



**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury
in the
United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



April 2014

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
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

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

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

Saturday

4.00 p.m.	1 st Messy Church	Christ Church
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Saints days and other services as announced
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.



St John w St Mark's Church has the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



Last time I wrote a letter for the magazine I was just starting my annual pilgrimage, to the diet club! I was focused and determined to reach my goal, nothing was going to stop me. I put my blinkers on, focused, kept on the straight and narrow and I reached my goal just before Christmas. Recently, I took off those blinkers and lost my focus, but I'm back on track now.

Over the last 4 years I have been completing my Initial Ministerial Education. That is the bit which comes after Ministry Training and before Continuing Ministry Education. Again I have had to have my blinkers on and be focused on the task in hand ; the study nights and weekends, preparing my portfolio which included essays, personal journaling, ministry reflections, learning outcomes, learning journal. All this on top of preparing services, sermons, leading services, working through the interregnum, attending chapter and deanery synod meetings, etc and all whilst working full time. At times it was hard to keep going, many things got put to one side. I could only see the portfolio and what had to be done. But I have got there and my portfolio has been handed in, a year early 😊!



There are always things we need to focus on, need to do, each task more important than the last. You get tired, become deflated and your spirits take a dip. Sometimes we can focus too much on the task which is in front of us and end up missing out on the bigger picture.

In our life, God is our cheerleader. He wants us to live a life that is pleasing to Him and He will do all that He can to help us do just that.

When things conspire against us, when we feel it is getting too much and we feel discouraged, He is there, beside us, willing us on, supporting and encouraging us. Events in our lives sometimes take us on a detour from our walking with Him. But as long as we hold onto God and trust Him with everything in our life, He will take us into the life he wants to give us.

Hold onto God, continue to build your relationship with Him and He will make sure you do not miss out on that bigger picture of that journey, the plans and the life He has for you. Make sure you spend time and focus on your relationship.

Love & prayers.
Janet. xx



EASTER SERVICES

Monday	April 14 th	7pm	Holy Communion	SJM
Tuesday	April 15 th	7pm	Holy Communion	SJM
Wednesday	April 16 th	10am	Holy Communion	SJM
Thursday	April 17 th	7.30pm	Holy Communion	SJM
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	CC
Friday	April 18 th	10.00am	Meditative Service	CC
		2.00pm	Last Hour at the Cross	SJM

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

6 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

13 **Palm Sunday**

Matthew 21: 1-11

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 26:14-27

17 **Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

John 13: 1-17,3:1b-35

20 **Easter Day**

Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 1-18

27 **Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Feb 1 Lucy Pendlebury, Ruby Pendlebury

Mar 5 Gwendolyn Ireland

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Funerals

Mar 10 Jack Smith

'I am the resurrection and the life' says the Lord

FROM THE VICARAGE

* Thanks to all those who contributed to last month's social events. The Race Night at St.John with St.Mark's and Christ Church's Quiz Night the following evening were both very well attended and a good time was had by all.

* Volunteers are required to join a group working towards the Child Friendly Award for Christ Church. Please speak either to myself, Janet or Margery. More help in both the Junior Church and Messy Church at Christ Church is required. If you would like to help in this important ministry to our children and young people, please have a word with me. We are also looking to appoint a Safeguarding Officer at Christ Church. Once again please have a chat if you are interested

* Please pray for the important Annual Parochial Church Meetings that will take place this month on the following dates:

Wednesday 9 April at 7.30pm. – Christ Church

Monday 28 April at 7.30pm – St.John with St.Mark

There are vacancies in both parishes for Parochial Church Council members. This year also sees the election of Deanery Synod representatives. Please consider whether you are able to serve the church in either of these particular ways.

Nomination Forms are now available at the back of both churches.

* Congratulations to George & Sybil Fryer who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on March 13. George is also due to give up his post as Christ Church churchwarden at this month's APCM.

Many thanks to George for his contribution over the years and to Sybil for her support. Hopefully a new role can be found for George in the future!



* Discussions have taken place at St.John with St.Mark's about the renovation of the West Window which is in need of repair. If anyone would like to help contribute to this or be involved in the discussions about what is required, please speak to the church wardens.

* Classes begin this month in preparation for the Confirmation Service on Sunday 22 June at St.Anne's Tottington. Anyone interested in being confirmed should have a word with Janet or myself.

On Easter Sunday at St.John with St.Mark's those who have completed the course for receiving Holy Communion before Confirmation will receive Holy Communion for the first time.

* Plans are continuing for the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the current church building at St.John with St.Mark's. These will take place on the weekend of June 6-8, with the Bishop of Manchester attending the joint service at 10.30am on that Sunday. Our Summer Fair is scheduled for the Saturday. Thanks to those who have contributed memorabilia about the history of St.John's Church building, more information will be most welcome.

* The Rainbow Group at Christ Church has temporarily merged with the group at St.John with St.Mark. This is because of a lack of leaders. Whenever some more helpers can be found at Christ Church, the group can meet there again. If you are able to help, please contact Joan Wild.

* As you may have seen in the local press, the decision of the Village Green inquiry has been made but at the time of writing, this has yet to be confirmed by the local Council. More details about the future plans for the field will be available in the next magazine.

NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 2014

The main topic of discussion at our latest meeting was concerning our West window. Following a recent spell of bad weather it has become evident that the window will require attention within the next 2 years or so.

The Wardens advised that the Architect had visited us that week to discuss the options available to us. It is clear at the moment that there are many options, however obviously Finance is a huge issue. This item is likely to appear regularly on our agenda now over the coming weeks and months.

On a positive note, following recent difficulties with our sound system, the engineer has attended and advised us that we do not have a problem with the system. It is purely the way it is being deployed. Minor alterations have been made, including the extension of the Loop System around the Chancel.

Following a meeting the previous evening, information was shared about our Parade service plans during 2014. All dates and themes have been set for this year. It was felt that our last Parade in February had many favourable comments. One area of debate surrounded plans to transfer the Christingle Service to Christmas Eve afternoon. This will be discussed again nearer the time.

There were also regular updates on Child Protection issues and the 50th anniversary celebrations, and Ian reminded us that there were still some groups who had not yet submitted their annual reports for the APCM.

The next PCC takes place on Thursday 27th March, and the APCM is on Monday 28th April.

NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

At the meeting on March 17th, the Vicar gave an update on the Village Green application which had been rejected by the inspector but this decision still has to be ratified by the Council. He stressed that in the future we should work in consultation with the diocese, the church congregation and the whole community in our deliberations about the church field.

The treasurer confirmed that the accounts for 2013 had been examined and approved and would be presented at the APCM.

It was agreed to enter into a contract with the Local Council to mow the top part of the field for a sum of £144 plus VAT.

The organ has now been restored in church and this has been paid for out of the choir fund.

Fire alarms have been installed in the church hall and Junior Church and other organisations have had fire practices.

The fund raising committee presented details of forthcoming events and details of these will be in the magazine.

It was reported that at the end of the school year, Mrs Murphy is to retire from the post of Headteacher at Springside School. She has worked well with the church and thanks were extended to her along with best wishes for the future.

Thanks were given to all those standing down from the PCC.

APCM on Tuesday April 9th at 7.30.pm

Stop Press The Local Council has ratified the decision of the Inspector in relation to the Village Green Appeal.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

I came across a card sent to me some time ago when I was ill and I found this verse very encouraging.

Calm me, O Lord, as you calmed the storm,
Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm,
Let the tumult within me cease,
Enfold me Lord in your peace.



Week Two

Jesus, the borrower

The people of the world have known, and still know their need of a Saviour.

When he comes, he comes as one in need.
He is born in a borrowed stable,
and learns the trade of a borrowed father.
He eats and sleeps in borrowed homes,
Preaches from borrowed boats,
Enters his capital on a borrowed donkey.
Eats his last meal in a borrowed room.
Betrayed for borrowed money,
He is aided on the cross by a borrowed shoulder.
Borrows a home for his mother,
and is buried in a borrowed tomb.

Risen and alive, he is still a borrower:

He wishes to borrow you and me.



Week Three

What kind of man is this? That died in agony?
He who had done no wrong, was crucified for me.
What kind of man is this, who laid aside his throne
That I may know the love of God?
What kind of man is this?

Week Four



When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never
shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light.
into the lives of others.

Revd Michaela Youngson

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11TH -17TH 2014

Dear friends,

Once again we will be having a Christian aid lunch this year which has been well supported in the past and is an enjoyable and effective way of supporting Christian aid and helping their work around the world join us for a three course lunch in St John with St Mark church hall on the 11th May at 12.30 pm after the morning services, tickets are £7.50 for adults, £4 for children up to age 12 years, from John Brennan or Rosemarie.

Menu for lunch

Melon Balls or fruit juice

Chicken, roast potatoes + vegetables

Trifle or cheese cake

Tea or coffee

Also if you feel you would like to help with street collections this year please have a word with me, John, on the number above.

Many thanks John.

"War tears lives apart

You can help put them together.

Give people a future without fear"



LENT STUDY - CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATIER

There are still two sessions to come in this lively and innovative Lent course, inspired by the film "*Chocolat*"; which is based on the bestselling novel by Joanne Harris. The film is used as a starting point for exploring issues about God, the world and what it means to be human.

The course has been designed by Hilary Brand in five sessions. The remaining two are:

- Session 4 Getting real - the power of acceptance.
- Session 5 Growing up - the process of change.

During the weeks beginning Monday March 31st and April 7th the sessions will be held on these days and times and at these venues.

Monday evenings at 14, Springside Road. 7.30pm
Led by Revd. Dave Thompson

Tuesday evenings at 150, Walmersley Road. 7.30pm
Led by Ian Banks and Una Kroll

Thursday afternoons in the lower room, Christ Church Hall. 2pm
Led by Revd. Don Altham.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The Walk will start at Bury URC, Parsons Lane at 12.30pm. We shall then walk to the Rock near Barista Coffee where we shall sing hymns, and hear readings appropriate for Good Friday. We are also going to carry some colourful Good Friday posters which we hope will be clearly seen by passers-by. We shall then walk to Bury Parish Church.

On Easter Sunday at 12.30 we will return to the Rock where we will display Easter Posters



This month we experience two seasons of the church's calendar. We have already embarked on our Lenten journey, whatever form that takes. Have we given up something we value? Are we struggling to avoid chocolate and the Easter eggs seem long way ahead? Or have we taken on some new project, responsibility or made time for something that normally gets squeezed out of our busy lives?



The Count your Blessings material produced by Mothers' Union focuses on the balance in our lives and getting things into perspective. Maybe counting our blessings is an opportunity to regain the balance in our busy lives and rejoice in what we have, not what we have given up.

It is suggested we count the items in our fridges, count the types of fruit and veg we buy each week, and count how many items in our kitchen we have to cook with. We are encouraged to reflect on our ability to read, and pray for those who do not have this opportunity so readily available, and count how many times we will meet up with family members in the coming months. Those are just a few of the daily suggestions and more can be found on the Mothers' Union website. It's not too late to get the balance right.

As a United Benefice we are making a collective donation to the 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal and although Mothering Sunday has been celebrated, there is still time to make a gift in memory of a mother or person that had a special place in our hearts. Use the marked envelopes to put your gift in and hand them in to the clergy or Mothers' Union member.

The projects this money will be used for are UK based as well as overseas and include the provision of basic emergency supplies for use in disaster situations, campaigning against violence to women and girls, equipping members with skills to use in prisons or running marriage courses, and teaching literacy and financial skills to help avoid poverty. Let us be part of transforming lives with our gifts.

Archdeacon David Bailey will be leading us in a reflection for Lent at our meeting on April 2nd but we will **not** be meeting on April 16th in Holy Week

Members are encouraged to attend Spring Council on 5th April from 9.30 am at St Thomas Centre, Ardwick, where there is opportunity to reflect on the way forward for Mothers Union in 2014.

On the same day, April 5th at 4pm we have Messy Easter in the church hall at Christ Church and offers of help will be very welcome.

Our Lenten journey brings us to the celebrations of Easter day when we can join with our fellow Christian brothers and sisters and proclaim 'Jesus is Risen! Alleluia!' Happy Easter.

Kathryn Bailey
Branch leader



CAPTION COMPETITION



Write a caption and send it to wrub@live.co.uk or give to any member of the clergy by April 27.

Thanks to Ralph Mallinson for this month's photo.

You may be interested to know that it is the Church of St. Thomas Becket, Fairfield, at the west end of Romney Marsh in Kent, built in the late 12th century. Normally it is accessible only on foot, but because of the floods it wasn't accessible at all – the footbridge you can just see on the left of the picture had been broken by the flood water. Normally there are only 2 services a month, and there are no houses near it, so who comes is anybody's guess!

We received a number of entries for February's 'Christingle' competition – thank you. The judges liked:

"Is this what is meant by a baptism of fire?" (Margery Spencer) and

"Stand back, everybody. I'm going to light the blue touch paper now" (Kath Parkinson)



but the winner this month is Mrs Jean Slater who wins a Fairtrade prize with,

"God's Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119 vs.105

Photographers! If you have a suitable photograph for future months please email to wrub@live.co.uk



Saturday 5th April

MESSY EASTER

To be held at Christ Church Walmersley Church Hall

Organised by United Benefice of Walmersley Road

Open to all the family. Children must be accompanied

Craft

Food

New time

Worship

Fun

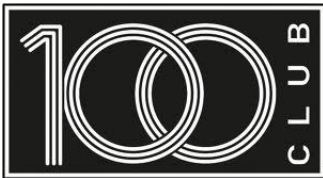
4-6pm

Quiz Night

This was a very successful and enjoyable evening raising £180 for church funds. It was a tightly fought contest with the eventual winners being a group comprising Gill and Peter Smith, Geoff and Trish Stokes and their friend Janet Dalton.

They were presented with the new trophy which has been given in memory of Stan Parkinson who has organized so many quizzes in the past. Thanks go to Alison Fewtrell for setting the quiz and John Clegg for being an entertaining quizmaster. The next quiz will be in the Autumn.

MARCH 2014 WINNERS



1st Prize ~ Phyllis Holt

2nd Prize ~ Elizabeth Alty

3rd Prize ~ Kelly Watson

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Easter Day The Congregation

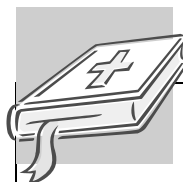
April 27 Mr & Mrs A Spencer



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

The Open Group began its new season of meetings on 12th March with a topic entitled 'Reflections'. The guest speaker was Reverend Dave Thompson who gave a personal insight into his thoughts and feelings on a number of issues that have had a profound effect on his life from being a child to his present day situation. Dave 'reflected' on his lifelong love for the seaside followed by describing a traumatic period in his life concerning serious illness and its effect on his life today, and finally of his lifelong interest as a loyal supporter of Blackpool Football Club. For members, an interesting insight into a persons 'self-reflection' of their own life.

Dave then introduced Sabaila Adman to the Group. Sabaila is currently studying in England and hopes to become ordained and to follow in the footsteps of her father, who is a Vicar. She described life as it is for Christians in her homeland Pakistan and of the atrocities carried out against Christians, where it is never easy having your voice heard, particularly if you are a woman to which women's rights and equality is a prominent issue. Sabaila will be attending services at St. John with St. Mark as part of her studies.



Our next meeting ~ Wednesday 9th April
at 7.30pm in the Library.

Lenten Quiet Evening, led by David Andrew

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



Coffee Morning and Art Exhibition

at Christ Church Hall

Saturday April 5th 10am till Noon

Meet up with friends to enjoy coffee/tea and a bacon sandwich and view the work of local artists.

There will be a book stall and a bric-a-brac stall. Also a chance to order bedding plants for delivery in May.

(All proceeds for church funds)

Messy Ark



Would you be able to help on 3 May please, between 3.30 and 6.30 pm?

The theme of Messy Church that day will be Noah's Ark.

If you would like to be involved – in crafts, worship, food, fun – please have a word with Dave, Kathryn Bailey or Barbara Taylor.

Any suggestions for suitable activities will be very welcome.

Check out the website or the new Facebook page for more details.
Messy Church at Christ Church in UB of Walmersley Road

ANYONE FOR TEA?

A new organisation has been set up to help lonely, older people who are socially isolated.

“Contact The Elderly” organises tea parties for around eight older people. Volunteer drivers pick the guests up from their homes and take them to a gathering offering tea, cakes, chat and friendship.

The criteria is that guests must be over 75, live alone and have no immediate family in the area. Early signs indicate that such events have proved very successful and are much appreciated by those involved.

A new group is currently being started up connected to St.John’s Church, Bircle. If you would like to be involved in this venture, or know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Sue Whitehead on the email address below or have a word with the Vicar who has more information.

Susan & Lynn Whitehead. sue.lynnwhitehead@yahoo.co.uk



Meet the Artists

on April 5th
at Christ Church

Members of the Art Workshop
will display their paintings
You may be able to buy a masterpiece!

PORCH BOXES

A recent news release from Porch Boxes - our local foodbank - shows how the numbers of people in crisis in our community has increased over the last year. Porch Boxes used to send out an average of 226 packs per month. Through 2013 number has dramatically increased :-

September 2013 - 332 boxes were issued;
October - 543;
November - 510; and
December 739 (plus 327 families received Christmas boxes).

As 2014 gets underway the charity is finding itself running out of certain foods.

Churches in Bury are a major supporter of Porch Boxes and the charity is very grateful for the generosity shown over the years it has been in operation. Both churches in the Walmersley Road Benefice have been supporters of Porch Boxes for some time.



You can leave items for Porch boxes at the library at St. John with St. Mark at any time.



Real Easter Eggs

These will not be available at Christ Church this year but they are available in Tesco and other supermarkets. If you are unable to find them, please contact customer services.

This is the only Fairtrade chocolate egg with a mention of the Easter story and comes with a booklet to tell that story.



An English
Afternoon Tea
to celebrate

St. George's Day

Wednesday April 23rd

2pm till 4.30pm

at Christ Church Hall

*(All proceeds for the Church Repairs &
Renovations Fund)*



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH
INVITE YOU TO
A BUFFET DINNER DANCE

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC & DANCE,
WITH DELICIOUS BUFFET

IN ST. JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH HALL
ON FRIDAY 25 APRIL ~ 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH AT £7.50 EACH
ALL WELCOME

THE EASTER STORY

Where?



Where did Jesus ride into on a donkey?
.....

Where did Jesus and his disciples have their last meal together?
.....

Where was Jesus arrested?

Where was Jesus crucified?

Where was Jesus buried?

Who?

Who betrayed Jesus?

Who denied knowing Jesus?

Who first questioned Jesus?

Who washed his hands of Jesus?

Who was freed in place of Jesus?

Who helped carry the cross of Jesus?.....

Who did Jesus ask to look after his mother?

Who took the body of Jesus for burial?

Who was the first to see the risen Jesus?

What?

What did Jesus wash at the Last Supper?
.....

What did Jesus say when he gave the disciples the wine?
.....

What did Jesus promise the robbers on the cross?
.....



WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 1 | 7.30 pm | Lenten Course 150 Walmersley Road |
| 2 | 7.30 pm | Mothers' Union Lenten Reflection |
| 3 | 2.00 pm | Lenten Course Church Hall (CC) |
| 5 | 10.00 am | Coffee Morning (CC Hall)
And Art Exhibition |
| | 10.00 am | Mothers' Union Spring Council |
| | 4.00 pm | Messy Church |
| 6 | | Fifth Sunday of Lent
Services as usual |
| 7 | 7.30 pm | Lenten Course 14 Springside Road |
| 8 | 7.30 pm | Lenten Course 150 Walmersley Road |
| 9 | 7.30 pm | APCM (CC) |
| | 7.30 pm | Open Group Lenten Reflection (SJSM) |
| 10 | 2.00 pm | Lenten Course Church Hall (CC) |
| 13 | | Palm Sunday
Services as usual |
| 14 | 7.00 pm | Holy Communion (SJM) |
| 15 | 7.00 pm | Holy Communion (SJM) |

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 16 | 7.30 pm | Seder Meal (SJSM) |
| 17 | 7.30 pm | Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion (CC & SJM) |
| 18 | 10.00 am
12.30 pm
2.00pm | Good Friday
Meditative Service (CC)
Walk of Witness
Last Hour at the Cross (SJM) |
| 20 | | Easter Day
Services as usual |
| 23 | 2.00 pm | St George's Day afternoon tea (CC) |
| 25 | 7.30pm | Buffet Dance (SJM) |
| 27 | | Second Sunday of Easter
Services as usual |
| 28 | 7.30 pm | APCM (SJSM) |

If you wish to advertise events, please let us know about them.
 We would like more articles from our readers. Perhaps you would like to produce the "For Quiet Moments" one month. We should be very grateful for all contributions.



Seder Meal

**Mark the Passover
with this special meal**

Wednesday, 16 April at 7.30 pm
in the Church Hall, Parkinson Street

Tickets £5

Details from the Vicar



The
Stanley
Parkinson
Memorial
Trophy



The first winners to receive this magnificent trophy,
given in memory of a great quizmaster,
– a rather moving moment