



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



“He is risen. Alleluia!”

March 2016

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

Monday

	Monday@2	49 Fairlands Road
7.30 p.m.	1 st Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road

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

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.



Both churches have the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



What a difference a day makes

"What a difference a day makes!" the words of a song of some years ago – I can't remember the singer and I ought to because a few years ago during a temporary stay in hospital I asked a young carer if she knew who the singer of that song was and she found out for me. "Is it for a pub quiz?" she asked. "No, I replied, it is for a sermon." "Oh I didn't think you could use things like that in church!" was the response. Well I am not in church now but "What a difference a day makes" has been much in my thoughts in recent times.

It has cropped up in novels I have been reading, and in articles in newspapers and magazines. A young woman's life was transformed on the day that she discovered a different diet which freed her from a debilitating illness.

I have read of lives changed on one day and sometimes beyond belief by accidents, illness and meeting with strangers.



We have all experienced days which have changed our lives. Bereavement, marriage, a new job, the birth of a child, even passing a driving test can all bring about massive alteration in our lives.

For me, a blind date one day in March nineteen sixty has resulted in 54 years of marriage without which I would not have come to live in Walmsley and probably would not be a Reader now.

Many people's lives are altered dramatically when they encounter Jesus be it 2000 plus years ago or today. Those first disciples lives were certainly swept off course on the day they left their jobs, homes and livelihoods to follow Jesus. And over the next three years there would have been many occasions that were red letter days.



On the Sunday before Jesus' death there had been the triumphant ride into Jerusalem to the great acclaim of the people. An **exhilarating day** indeed.

The Passover meal which they shared later that week would have made them stop and think. Jesus washed their feet, a totally unexpected act of service and he told them that one of them was to betray him. A **thought-provoking** day.

And the day we call Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross must have been a day of great sorrow, a day they thought everything had ended. That would have been a **frightening** day.

But, what a difference a day (or to be more accurate two days) made. On the Sunday morning the women went to the tomb and found it empty. And as Mary Magdalen wept in the garden Jesus appeared to her. He spoke to her by name and she realised that he had risen from the dead. Jesus is alive. What a **joyous** day!



It was a day which changed the disciples' lives and our lives. It was a day which changed the world. A **life enriching** day.

Lord, help us to live each day in the light of Easter with its joy bubbling in our hearts, its message shaping our lives so that others can see the difference it has made to us and can make to them.

May you have a joyous Easter,

Margery



Sunday 6 March
at 10.30 a.m.
in both churches

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2016

Monday	7.00pm	Holy Communion	SJM
Tuesday	7.00pm	Holy Communion	SJM
Wednesday	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Seder Meal	SJM SJM Hall
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Parish Communion	CC SJM
Good Friday	10.00am 2.00pm	Morning Service Last Hour at the Cross	CC SJM
Easter Eve	6.30pm	Service of Light	SJM



HOLY WEEK

The Golden Quiz



Thank you to all who enjoyed the quiz
which was part of last month's
Valentine Bacon Butty morning.

Answers at the back of Christ Church.



BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

Mar 6 Fourth of Lent – Mothering Sunday

Joshua 5: 9-12 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15: 1-3,11b-32

Mar 13 Fifth of Lent – Passion Sunday

Isaiah 43: 16-21 Philippians 3: 4b-14 John 12: 1-8

Mar 20 Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Luke 19: 28-40

Mar 27 Easter Sunday

Isaiah 65: 17-25 Acts 10: 34-43 Luke 24: 1-12

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

Feb 4 Mary Booth

Interment of ashes in the garden of remembrance:

Feb 14 James Hamer

"I am the resurrection and the life....."



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY – the Congregation

FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 14 JANUARY 2016

The Treasurer provided us with his first copies of the draft accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015. Once again the accounts were clear, concise and well presented. Ian detailed the income and expenditure for 2015 and outlined the budget for 2016. Barring a couple of questions, the PCC had no concern with the accounts and they will shortly be passed to the Independent Examiner. The Vicar remarked it was great that the accounts had almost been completed more than three months before the APCM, and thanked Ian for his work.

Our first Cafe Church event had taken place the Sunday before and the feedback was discussed. Overall it was felt the service had worked and people thought it had flowed well and there were many positive comments. The next of these services at St John with St Mark will be on 22nd May.

Work on the West Window has been briefly delayed due to bad weather, however this will resume on Monday 18th January when the glass will arrive.

It has been recommended that the organ be given a service and clean up.

Paul is to look into the possibility of a Church outing sometime this summer and a couple of options were discussed.

The Vicar explained that there will be a joint Lent Group with Seedfield Methodist on Tuesday Evenings from 16th February.

Following the low congregation at the Christmas Eve midnight service, the Vicar asked the PCC to consider the possibility of this service being moved forward to 7.30pm. This suggestion was welcomed with the feeling that this may increase the numbers who attend. It was also agreed that flowers can now be placed in Church during the Advent season.

Arrangements for social events in February were confirmed. The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 1st March at 8.00pm. The APCM will be after the 10.30am service on Sunday 24th April.

FROM THE COUNCILS 2

CHRIST CHURCH MEETING OF 11 JANUARY 2016

- ✓ A letter had been received from the LCS about copyright infringement on the website. This was to be taken up with LCS to try and get the fine reduced.
- ✓ The financial report for December was given by Cath Black. £2000 was voted to be paid towards the parish share.
- ✓ The vicar had met with Paul Denney and members of the Friends of Walmersley.
- ✓ The feasibility study that is being undertaken by architects from Byrom Clark Roberts was to be discussed at a meeting with the architects later in January at which the three alternatives would be discussed.
- ✓ The café church at St Johns went down well with all who attended.
- ✓ Young people to be more involved with the parade service and café church.
- ✓ The trip hazard at the front of church raised in November under health and safety had been attended to.
- ✓ It was noted that Simon Cook is the new Area Dean.
- ✓ Discussions were held on the subject of church attendance questionnaire that was an item from the Joint PCC meeting in December.
- ✓ The vicar thanked those who had organised the songs of praise evening and said it had been enjoyed by all who attended.

CHRIST CHURCH MEETING OF 8 FEBRUARY 2016

- ✓ A letter had been received from LCS after our apology, reducing the fine by 50% to £40.
- ✓ The financial report was given by the warden as Cath Black was unable to attend. The accounts for 2015 are ready to be sent to the auditor. £2000 was voted to be paid towards the parish share.

- ✓ The three options for rebuilding the church buildings were discussed at length and it was agreed that the architects should proceed to build costs up for each option with a quantity surveyor.
- ✓ Children's Ministry: the vicar gave thanks to Julie Tyrer for her work with the children at the parade service. A copper collection is taken by the children at each communion service and is then donated when it reaches £100 to a charity of the children's choice.
- ✓ The fund raising committee has a Bacon Butty event on the 13th of February in the church Hall at 11am, also a Quiz night to be organised for the 2nd of April again in the Church Hall.
- ✓ The property committee continue with maintenance work around and inside the church, completing jobs from the Quinquennial inspection.
- ✓ In the Vicar's remarks the following points were covered.
There had been a comment received regarding the broken down wall in the graveyard extension. This will be rebuilt when the weather improves.
The vicar then gave examples of data that had been received from the diocese on population, deprivation, parish share, giving and attendance.
The Questionnaire on worship was to be forwarded by the secretary to all PCC members for comment.
- ✓ The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on the 25th of April at 7.30pm in the church hall.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday March 5th
11am
Christ Church hall
Coffee cakes, tombola

In memory of Louise Hamer

FROM THE VICARAGE

* Thanks to all those who contributed to the great success of the pantomime at St.John with St.Mark last month. The young people's performance of Joseph was spectacular. Here's to next year!

* Anyone wishing to be confirmed later in the year should contact a member of the Ministry Team. Classes will begin in the spring.

* Thanks to all who attended the Bacon Butty Group at Christ Church on 13 February. Around £350 was raised. The Valentine Roses were especially popular!

* In addition to the Benefice Lent Groups on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons - there is also be a separate Lent Group with Seedfield Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings during the season. These continue until 15 March.

* The charity RE>Build are asking for help to support flood victims who are still unable to return to their homes. They desperately need clean mattresses and beds as well as cutlery, kitchen equipment and ornaments etc. If you can help please ring them on 764 0444 or visit their shop on Market Street.

* Please remember to complete the questionnaire to all electoral roll members about our Christian presence in the benefice. There are eight questions with space for comments. Please return it by 6th March.

* A reminder that we still have a Parish Pass to Westminster Abbey in London enabling up to 4 people free entry up to six times. The pass runs out in May. Visitors are usually charged £20 for entry into the building unless attending worship. If anyone would like to make use of this concession in the next three months, please have a word with me. Many thanks to Nigel & Barbara for obtaining this pass for our use.

* The Porch project are currently struggling to meet demand and asking for more foodstuff. Both churches have a box at the back of church to support this worthy cause.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet every month – usually on the first Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please have a word with me.

* Any enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc should be made at the Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00.

* Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the wardens.

* Both of our Church Halls are available for a whole range of activities for use by church and community groups. Please however check with the bookings officers if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged. The contact details are at the back of this magazine.

* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH
INVITES 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 11th MARCH ~ 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH
£7.50 EACH

**Please note that tickets must be purchased
no later than Sunday 6th March**

ALL WELCOME

IN MEMORIAM: Mary Booth

Mary Booth died in Fairfield Hospital on 27 January 2016 at the age of 90. A lifelong resident of the parish of Walmersley, her funeral service was held in church a week later and attended by over 120 people.

She was born Mary Simpson at Bass Lane on Thursday 20 March 1925. Her parents worked at Robinson Kay Home – now of course The Priory – and Mary attended Summerseat School. At the age of 6 the family moved to Rowlands Road.

In March 1949, Mary married John Booth and for over 60 years has lived at Longcroft Cottages, Nangreaves which became – and remains - the family home where she was at the hub of events.

She was a great supporter of Christ Church, especially the seasonal fairs and of village life in general. She was well known on the Nangreaves bus and was an integral part of the community.

In her quiet unassuming way, Mary would visit those who were sick. She was a good listener who wouldn't judge. She was admired and respected by those who knew her for her patience and understanding.

She enjoyed keeping up with world events through her daily newspaper and would always do the crossword. Mary loved attending concerts at the Bridgewater Hall and keeping up with friends old and new, especially those from the Monday Club at Hawkshaw.

Widowed 21 years ago, Mary always met challenges head on, including a hip replacement at the age of 88.

Her wisdom and friendship will be missed by so many in the parish of Walmersley.

We give thanks to God for the life of Mary Booth.

May She Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

MEN OF THE BENEFICE

The latest meeting of the Men of the Benefice (MOB) took place on Monday 25 January at the Sundial.

Geoff Hamilton spoke about the life and times of Bury's very own Sir Robert Peel, who was born in Bury on 5 February 1788, his father being a very significant mill owner in the town. When Robert Peel was 10 years old, the family moved to Tamworth in Staffordshire. He attended Oxford University and became an MP at the age of 21. In a political career of over 40 years he was variously Chief Secretary for Ireland, Home Secretary, Chancellor and Prime Minister.



His most famous legacy is the creation of the modern police force, but he was also very involved with the corn laws, catholic emancipation and income tax reform.

Peel died on 2 July 1850 after falling from his horse in London. Geoff presented a very detailed account of Robert Peel's life with many local references. The most prominent being of course the statue outside Bury Parish Church.

Sir Robert Peel, by Calder Marshall stands in Piccadilly Manchester

THE MOB MEETS ON THE LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT THE SUNDIAL ON WALMERSLEY ROAD - 8.00pm
(Except Bank Holidays)

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

Prayers for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a difficult time

Loving Father, we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of heartache rather than celebration.

We pray for those who have never known their mother or whose mothers have died.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who long to be mothers but as yet have not had their own children.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who struggle with the way their children have chosen to live their lives.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

We pray for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother.

Heavenly Father, bless them with your love

May they have the comfort of knowing that your love for them is constant, your understanding is perfect, your compassion is never-ending. **Amen**

Week Two

O Father, give us the humility which

Realises its ignorance

Admits its mistakes

Recognises its need

Welcomes advice

Accepts rebuke

Help us always

To praise rather than to criticise

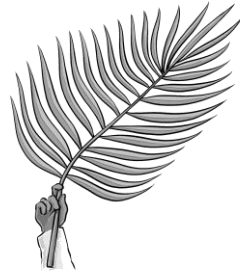
To sympathise rather than to condemn

To encourage rather than to discourage

To build rather than to destroy

Week Three

Let us enter the city with God today
Let us sing hosanna to our king
To the son of God riding on a donkey
With shepherds and prostitutes,
With the blind and the leper
With the abandoned and oppressed
Let us shout for joy at Christ's coming
And follow the One who welcomes the sinner
and dines with the outcast
Let us touch and see as God draws near
Riding in Triumph towards the Cross



Week Four

'I have seen the Lord...' (John 20:18)

Against all hope, against all understanding, against all the odds

Jesus is risen

For the hungry child, for the grieving widow,
for the beaten prisoner

Jesus is risen

In the refugee camp, in the hospital ward,
in the suburban street

Jesus is risen

In the forests, in the mountains, beside the seas

Jesus is risen

In the lives of the faithful, in the witness of the hopeful,
in the hearts of the loving

Jesus is risen

Christ is risen

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!





Founded in 1876, Mothers' Union is a Christian family charity with over 4 million members dedicated to

promoting marriage and supporting family life. It realises that the wellbeing of the family cannot be separated from the welfare of wider communities and therefore undertakes groundbreaking community work in over 83 countries. Whilst members come from all denominations, Mothers' Union as an organisation is usually based in the context of the Anglican Church. Wherever they are in the world, members all strive towards one unified vision, that of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Promoting social justice is key for Mothers' Union: speaking out on issues which adversely affect family life, common threads across different countries are gender equality, gender based violence, early marriage and tackling poverty.

In the UK, Mothers' Union campaign against the commercialisation and sexualisation of children; advocate the right to request flexible working for all employees and on parental leave.

2016 is therefore a very special one for Mothers' Union as we celebrate 140 years of faithful service to families and communities. Faith has lain at the heart of Mothers' Union since its founding by Mary Sumner. So this year we want to take every opportunity to celebrate the faithfulness of God to us through the years; the faithful witness of our members, past and present; and our determination to continue to trust in God for all that lies ahead for us in the future.

At a local level we will be looking at ways we can celebrate our faith and deepen our relationships with each other and within our community. At our AGM on Feb 10th we looked back with gratitude on the last year and forward to the future. We extend a welcome to Karen Hawkins and Ruth Butcher who join the existing committee.

We have the opportunity to explore Lent with 2 reflective sessions led by Archdeacon David and Revd Paul Sanderson.

Members are encouraged to attend the Cathedral on March 2nd to celebrate the commitment to service of Cath Hilton who stands as Diocesan President for a further three years and the commissioning of trustees. More details in the weekly sheet.

Looking ahead to April we will hold a Bring and buy sale. I encourage members to think imaginatively about what they bring to sell. If you have a talent or hobby for creating delicious food or special items please consider bringing such items along to tempt us! Or alternatively you may be able to offer time to someone else who is struggling to get everything done. I know one member who has a real gift for wrapping presents beautifully! We all have some hidden talents! Or bring an unloved object in your home and let's find it a new home! Let's have fun!

Dates for the diary:

March 2nd - Commissioning of Cath Hilton and trustees at the Cathedral at 7.30pm

March 16th - Lent meditation led by Revd Paul Sanderson

April 6th - Bring and buy sale for Mothers' Union projects.

We welcome everyone to our branch meetings. Do come and join us.

Kathryn Bailey,
Branch Leader



FAMILIES & FAMILY

66 years ago, a country lass met a country lad and a friendship grew.

Now although they were both of the same basic religion, their way of practising it differed, so their friendship was frowned upon from all sides. (Even HM Forces sent the lad to lands far away). However on his homecoming a church wedding took place and life carried on.

Now in celebrating their Diamond Wedding they wish to thank everyone for the gifts and cards received (even Her Majesty The Queen sent congratulations). They thank the clergy past and present of St.John with St.Mark, the choir and Open Group.

Remembering that families change - including the family of the church - so we live with these changes, placing our faith in God as we say every night:

"Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
we place our trust in thee"
Amen



ROY & MAUREEN NUTTALL

January 2016 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ Eileen Smith

2nd Prize ~ S J Tanner

3rd Prize ~ Margaret Hall



Congratulations to all

A Last Beatitude

And blessèd are the ones we overlook;
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book
But keep the books and tally up the quota,
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',
The quiet ones who organise the fete,
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.
God knows the depths that often go unspoken
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.
Invisible on earth, without a voice,
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice.

by Malcom Guite

The word "blessed" is written in a fluid, cursive script. The letters are dark and have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The 'b' is particularly large and has a long, sweeping tail that loops under the rest of the word. The 'l' is tall and thin, and the 'e's are small and tight. The overall style is elegant and personal.



LUNCHES FOR LENT 2016

A SIMPLE MIDDAY MEAL OF SOUP AND BREAD

***NO CHARGE – BUT DONATIONS FOR
TEARFUND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED***

tearfund

**At Walmersley
Church Hall
(in the back
room)**

**Every
Thursday
Starting
18th Feb
through to
24th March**

**Noon till
1.30pm**

**Tea/coffee
also provided**

*If you can help on
any day or want
more details
please speak to
Barbara and
Nigel.*



SATURDAY WALKING GROUP

Due to other commitments in February, we decided to undertake a shorter walk on Saturday 13th, which was around the much more local setting of the Kirklees Valley. We set off from St John with St Mark Hall at 9.30am, before stopping off at Christ Church Walmersley to meet up with others.

This was the first decent Saturday in a long while, which gave us some good weather (albeit slightly chilly). This was evident with the number of people we saw out and about who were making the most of the winter sunshine; walking dogs, cycling and riding horses.

We walked through Summerseat, past the garden centre and then on towards Greemount and the start of the Kirklees Valley, through Tottington and Brandlesholme.

We came back through Burrs Country Park and returned to St John with St Mark at 11.45am - plenty of time for our leader Paul to prepare for his final night on the stage in Joseph.

The whole walk was about 6-7 miles and took just over 2 hours to complete - recommended for anyone who wishes to get out and about for a few hours whilst the weather is good.

Since the last report, a small number of us also met on 30th January for an unscheduled walk from Stacksteads near Bacup, to Rochdale. We had the route planned. However various obstacles, especially over Cowm Quarry, soon meant it became unplanned and we finished at Whitworth for return bus. Spectacular views though, and enjoyable all the same.

Our next walk will be led jointly by Paul Sanderson and Michael Ryan on Saturday 5th March, taking in Holcombe Hill and Irwell Vale. Meet at the Lych Gate, Christ Church Walmersley at 9.30am. All welcome, with packed lunch and waterproofs.

This year, we aim to walk on the first Saturday of each month. If you would like to join us for the first time, and can suggest a walk you may wish to lead or complete, please speak to Paul Sanderson.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

A Reflection from a hospital bed

What has been the most physically painful in your life? If you're part of the 50% of humankind that bears children, I wouldn't be in the least surprised if your answer would be, Having my baby, babies. But I'm part of the other 50%, so – at least for the foreseeable future – that couldn't ever be my answer.

I've several times had severe leg cramps in the middle of the night – very painful, but never as awful as the pain I experienced recently at the well-meaning hands of my G.P. He was trying to drain an abscess at the base of my spine – it's in an area called the "sacrum" but the language produced by his efforts was very far indeed from being "sacred"!

There's a fairly rare congenital condition in that part of the body called a "pilonidal sinus", found in men more than women. I was born with it, but knew nothing about it until it flared up in 1963, not long before I was ordained. It was excised and I thought no more about it until 8 months or so ago, when it began to give me considerable grief in that part of my body.

So at the end of January I found myself in NMGH (aka Crumpsall Hospital), in very considerable pain and quite a high temperature, especially when the doctors and nurses were treating it. I couldn't help wondering what it was all about. If God is the good, loving, merciful, just creator of the world, why/how has God allowed such pain into his world?

I will not, cannot, could not, ever believe that pain is sent to purify us, make us good, or even punish us for the many wrongs we have committed. Neither can I believe that pain is sent to give us 'moral fibre', as some suppose. And we all know

people who have suffered a very great deal more than we ever have – why, why, why?

For centuries priests and philosophers, saints and sinners, Christian women and men, have reflected deeply on these hard questions. It may well be that in the last resort all we can do is to hold on to the lovely words of the Prophet Isaiah:

43 But now, this is what the LORD says, he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

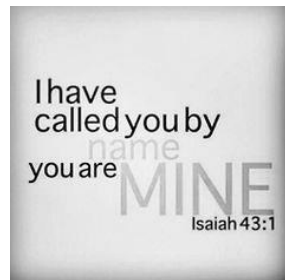
³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead.

⁴ Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

Or we could do a great deal worse than hold on to the Lord Jesus as he died on the Cross on Good Friday: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Ralph Mallinson



Stand up for farmers

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016

February 29 – March 13

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight will be to encourage campaigners to inspire Big Fairtrade Breakfasts in their community – and wake others up to the challenges facing farmers and workers.

Fairtrade goods are available in all supermarkets and other shops. The list of fairly traded goods is ever increasing, with items such as bananas, honey, coffee, oranges, cocoa, cotton, dried and fresh fruits and vegetables, juices, nuts and oil seeds, rice, spices, sugar, tea and wine able to be bought.



PLEASE HELP
BY PURCHASING FAIRTRADE
GOODS
WHEREVER THEY ARE
AVAILABLE.

St.John with St.Mark has
a Fairtrade Stall
after Sunday services

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

St.John with St.Mark: Sunday April 24 11.45pm

Christ Church: Monday 25 April 7.30pm

COME ALONG & INFLUENCE THE WAY YOUR CHURCH OPERATES

In preparation for these meetings, the church electoral roll needs updating. If you are already on the electoral roll, you don't need to do anything unless you have changed address.

If you have been a regular worshipper for at least 6 months, please consider filling in a form to join the electoral roll. These can be found at the back of both churches.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: please also use the form above to give us your new address.

Please note:

Only those on the Church's Electoral Roll may vote
at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Café Church 2016

13 March	Christ Church
22 May	St.John with St.Mark
3 July	Christ Church
11 Sept	Christ Church
25 Sept	St.John with St.Mark
27 Nov	Christ Church



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Go, go, go Joseph

After having watched quite a few of the rehearsals I was fortunate to be in the audience for all 3 performances of "Joseph".

It was great to see the sheer enthusiasm of all the cast. Each and every one put their heart and soul into everything.

Poor, poor Pharaoh

Jacob and sons

Along with lively songs, routines and lovely singing, wonderful scenery and costumes – this show was bound to be a "winner".

Congratulations to Debbie and all the production team for bringing such a "lot" of happiness to all the young cast and also to the audiences.

Stone the crows

Any dream will do

How will you "top" this?
We will have to wait and see!
Well done to all concerned.

I, for one, hope you will continue for many years to come!

M. Bithell





ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

Our first meeting of 2016 is on Wednesday 9th March.
The Reverend Gill Barnett will lead us for our Lenten Evening,
and everybody is welcome to join us at 7.30pm in the Library.

Please remember that the Open Group is open to all and
we would love you to join us for our meetings.
We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

For details of our speakers for this year,
please speak to Joyce Hopkinson, Phyllis Holt or Betty Roe
at St. John with St. Mark



Saturday April 2nd
7.30 pm
Christ Church Hall
Compiled by Alison Fewtrell
Resident Quiz Master John Clegg

Come and be the new holder of the Stan Parkinson Trophy

Admission £3 including refreshments

LENTEN GROUPS



Where? Christ Church Hall

When? Thursday 3rd 10th, 17 March 2.00pm

Where? 150 Walmersley Road

When? Monday 7th, 14th March 7.30pm

The theme is

"The Joy of the Gospel"

The course enables individuals and groups to rediscover the joy of encountering the good news of Jesus and the transformation that is possible when we communicate it in the world today.

Each session includes prayer, a guided reflection on a Bible passage and the opportunity to share experiences.



PRAYER DIARY

for THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

- SUNDAY:** For all our worship services.
All who receive Holy Communion at home.
Those who read, lead the intercessions and serve in our church services
- MONDAY:** Links with our local communities.
Sixtown Housing. Bury Library Service.
The PCCs and their committees.
Those who provide and arrange church flowers.
- TUESDAY:** All the educational establishments in the parish.
School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools,
Primary Schools, Bury CE High School.
Our pastoral care to all the community.
- WEDNESDAY:** The Vicar and the Assistant Priests.
The Licensed Readers Our Study Groups.
Ecumenical Links within the benefice. Our ministry to those bereaved and have had funerals in church
- THURSDAY:** The Sunday School /Junior Church. Our work with young people. Those preparing to be married in church. Our baptism ministry.
- FRIDAY:** Our music ministry. The retired clergy.
Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry. Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- SATURDAY:** Links with other church communities across the world. Mothers' Union.
Our care of the church buildings.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Feb 29		Fairtrade Fortnight begins
Tue 1	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Wed 2	7.30pm	Commissioning of Cath Hilton (Cathedral)
Thu 3	12 noon	Lent Lunch (CC)
	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC)
Sat 5	9.30am	Walking Group (CC lychgate)
	11.00am	Macmillan Coffee Morning (CC)
Sun 6		Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday Services as usual
Mon 7	7.30pm	Lent group (150 Walmersley Road)
Wed 9	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Thu 10	12 noon	Lent Lunch (CC)
	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC)
Fri 11	7.30pm	Buffet Dinner Dance (SJM)
Sun 13		Passion Sunday Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (CC)
Mon 14	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Wed 16	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 17	12 noon	Lent Lunch (CC)
	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC)
Thu 17	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Sun 20		Palm Sunday Services as usual
	12 noon	Scouts Winter Warmer lunch (SJM)
Holy Week Services – see p.5		
Thu 24	12 noon	Lent Lunch (CC)
Sun 27		EASTER DAY Services as usual
April 2	7.30pm	Quiz Night (CC)



*Congratulations
to everyone
involved*

