wish to thank everyone for their good wishes, prayers and support after the announcement of my appointment to the United Benefice. We are looking forward to working with you. If you are passing the vicarage and we are about, please drop in and make yourself known to us.

Dave Thompson

A SPECIAL DAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

The 10.30am service on Sunday April 7th will be a very special occasion at Christ Church.

- ❖ The Lord Lieutenant of Manchester will be attending to present the British Empire Medal to Mr Arthur Smith, our organist.
- ❖ There will be a presentation to the church of a grant of funding from the Duchy of Lancaster to assist with the financing of the dry rot repairs and re-installation of the organ.
- ❖ The open plate collection on that day will be for the Repair & Renovations Fund. Gift Aid envelopes will be available for donations.
- ❖ Following the service there will be coffee and cake in the church hall.



Everyone is invited to attend the service and we hope that as many people as possible will come to support Arthur and the church at what promises to be a very memorable occasion. Please make a note in your diary now!

If you know of anyone who would like to attend the service please invite them:

- perhaps someone who used to be a choir member
- perhaps someone who was married at Christ church and Arthur played the organ
- perhaps someone who was in gang shows
- perhaps someone who appreciates Arthur's music
- perhaps someone who simply wishes to celebrate with Arthur



THE ANNUNCIATION

When someone asks you “Which do you want – the good news or the bad news?” how do you respond?

Do you go for the “bad” to get it over with or take the “good” to strengthen you for what comes next.

I wonder what Mary would have said if she had been given that option. Would she have taken the good news that she was highly regarded by God first, or the less welcome news that as an unmarried young woman she was to have a son and he was not the child of her fiancé Joseph.

I should imagine she was bewildered to say the least.

This month we celebrate the angel informing Mary that she was to become the mother of God. Normally it is celebrated on the 25th of March which is nine months prior to Christmas. But as that would be in Holy Week this year, we celebrate later than usual in April. (Should Christmas be later?!)



Mary responded to the news by accepting God’s plan for her life and giving us that marvellous song of rejoicing “The Magnificat”

“My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour, for he hath regarded the lowliness of his hand maiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”

Would we be as willing to accept God’s plan for us if it was bad news as well as good?

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

March 24 th	Sienna Jo Leach
March 31 st	Neve Alice Morgan
	Scarlett Paige Scott
	Thomas Hunt Margrave

Christian Funerals

February 23 rd	Margaret Fletcher
February 25 th	Edmund Stoney
March 15 th	Roy Warburton
March 26 th	Ethel Falshaw

Interment of Ashes

March 10 th	Mary Leake
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May they rest gently in the arms of God



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Easter Day	The congregation
April 7 th	In memory of Sarah Melling and Jack Illesley
April 14 th	Vacant
April 21 st	Mr & Mrs A Spencer
April 28 th	In memory of the Leake and Rushworth families

CONFIRMATION

This year two adults and two children from the United Benefice will be confirmed.

They are:-

John George Peat

Julie Peat

James Anthony Peat

Georgia Mary Tyrer

John, Julie and James will be confirmed at All Saints on Tuesday May 14th at 7.30pm and Georgia at Bury Parish Church on May 26th at 10.30am.

Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for confirmation.



Please include in your prayers Edie Watson who will be taking her first communion on Easter Sunday at St. John with St. Mark

Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to the everlasting kingdom. Amen.



Angela Warburton and family wish to thank everyone at Christ Church for their support during Roy's illness and after his death. Your thoughts, cards and prayers have been greatly valued and provided immense support.

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 17 JANUARY 2013

We were delighted to welcome our Child Protection Officer, Pam Kodjer, to our meeting to talk us through the changes to the Child Protection handbook and guidelines for 2013. Pam advised what we needed to be doing and gave the PCC her recommendations. A new online Child Protection Training programme has now also been developed by the Diocese and Pam discussed this with us and how it would work. It was agreed to adopt this training for all of our members who work with children.

Elizabeth also gave us a handout concerning A Safe Church Policy, and in particular the work with vulnerable adults and children. Elizabeth advised that the clergy would be undergoing training in the near future.

It is also hoped to start a 100 Club to raise funds for Church, and Trevor Holt brought details as to how this would work. This is still in the early days and further discussion is planned.

CHRIST CHURCH PCC MEETING FEBRUARY 9th

The PCC formally approved the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012 which have now been passed by the independent examiner.

Fund raising to finance the repairs to deal with the dry rot outbreak in church is getting underway. The PCC agreed to a large number of suggestions which have been put forward.

Arrangements were discussed to cover the special service for the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester to Arthur Smith on April 7th; the installation service for the new vicar (Revd. Dave Thompson) on July 3rd; Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 10th; the summer and autumn fairs.

The Secretary gave an update on the Village Green situation and the Treasurer gave a report on the new extension to the Gift Aid Scheme which will be effective from this April.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETINGS

These are extremely important meetings in the life of the church. Reports of activities in the past year are given, wardens, sidespeople and members of the PCC are elected. Opportunity will be given to ask questions if you inform the PCC Secretary in advance

Could you be a sidesperson welcoming people into church?

Sign up on the forms in church.

Could you serve as a member of the PCC helping to direct the church.

Sign up on the forms in church.

Please consider these activities prayerfully – the church needs you!

Meetings are:-

Christ Church Wednesday April 10th 7.30.p.m. in the church hall

St. John with St Mark Monday April 22nd 7.30.p.m. preceded by Holy Communion.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

Let us pray for those who live in despair, who go through the motions of living with no joy in their hearts:

the poor and the hungry in their daily struggle;
the lonely and loveless, who have no sense of self-worth;
the empty and depressed, for whom life is meaningless.

Jesus Christ is the Lord of hope. He has burst out of the tomb of despair.

God of life and hope: raise us with Christ.
Amen.



Week Two

Let us pray for those who feel defeated whose plans for the future have been erased and shattered;

the workers for justice who have been driven underground;
the seriously ill whose recovery is doubtful or slow;
the partners in a relationship that is breaking down.

Jesus Christ is the Lord Love. He has burst out of the tomb of despair.

God of Life and hope: raise us with Christ.

Week Three

Loving shepherd of your sheep, you have provided us with all we need, you have blessed us richly. We ask for the grace and wisdom to respond to your love and goodness by putting our faith in you. We ask for the grace and courage to follow you along the path of self-giving love all the days of our lives.

We ask in the name of Him who keeps us safe, Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Week Four

God of life and love, we pray for the church asking that you will help us not to put our own dogmas, our traditions and prejudices before our love for one another and the world.



Guided by your Spirit, may we be united in our witness to the gospel, welcoming to all and open to new visions of what we should do in your name. Open our lives to your Spirit; open our hearts to love one another. Amen

THREE PRIESTS WHO TAKE UP NEW POSITIONS



We pray for Archbishop Justin Welby as he prepares for his installation as leader of the Anglican church.

We pray for Pope Francis as he becomes leader of the Catholic Church.

We pray for Reverend Dave Thompson as he prepares to become incumbent of the United Benefice of Walmersley Road.

Grant to them all wisdom, compassion and humility that they may lead others to share in the knowledge of your love.

We continued our Lenten journey at a meeting led by Barbara and Nigel Silvester. With a mixture of sketches and meditations they gave us opportunity to look afresh at our lives and we had a practical activity of washing away anything unhelpful to make a fresh start.

This meeting was followed by Revd Elizabeth Binns, who led us on a journey using the Stations of the Cross. With a mix of old and more contemporary illustrations and words to meditate on, we were gently guided on the path to the cross.

As I write this we look forward to the last of our three Lent meetings with members reading appropriate passages from the Bible to continue with our spiritual journey towards Easter.

Our meetings in April focus on the practical projects Mothers' Union supports both worldwide and locally. We will be hearing about and planning how we can help on April 3rd and on the 17th we have the opportunity to sew, stick, knit and glue to create some of these much needed items.



Do book April 6th *in your diaries* and invite friends and family to do likewise. We are holding a coffee morning in the Church hall from 10am - 12 noon to support the Mothers' Union Literacy and Financial development project in Malawi. The Mothers' Union members in Sodor and Man are aiming to raise £14,000 in response to the Isle of Man Government's £28,000 donation to this project. Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union is assisting them by holding coffee mornings across the Diocese all on the same day. We are hoping to have a generous supply of homemade cakes to accompany your coffee or take home for later. There will also be a bring and buy sale.



There are still some places on the coach for Barbara Taylor's Commissioning Service in York Minster on May 17th. Do contact me if you would like a place.

Dates for the diary

April 3rd Coffee, cake and creativity

April 6th Malawi M'mawa Coffee morning

April 17th Knitting, glueing and sewing
(Practical evening making some of the project items urgently needed)



April 20th Spring Council – an opportunity to keep up to date with all that is happening. Cath's first Council as President so let us give her our prayerful support

May 1st Circle dancing. Experience not needed, full instructions given.

We welcome everyone to our meetings especially anyone new to the church or area. Our meetings are at 7.30 in the Church hall, accessed via the car park.

Kathryn

Archbishop welcomed by Mothers' Union members

I have just had a phone call from my younger daughter who lives near London Bridge. She had just ventured out in pouring rain to see the new Archbishop cross the Millennium Bridge over the Thames as he journeys towards Canterbury for his enthronement. He was greeted on the bridge by a choir of Mothers' Union members from Zimbabwe. My daughter was impressed by the colourful attire and the joy of the Archbishop. Margery

Forgive and Live



This book answers many questions on the subject of forgiveness such as.....

Do we need to forgive and be forgiven?

What about criminals & those who have done real harm?

Una Kroll lives and worships in the parish of St. John with St. Mark and many of you will know her. I have known her for some time but until recently was not aware that she is the author of many books, one of which I recommend to you this month and with Una's permission will be reviewing other of her books in the months to come.

Una has lived a very interesting life. Born in England but raised in Paris, Latvia, London and suburban colonies of Russian émigrés she spoke three languages from being young. Qualified as a doctor, also spent five years of her life as a nun and was a missionary in Liberia. Then returned to full-time medicine, married and went with her husband to practice in Namibia and later in London. Became a deaconess in the Church of England in 1970 and worked tirelessly along with others to promote the ordination of women and in 1997 was ordained by Archbishop Rowan Williams.

Now retired from active work she continues to spend time in contemplative prayer.

Feeling lonely?

Then these words sent to me from June Houghton may help to ease that loneliness as we realise that the Lord's presence is very near.

*I live alone dear Lord, stay by my side.
In all my daily needs be Thou my guide.
Grant me good health, for that indeed I pray,
to carry on my work from day to day.
Keep pure my mind, my thoughts, my every deed,
let me be kind, unselfish in my neighbour's need.
Spare me from fire, from flood, malicious tongues.
From thieves, from fear and evil ones.*

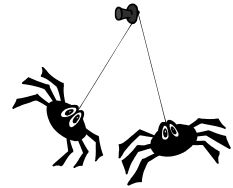
*If sickness or an accident befall,
then humbly Lord I pray,
hear thou my call.
And when I'm feeling low or in despair,
lift up my heart and hear my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord, yet have no fear
because I feel your presence ever near.*



If you have a book you would like to recommend or thoughts to contribute to this page please contact Jean Slater or e-mail wrub@live.co.uk

TWO WEE SPIDERS

*This is a story of two wee spiders,
that met in church one day.*



*I'll tell just once to all of you what I overheard
them say.*

*One said, "I'm unhappy, I've had enough of all the noise,
especially in the choir stalls with all those choir boys.*

*I've even tried the organ loft and underneath the pews, but
when the cleaner comes along believe me that's bad news.*

*I do not want to be disturbed, or deafened every time,
I want a place where I can be quiet and all sublime. "*

*The second spider listened to his friend's sad tale of woe.
He gave a smile and then he said, "Come, I'll show you where
we'll go."*

*They walked along the carpet floor devoid of shoes and socks,
then climbed upon the table into the offertory box.*



Mrs. Joan Wild (Division Commissioner) and all the members of Girlguiding Bury Division would like to thank St John with St Mark for the use of the church and the service provided by the clergy to celebrate our annual Thinking Day celebration on Friday 22nd February.
Many Thanks

REPAIR & RENOVATION FUND – CHRIST CHURCH

Repair

and

Renovate



Support this fund by attending

St George's Day

Morning Coffee 10 – 12 noon

Afternoon Tea 2 – 4pm

Christ Church Hall

Tickets Available from Pat Mongey

**All funds raised will go to
the Repair and Renovation Fund
- initially to repair the dry rot and
re-install the organ.**

Your support is greatly appreciated.

REMINDER CHURCH RETREAT 2013

Our annual retreat to St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Formby is this year from Wednesday 22nd May to Saturday 25th May.

This is an occasion to come away and relax in a peaceful, prayerful environment. We have sessions of worship and times together in the morning and the evening which you are very welcome to join but there is no obligation. There is also plenty of free time which you can spend in the Centre or on trips out.

On the Thursday night we have been invited to join together with the Sisters at the Centre as they look at the Lives of the Saints.

The Centre is surrounded by a National Trust forest and is just a few minutes' walk from the sandy beach so for those that are able there is ample opportunity for some exercise and fresh air - and perhaps even a chance to see a red squirrel!



The price is great value at £48 per person per night, with 3 very ample meals per day. Transport there and back can be arranged.

TO
AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT
**BOOK
EARLY**

There is a maximum of 20 rooms and we need to need to let the Centre know in good time how many are coming.

If you are interested please get in touch with Janet Lyssejko or Ian Banks.

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP



Our first meeting of 2013 was held on 6 March and we opened with a talk by Ian Banks. The talk was entitled 'Lent in One Evening' – Lent through to Easter Day.

Ian read chapters from the Bible, and brought various items associated with the season, including coins representing the 30 pieces of silver, a hammer & nails, a crown of thorns, palm leaves & the Cross.

This was a very interesting and moving evening. Thank you Ian and we look forward to your next talk.

**Next Meeting ~
Wednesday 10 April at 7.30pm in the Library**

A TALK ON KEEPING CHICKENS



*Please remember, the Open Group is just that, open to all.
We would love you to join us for our meetings.*

Just a thought!

The fewer the words, the better the prayer Martin Luther



Christian Aid week 2013

(Bite back at hunger)

Dear friends

We are blessed and very thankful in that we have among our members people who regularly volunteer for street collections. But it is becoming increasingly difficult to find new volunteers to collect all our allocated streets.

It may seem a little daunting but it can be easier (fun even) if you team up with family members or friends and you do get something in return the satisfaction of knowing that lives will be transformed by the money you raise.

If you feel like you could help in this way then please let me know, you can contact me on 07542587780

Many thanks, John

Christian Aid week Lunch 12th May 12.30pm

One way of supporting Christian Aid week (and helping their work in bringing to an end poverty around the world-tackling its root causes as well as its effects) is to join us for a three course lunch in St John with St Mark church hall after the morning service.

Tickets are £6 for adults £4 for children up to age 12years

Tickets and enquiries - John on 07542587780 or Rosemarie on 0161 7641 527



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

BUFFET DINNER DANCE

**AN EVENING OF MUSIC & DANCE,
WITH DELICIOUS BUFFET**

IN ST. JOHN WITH ST.MARK
CHURCH HALL
ON FRIDAY 19 APRIL AT 7.30PM
TICKETS £7.50
~ AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH

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.

TRIM THE TREASURER'S BEARD !!

To raise funds for the Repair & Renovations Fund (Dry Rot Project) Nigel Silvester is looking for lots of people to pledge lots of cash to persuade him to shave off his beard!

This is a beard that has kept his chin warm through the best part of forty winters. He needs a total of at least £500 to force him to succumb to the razor on April 23rd (St George's Day) when there will be a themed coffee morning / afternoon tea in the church (See page 19). You can join the sponsors by signing up on the list at the back of church or contacting Nigel. Thank you.



Just another thought!

This is a story about four people named ANYBODY, EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY and NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it but NOBODY did.

SOMEBODY got angry because it was EVERYBODY'S job.

EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it.

It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYONE could have done!

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

1	7.30pm	MONDAY OF EASTER WEEK Holy Communion (SJM)
2	7.30pm	TUESDAY OF EASTER WEEK Holy Communion (SJM)
3	10.00am 7.30pm	WEDNESDAY OF EASTER WEEK Holy Communion (SJM) Mothers' Union – Coffee, Cake and Creativity
4	2.00pm 7.30pm 8.00pm	THURSDAY OF EASTER WEEK Thursday Prayers (CC) Holy Communion (SJM) PCC (SJM)
	7.30pm	FRIDAY OF EASTER WEEK Holy Communion (SJM)
6	10.00am 7.30pm	SATURDAY OF EASTER WEEK Malawi M'Mawa Coffee Morning (CC) Holy Communion (SJM)
7	10.30am	EASTER 2 Services as usual Special service to present BEM to Arthur Smith (CC)
8	7.30pm	ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD Holy Communion (SJM)
10	7.30pm	APCM (CCW)
11	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJM)

- 14 **EASTER 3**
Services at the usual times
- 17 7.30pm Mothers' Union Craft and Create (CCW)
- 18 9.15am Coffee Morning and Toddler Group (SJM)
- 19 7.30pm Buffet Dance (SJM)
- 21 **Easter 4**
Services as usual times
- 22 7.30pm APCM (SJM)
Preceded by Holy Communion
- 23 St George's Day
7.30pm Holy Communion (SJM)
10.00am Coffee Morning (CCW)
2.00pm Afternoon Tea (CCW)
7.30pm PCC tbc (CCW)
- 25 St Mark's Day
9.15am Coffee morning and toddler group
7.30pm Holy Communion (SJM)
- 28 **EASTER 5**
Services as usual
- 29 7.30pm Ministry Committee (CCW)



Babes in the Wood



Members of the cast



A really great show!