



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



May 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 2 nd 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 21 and 22)

If you need transport to church
please contact the wardens.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The last time I wrote the monthly letter I began with these words...

Well, it's a month since Ian left, a month since we began the interregnum and what an 'interesting' month it has been. We began with a meeting with Archdeacon David who outlined what we had to do, in what seemed a frighteningly short timescale, to start the process of finding our new vicar.

And now we just have a few weeks until Dave and his family arrive to start their life with us and I am wondering just who is the most nervous? Them or us? And how long it will take to just become *us*? Well, having met Dave now I am pretty sure it won't be too long at all. He seems a pretty decent bloke – down to earth, with a good sense of humour and a genuine interest in working with others.

Dave is an experienced priest and certainly knows what it is like to move into a new parish – he knows what to expect – and he knows too that people are not always realistic about what the vicar can achieve. Because people do expect an awful lot from "the vicar"; in fact some folk seem to pretty much expect perfection and when perfection is not produced they are not one bit happy. However, I don't *think* Dave is perfect – we can ask Linda – but probably even she would not claim perfection for



him. And let's be honest, not many of us would claim to be perfect either so we should get along pretty well. And we will have to get along, not just because it makes life pleasanter but because we have a lot of work to do together. And if we are not going to work together with Dave he might as well stop decorating the vicarage now!

Back in October when we started putting together our Benefice Profile to try and attract the “right” person we had to describe the priorities for the Benefice and specify the qualities we needed to help us meet these. We soon realised that as far as mission went, we had lost our way a little so we certainly needed someone to help us get back on track. Now, although I suspect we have the very person, we cannot – and we must not – expect Dave to do all the work. In fact we should not expect him to even do most of the work. It is down to every single person who calls one or both of our two churches ‘home’ to work alongside our new vicar to get the job done. Everyone. No matter what age, sex, experience, length of service, theological (or other) understanding – everyone has to work – together.

The priorities we decided on are:

- *Developing a vibrant and inclusive ministry for children and youth*
- *Extending care to the disadvantaged*
- *Working in partnership with the community*
- *Opening all our doors*

Basically it is about working for and with other people – which, when you think about it, is exactly what Jesus did and it is exactly what he told the disciples to do. It will not be easy but together we can change our churches and our community for the better. And in doing so maybe we can change ourselves for the better as well.

I started with a quote from my last letter and I will finish with another – because I think it still applies:

But we all need to spend time searching for God’s will for how our resources and energy should be channelled and directed and we all need to put God’s love into action.

May God bless us and go with us as we journey into our future.
Yours in Christ, Elizabeth

BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

1 S Philip and S James

Isaiah 30: 15-21 Ephesians 1: 3-10 John 14: 1-14

5 Easter 6

Revelation 21:10,22 - Acts 16: 9-15 John 14: 23-29
22:5

9 Ascension Day

Daniel 7: 9-14 Acts 1: 1-11 Luke 24: 44-53

12 Easter 7

Acts 16: 16-34 Revelation 22:12- John 17: 20-26
14,16-17,20-21

14 S Matthias

Isaiah 22: 15-25 Acts 1: 15-26 John 15: 9-17

19 Pentecost

Genesis 11: 1-9 Acts 2: 1-21 John 14: 8-17

26 Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5: 1-5 John 16: 12-15

30 Corpus Christi

Genesis 14: 18-20 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 John 6: 51-58

31 Visit of the BVM to Elizabeth

Zephaniah 3: 14 - 18 Romans 12: 9-16 Luke 1: 39-49



CALLING ALL wardens and sidesmen!

The Archdeacon's Visitation, at which these officers receive their charge, will be held at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bury on Wednesday, 8th May at 7.30 p.m.

PCC members are also invited and the service is, of course, open to all.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

April 7 Ethan Oliver Brown
April 14 Patrick Mark Rooney

We welcome you into the Lord's family

Christian Funerals

April 9 Ronald Sharp
April 22 Jane Brown

May they rest gently in the arms of God



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

May 5 In memory of Norman and Bertha Meadowcroft
May 12 Mrs M Booth in memory of the Simpson family
May 19 Mr J Clegg
 Mr D Schofield in memory of his mother Bessie
May 26 In memory of Mr and Mrs Dutton

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 4 APRIL 2013

This was our last PCC meeting before the APCM, and was a relatively brief affair. A variety of topics were discussed, including the latest on the heating in the memorial chapel and our intentions to start a 100 Club.

The present heater in the chapel has not always been sufficient this winter and therefore the wardens are considering other options. It is also hoped to redecorate the chapel in the coming weeks.

The discussions on the 100 Club are in their early stages, and it is hoped that a volunteer or team of volunteers may come forward to organise this and a plea will be put on our pew sheet for help.

Thanks were offered to those members whose 3 year term is due to end at this APCM and it was hoped that some, or all, would continue.

PLEASE HELP

. . . to make this your magazine by sending contributions for each edition.

- Reading reports of a group's activities not only encourages new members but is of interest to lots of our readers.
- Items which make us think more about our faith are valuable to everyone
- Notices of future events encourage involvement
- Adverts to promote events do bring people, not only from the congregations but from the community

. . . and maybe you would like to be involved in editing?

PLEASE get in touch!

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

Dear Father, thank you for the springtime, for the flowers that are beginning to grow and the trees that are beginning to leaf. It is a sign of renewal in nature and reflects the renewal that we should be experiencing as Christians, a renewal in you, Lord, a renewal in our prayers and Bible reading and in our relationship with others. Thank you for the power of nature and for the power that you have over our lives and for the opportunity to come to you anew, knowing that we are forgiven for past sins and can begin again. Thank you, thank you, father. Amen.



Week Two

Dear Jesus, On Ascension Day you rose to heaven to be with the Father and so that the Holy Spirit could come upon us. Help us to be ready for Pentecost and to be ready for the gifts that the Holy Spirit can bring us and not to be afraid of them. Help us also to be ready for when you come again as was promised. Never let us forget this promise, let it sustain us in time of trouble and doubt, the thought that you will return to us one day. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.



Week Three



Spirit of God blow strongly on our lives this Pentecost
Bring joy to the world with the gifts of your Spirit
Let us rejoice, rejoice in your beneficence
Give us the courage to use and share our gifts
As your disciples did on the day of Pentecost
Spirit of God blow strongly on our lives. Amen.

Week Four

O Lord make me whole
O Lord make me strong
O Lord make me prayerful
O Lord make me committed
O Lord make me gentle
O Lord make me loving
O Lord make me forgiving
O Lord make me all these things and more
for by your Spirit and power you can do anything with me
and for that I thank you. Amen.

Our meetings in April focused on some of the many projects that Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union supports.

Lynne Longworth, the Hospital co-ordinator showed us the range of knitted and sewn garments that are much needed by our local hospitals. She told moving stories of how much the memory boxes mean to bereaved parents and inside each box there is a small white blanket, organza pocket, card and knitted teddy bears. Hearing of the need for these items touched many of us.

She also told us of the 'Fish and Chip' babies in Africa. These infants are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper as their families cannot afford suitable clothing and the babies need protection from the hot sun in the day and extreme cold at night. This project aims to provide colourful knitted blankets for these children.

As I write we look forward to a practical evening on 17th April when we can spend time together making some of these much needed garments. Please ask me for a copy of the patterns if you would like to help in this way.



On April 6th we held our Malawi M'mawa coffee morning. This was to raise money to support the Literacy and Financial Education programme working in Malawi, Burundi and Sudan. The Isle of Man Mothers' Union pledged to raise £14,000 in response to their Government's commitment of £28,000 to this project and Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union offered to help them.

Our Branch was magnificent with their response to this challenge and produced batches of biscuits, colourful cupcakes and superb sponges. Freshly brewed coffee accompanied these delights and we welcomed many neighbours, friends and family to share our morning. Together with a Bring and Buy sale we raised nearly £450 for this worthy cause.

We are eagerly awaiting our day in York for the Commissioning service for Barbara Taylor as Provincial President in York Minster. We have the coach booked but there are plenty of spare seats and tickets for the service can be obtained so please do contact me if you would like to come. We will meet at Christ Church at 7.30 am, having a comfort stop en route and lunch is booked for 1.30 pm. This will enable us to look round the Minster after the service. We leave York at 4.15pm



Dates for the diary:

- May 1st Circle dancing
- May 15th A talk on Bonsai growing - Mike Swanson
- May 17th Commissioning service for Mrs Barbara Taylor as Provincial President in York Minster

We also look forward to hosting the Deanery AGM here on June 5th - more details later.

We extend a warm welcome to everyone at our meetings. You don't have to be a member to attend. Please feel you can come and join us at our meetings and learn more about Mothers' Union.

Kathryn

Pentecost

Pentecost occurs this month when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. For many people it is classed as the birthday of the church and the start of the church's mission to the world. It occurs fifty days after Easter, hence the name derived from the Greek for "pentakoste" meaning fiftieth.

It coincides with the Jewish "Festival of Weeks" which was a harvest festival called Shavuot and it was probably this feast which the disciples were celebrating when the Holy Spirit descended on them.

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were no doubt dismayed, perplexed and afraid for the future. We have to remember that they were mainly not well educated people and they had lost their leader in a way that must have seemed very hard to understand.

They were gathered together in one place when suddenly there was a sound like a rushing wind from heaven which filled the whole house in which they were sitting. They saw what appeared to be tongues of fire that separated and came to settle on them. All of them were changed dramatically – they began to speak in other tongues and the many people present heard them in their own languages. Through the power of the Holy Spirit they were given the gifts and the strength to continue Jesus' mission with enormous consequences for them and for the world.



Like them, we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our work for Jesus.

May the boldness of the Spirit transform us, the gentleness of the Spirit lead us and the gifts of the Spirit equip us to serve and worship Christ now and always.

Trees of Life

As promised in the April magazine I recommend another book to you by Revd. Una Kroll.

In this book she writes about the Prayer of Intercession and its cost.

This excerpt from the web site says..... "*Una offers the fruits of a lifetime's experience of intercessory prayer. She speaks to people who come to Christ with concerns which they want to lay before Him*".

I highly recommend this book to you.

Jean Slater

God's Promise

*God has not promised skies ever blue,
flower strewn paths all our lives through.
God has not promised sun without rain,
joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But He has promised strength for each day,
rest after labour, light for our way,
grace for our trials, help from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.*

Anne Kirkham

Thank you to June Houghton for sending these words of encouragement to share with us all.



A DAY OF CELEBRATION

Sunday April 7th may well have been designated as "Low Sunday" in the church calendar but at Christ Church it was certainly a "High Day".

Over 180 people gathered in church to witness Arthur Smith receive his British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Warren J Smith. The Mayor of Bury, Cllr Joan Grimshaw and her consort, husband Paul, were also in attendance.

The citation which had been sent to Buckingham Palace was read out by Canon Paul Denby and this recognised Arthur's involvement and commitment to church music at Christ Church over 78 years. It also stated how he had encouraged people in their Christian faith through music and been a wonderful example of Christian commitment himself.

As you would expect Arthur was humble and took the proceedings in his stride; in his speech thanking everyone for their support over many years and for attending on the day. Among the congregation were people who had been in the choir many years ago and friendships were revived at the reception after the service.

A collection taken during the service raised £1400 towards the repair of dry rot in the church and to this was added a further £600 donated by the Lord Lieutenant from his charity fund. It was a heart-warming and joyous occasion and the church community is proud of Arthur and his achievements. It is typical that when someone remarked to Arthur that it was a special day, his response was "Well I would have been here anyway!"

Thank you Arthur.

THANK YOU

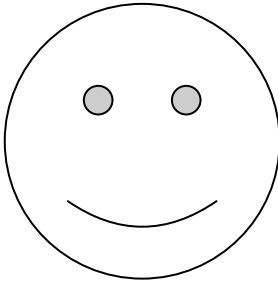
I wish to thank all my friends, old and new, for the wonderful support and appreciation given to our church and myself at my B.E.M. presentation of April 7th.

It was wonderful and a joy to see you all, thanks for coming. I am sure much preparation was needed for this occasion and I thank all those who assisted or helped in any way.

Thanks, Arthur



SUMMER FAIRS



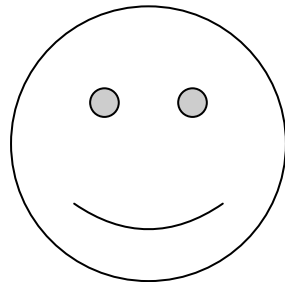
on Saturday 15 June
at St John with St Mark's
from 11 a.m

lots of fun and fellowship
at two venues next month

Please help to make both a success by

- ✓ putting the dates in your diary now
- ✓ offering to run a stall, or to help on the day
- ✓ collecting books, preserves, tombola gifts, etc
- ✓ planning children's activities, quizzes and so on
- ✓ having a bakeathon for the ever popular cake stalls

on Saturday 29 June
at Christ Church
from 11 a.m.



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP



OUR NIGHT WITH THE CHICKENS

Our Open Group meeting on 10th April was an interesting talk by Dawn & Clare of Bury Library Service on Keeping Chickens. We did not realise how many different kinds of chicken they kept and even the varying colour of eggs that these chickens lay. I think most of us will now be buying free-range eggs from the supermarket.

We had 3 special guests at our meeting. These were 3 six-week old Silkie chickens, which were very cute and fluffy. Thank you to Dawn & Clare, and Clare's daughter Katie for this informative evening.

**Next Meeting ~ Wednesday 1 May at 7.30pm
in the Library**

Mr Watson will give us a talk on
"Lore Of Birth, Death & Household"

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



FORTHCOMING DATES

Some opportunities to support the Repairs and Renovations Fund at Christ Church. Please watch out for further details and do all you can to support this appeal.



July 19/20/21

Scrap Weekend

Collection point at church hall for **scrap** metal (including gold & silver) also clothing for weighing in.

On Saturday morning come and enjoy coffee and bacon butties.

September

Sponsored walk

See Jennifer Wood.



Late autumn

Bubbly Night

Pre Christmas - we hope to arrange a band or choir concert.

Once we are able to treat the dry rot outbreak and reinstall the organ, there will still be lots of work needed - to the tower, improved access for wheelchairs and pushchairs, etc.

If you would like to donate to the appeal please contact Nigel Silvester or pledge@ccwalmersleybury.org.uk



ANNUAL BENEFICE WALK

On Saturday 18 May, the Reverend Paul Sanderson will lead us on a walk around the border of our United Benefice.

All are welcome to come along, and it is usually an enjoyable occasion.

Meet at 9.30am prompt outside the Church Hall on Parkinson Street.

There are a number of points along the route at which you could drop off or meet up if you do not wish to complete the entire walk, however if you intend to meet us along the way then a mobile telephone number may be handy.

Please also bring a packed lunch with you.

For further details, please speak to Paul

MANCHESTER DIOCESAN HEALING CONFERENCE

With: The Bishop of Monmouth, the Rt Revd Dominic Walker

When: Saturday June 15th

Time: 10am – 3pm

Where: Oasis Academy, Media City, Salford

Theme: "HealingWounds – Healing Places"

For more information contact:
Jean or Frank Slater



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 07542 587 780

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 07542 587 780 or Rosemarie on 0161 764 1527

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

1	7.30pm 7.30pm	S PHILIP AND S JAMES Holy Communion (SJSM) Mothers' Union – Dancing without a maypole
2	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJSM)
5		EASTER 6 Services as usual
8	7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation (St Mary the Virgin)
9	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJSM)
9	2.00pm 7.30pm	ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion (CCW Hall) Holy Communion (SJSM)
12-18		Christian Aid Week
12	12 noon	EASTER 7 Services as usual Christian Aid lunch (SJSM)
14	7.30pm 7.30pm	S MATTHIAS Holy Communion (SJSM) Confirmation (All Saints' Bury)
15	7.30pm	Mothers' Union The Art of Bonsai (CCW)
16	9.15am 8.00pm	Coffee Morning and Toddler Group (SJSM) PCC (SJSM)
17	11.00am	Mothers' Union Provincial Service (York)
18	9.30am	Walk around the United Benefice

19		PENTECOST / WHITSUNDAY Services at the usual times
22-25		Retreat at Formby
23	9.15am	Coffee morning and toddler group (SJSM)
26		TRINITY Services as usual times
	10.00am	Confirmation (St Mary the Virgin, Bury)
30	9.15am	Coffee morning and toddler group (SJSM)
30	7.30pm	CORPUS CHRISTI Holy Communion (SJSM)
31	7.30pm	VISIT OF THE BVM TO ELIZABETH Holy Communion (SJSM)

AND LOOKING AHEAD

July 3	7.30pm	INDUCTION of the Reverend David Thompson (CCW) With Reception afterward in the Hall
July 7	10.30am	FIRST SERVICE of the new Vicar (SJSM) to be followed by Lunch in the Hall

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.

Malawi M'mawa



All in one weekend!



and BEM celebrations

Read more about it on pages 10 and 14