



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



**Pentecost**

**May 2016**



**50p**



## ***REGULAR SERVICES***

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

### **Monday**

	Monday@2	49 Fairlands Road
7.30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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.



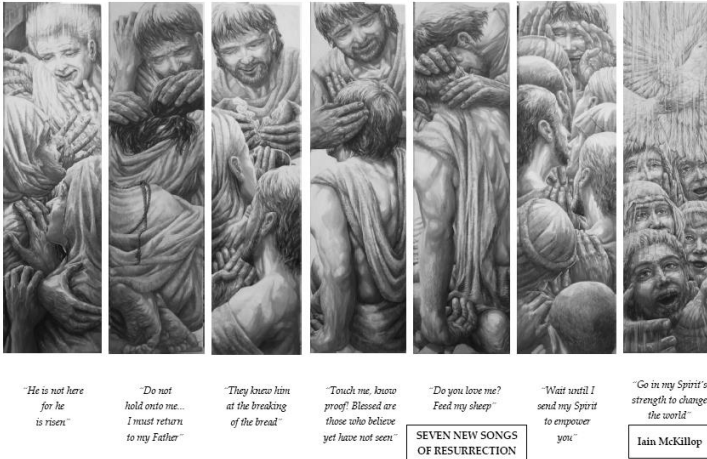
Both churches have the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



## SONGS OF RESURRECTION

In March I gave a meditative talk to Mothers' Union based on Christ's Seven Last Words from the Cross. I used a series of paintings created by Rev'd Iain McKillop (see Mothers' Union report on p.15). Iain also painted a companion set for the Easter period "The Seven Songs of Resurrection".



These pictures contemplate Christ's returning to life with promises of hope and restoration.

He calls us to new ways of living, and assures us that he remains with us. God gives his Spirit to strengthen and support us in sending us out to spread his message. With his peace and his love we are to build a better world.

These paintings were also conceived as a memorial to innocent lives taken as a result of war in all nations. They were created as part of a process of contemplative prayer. Destruction, terrorism or warfare are not Christ's way to solve political or social problems. The images ask us to learn new ways following Christ's loving, self-sacrificial, forgiving, non-recriminatory, peace-bringing example.

By the middle of May we will have finished another Easter Cycle, ending with Pentecost. Now what we may ask?

A good starting place would be to consider the Apostles and disciples after the Holy Spirit came upon them. Something had happened to them as they met with the Risen Christ and been given the Holy Spirit. After Pentecost, they were different people. No longer did they flee like sheep without a shepherd. Instead, they set out to tell the world about Jesus. They understood what their true calling was and how they were to live.

After Pentecost the Common Worship Lectionary put us in ORDINARY TIME.

Because of our use of the word "ordinary", many people think that Ordinary Time refers to the parts of the Church year that are unimportant. But it's just a name we use simply because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. So Ordinary Time is in fact the ordered life of the Church. The rhythm of the liturgical seasons reflects the rhythm of life, with its celebrations of anniversaries and its seasons, so now Sunday by Sunday, the Church marks her journey through the year as she processes through time toward eternity.

Ordinary Time, with its emphasis on daily living in the world, is a great opportunity for us to live un-ordinary lives! Live the lives as people who have come through the passion of our Lord, celebrated the joy of Easter. Like the Apostles and the disciples of old we have work to do, following the example of Christ, inspired by his words and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

God Bless  
Paul



## **BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY**

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May 1 **Saint Philip and Saint James**

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

May 8 **Easter 7**

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

May 15 **Pentecost**

Acts 2: 1-21 Romans 8: 14-17 John 14: 8-17

May 22 **Trinity Sunday**

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

May 29 **First after Trinity**

1 Kings 8: 22,23, Galatians 1: 1-12 Luke 7: 1-10  
41-43

## **ASCENSION DAY**

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40 days after Easter Sunday,  
we celebrate the day  
Jesus left this earth and returned  
to His Father in heaven.

Thursday 5 May

*Services at both  
St. John with St. Mark and Christ Church  
at 7.30pm*



## ***FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH***

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May 1	The Booth Family
May 8	Vacant
May 15	Derek Schofield in memory of his mother Bessie
May 22	Vacant
May 29	In memory of Mrs Margaret Dutton

Anyone who would like to donate flowers for church,  
or is interested in helping with flower arranging  
please contact Betty Winterbottom

## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **Baptisms**

March 20      Lily Ivings  
  
                 Evelyn Holt

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

### **Interment of ashes**

April 3              Mary Booth

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

# PENTECOST



## PRAISE

A Sunday evening celebration in songs, reading and prayers.

**Where:** Walmersley Church Hall

**When:** Sunday May 22nd

**Time:** 7pm



Worship in an informal setting with tea/coffee and cake!

## ***FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### **Christ Church March 2016**

A thank you certificate relating to our parish share was received from the Bishop of Manchester. A letter regarding the Parish share was also received from the Archdeacon.

The new grounds maintenance agreement and a new gas contract have been signed.

A letter relating to the retirement of Bishop Chris was received and tickets will be applied for for the farewell service in Bolton Parish Church.

The financial report was discussed and the accounts for 2015 are with the auditor.

A new charity for the children's copper collection needs to be decided on.

It was decided to pay £6,000 towards our Parish Share in April.

The role of a Deanery Synod was discussed at length and it was noted to make people aware of the Synod at the APCM.

It was decided to put a summary in the April magazine of the options being studied by the PCC regarding the future of the church buildings.

There were no discussions on the sale of the church field.

Children's ministry: the children are being involved in the café church service and family service and booklets for children have been purchased for Easter. Junior church leaders are needed.

The worship questionnaire has been completed and will now be reviewed.

The vicar had received a letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York who are inviting churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during the week before Pentecost



Sunday. The Archbishops had written expressing their longing "to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches" from 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May. The vicar suggested we could have 1 hour prayer service, a 24/7 prayer service. As the date falls near Rogation Sunday when a benefice walk is planned prayers could be said at different points around the walk.

There will be Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Ascension Day services at both Christ Church and St John with St Mark's. On Christmas Eve, the vicar is keen to have a 7.30pm service at St Johns and an 11.30 pm service at CCW.

The meeting closed at 9pm with Prayer.

### ***Copper Collections***

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Our young people continue to collect and contribute towards our copper collections, alongside the adult members of our congregations. These weekly collections occur during the last hymn of our Sunday morning services.

In the last two years, these collections have helped a number of charitable organisations. These include Embrace the Middle East, Bury Hospice, Save the Children Fund, Children's Relief Bethlehem, The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Bury Pipeline and the Joshua Wilson Brain Tumour Charity.

Currently St.John with St.Mark's Church are donating to the North West Air Ambulance and Christ Church are supporting McMillan Nurses. Both these organisations play a vital role in the everyday lives of our parishioners.

Thank you to all who contribute. Little do we realise that when the children are collecting our coppers we are making a real difference to someone's life.

If anyone has information about a suitable charity that we can support, please have a word with one of the church officials.

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* Gill's ordination to the priesthood will take place at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday 25 June, beginning at 2.30pm. We will be arranging transport to this service. Please listen out for the arrangements in the weeks prior to this day.



\* The Bishop of Bolton is to retire at the end of June. A farewell service will be held on Sunday 15 May at Bolton Parish Church, beginning at 3.00pm. We have a limited number of tickets available for this service. If anyone wishes to attend, please let me know.

\* An Archdeacons' Parish Visitation will take place in the benefice on the morning of Wednesday 1 June. This five – yearly event has two purposes:

- i) to ensure the administrative elements of the parishes are in good order and that the legal requirements are being properly met.
- ii) to give an opportunity to reflect on the life, mission and ministry of the parish.

There will be more information about the Visitation nearer the time

\* Archdeacons are also required to hold annual Visitations. In this Diocese these are usually arranged in each deanery, during May. Clergy, churchwardens, sidespersons and PCC members are asked to attend and the services are open to all. The Archdeacon delivers an address (or 'charge') and admits Churchwardens to office, on behalf of the Bishop. The service in Bury Deanery will take place on Wednesday, 4 May at St Paul Ramsbottom starting at 7.30 pm. If this is not convenient other dates are available on the diocesan website or from the clergy.

- \* If anyone is interested in being confirmed this year, please have a word with me or another member of the Ministry Team.
- \* 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.
- \* The regular Parish Retreat for some of the congregation of St.John with St.Mark will take place from 25-28 May at Formby. Please remember all the participants in your prayers.
- \* The Diocesan publication, CRUX is looking for lay people who would be willing to share their story of how God has been moving in their life in the Brief Encounter section of the diocesan magazine. If you would like to share your own story please contact me.
- \* 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 sent by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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### Week One

On Sunday we celebrate St Philip and St. James who helped spread the good news.

Living God,  
long ago, faithful men and women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,  
our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.



### Week Two



Show us good Lord,  
The peace we should seek,  
The peace we must give,  
The peace we can give,  
The peace we must keep,  
The peace we must forgo  
And the peace you have given  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

Caryl Micklem

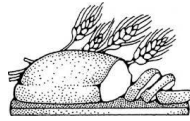
## **Week Three**

### ***Christian Aid Week***

'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' (Matthew 25, 37-41)

Lord, we are blessed with an abundance of food, water and clothing whilst others do not have even enough simply to support life.

Help us Lord  
To share what we have;  
To campaign for more equitable use of the worlds' resources;  
To help those in need of comfort and security.



## **Week Four**

O Thou who camest from above  
The pure celestial fire to impart.  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.



There let it for Thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze  
And trembling to its source return  
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

A hymn for Pentecost by Charles Wesley.



The coffee was brewed to perfection and I took it with me to sit in an easy chair and picked up the latest edition of the Families First magazine. Having given up subscriptions to women's glossy magazines over the years, this is one magazine I actually look forward to receiving through the post.

When thinking through what to highlight this month I thought I would share why this magazine is such a good read.

It aims to encourage - with articles in the latest issue on:

'Stop the violence' by Elaine Storkey,  
Living life as a single person,  
Dealing with teenagers in tough times and  
'Gadget grandma' reviews new technology.

It aims to inspire - articles about faith journeys - the ups and downs, guidance, features with famous faces and real-life stories. Regular features include a cooking section, children's activities, reviews of family films and music, a Q and A page.

This is a well-produced magazine on nice glossy paper so a pleasure to handle! There is always some article or item which enlightens and you feel more informed, or are made to smile, or are inspired to cook something different. The promotional material says:

*"Families First magazine is a tool through which we share the trials and testimonies of families and individuals touched at every level of family life - from birth to death.*

*We talk to people who have really been there, lived there and walked in those shoes. Then we ask them how they coped and we share those experiences with our readers and we believe that's how we can build each other up. Testimonies are biblical. And we put God first. But there's a light-hearted side too! We also have regular pieces on wellbeing, teenagers, children's arts and crafts pages, film, book and music reviews, GREAT competitions and puzzles and prizes."*

And its true!!

Members can subscribe for a year at the discounted price of £10.50, non members at £16.50. Copies bought in selected supermarkets cost £2.75.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to read a copy of 'Families First' we can help! We can order 10 copies at a discounted price of £1.75 each to enable you to see what good value and an inspiring production it is. So contact me ( or any of the committee )- first come, first served to a maximum of 10! Please do give this magazine a read.



At the recent 'Bring and Buy' held last month we raised over £39 which will go towards Mothers' Union projects. Thank you all who braved the elements to attend.

## The Seven Last Words from the Cross

was a Lenten Meditation led by Paul Sanderson in March.

Paul used paintings by Rev Iain McKillop, a retired priest working as Artist in Residence at Mirfield Abbey in Yorkshire, coupled with Biblical references to Christ words on the Cross and meditative thoughts to accompany them.



*"Father forgive them, they don't know what they are doing"*

*"Mother, behold your son. Son behold your mother"*

*"Today you will be with me in paradise"*

*"My God, why have you forsaken me"*

*"I thirst"*

*"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"*

*"It is finished"*

SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Iain McKillop

The originals are paintings on 4ft high panels which are painted fragments of life-size Crucifixion scenes.

Iain initially conceived the project with a German artist friend both horrified by the extensive bombing of the historic, mediaeval and baroque city of Wurzburg on 16th March 1945. Many British cities suffered similarly during the Blitzkrieg. Wurzburg had little strategic military or industrial importance. It was targeted primarily because its historic buildings would burn easily. Nearly 5,000 innocent citizens died and 82% of the city was destroyed.

Too many world cities today suffer similarly. We identified with those in pain or struggling in life, particularly the plight of so many innocents who suffer as a result of war and terrorism. The images encouraged us to seek forgiveness, inner peace and the world integrity which Jesus gave his life to achieve.

We were invited to use each picture to focus on the needs of others and ourselves, to contemplate and to pray for peace, justice and the healing of our world.

The Seven Last Words from the Cross are not so much meditations on pain, as on God's willingness to pour out all for our healing. This was a wonderful meditative evening to help our Lenten preparation for Easter.

### **Dates for the diary**

May 4 Revd George Lane – Life as an Airport Chaplain

May 16 Deanery AGM Bury Parish Church Hall at 7.00pm

May 18 To be confirmed

June 1 Strawberry Sparkle

We do extend a welcome to everyone at our branch meetings so please consider joining us for an evening or two!

Kathryn Bailey  
Branch Leader



## ***THE WEEK WE LOVE EVERY NEIGHBOUR***

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Picture a young mother of four, Her husband has left, She has no land, no assets, no savings, And the only work she can get is backbreaking manual labour for as little as 74p a day. Her home has been flooded several times, and last August it flooded again. This is Morsheda. She's our neighbour, and she desperately needs our help.

From 15 - 21 May, Christian Aid Week, our churches will join with more than 20,000 others across the U K and Ireland. It's an opportunity to reach out to our community; to raise money for our global neighbours in need and to make sure some of the world's poorest people have enough to eat and live.

**A home safety package from Christian Aid could raise Morsheda's home on an earth plinth, safe from the flood plain, and give her resources to invest in things like farm animals, seeds and a composting kit - giving her the tools she needs to build a better future. A new chance for Morsheda costs as little as £250.**



There will be Christian Aid envelopes available at the back of church if you would like to donate, or maybe pass around to friends in the community, or perhaps you could join us for the Christian Aid Lunch.

Many thanks, John



If you would like to support the work of Christian Aid during Christian Aid week then why not join us for a

### **Luncheon Platter**

on the 15th May at St.John with St.Mark church hall  
12.30pm-3.00pm (Adults £5.00, children up to age 12 £3.00)

For tickets contact      John or  
   Rosemarie

## ***Annual Benefice Walk and Prayer Day***

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### ***Saturday, 7 May***

As we usually do a benefice walk each year, normally around May, this year we find that the day coincides with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York call for a Week of Prayer 8th-15th May. They are inviting churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during this week before Pentecost.

In their letter to the parishes the Archbishops say:  
"At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – *'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.'* It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord's Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory."



One of the suggestions is a pray walk which fits nicely in our plans. This year the walk will start at the heart of the benefice with prayers at both churches, so the walk around the whole benefice will be a bit longer - about 13 miles. This may be too much for everybody so we are going to organise it in stages stopping at various points (some of which you can drive to) to pray for our Parishes, our Community, and our Witness in them.

## **Times and Places**

9.00 Christ Church Lych Gate

- Prayer for the Parish, PCC and organisations etc.

9.30 St John with St Mark

- Prayer for the Parish, PCC and organisations etc.

10.20 Fire Station

- Prayer for the Emergency Services

10.30 Tesco Car Park Memorial Garden (near the car wash)

- Prayer for those involved in Commerce

11.30 Top of Chesham Road / Walker's Field

- Prayer for Recreation

12.30 Buckhurst

- Lunch Thanking God for Farming and Rural Life

1.30 Lord Raglan Car Park

- Prayer for Bury MBC

2.30 Summerseat (Waterside Bridge)

- Prayer for the Community

3.30 Brown Cow – Afternoon Refreshment

- Prayer for the Entertainment and Leisure Industry

4.30 St John's Hall

- Final Prayers

If you can't join us in body then maybe you can in spirit and pray at home or wherever you are at these times including each time the Lord's Prayer.



If you are thinking of joining us at any of the spots then let me know in advance just in case the timings go a bit off and I can let you know an eta; a mobile telephone number may be useful so we can update you with a location.

Remember you will need walking gear and a packed lunch etc.  
Let's hope it's a nice day. Best foot forward. Paul

## ***Monday @ 2 – Ten Rules/One God***

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When was the last time you had a proper look at the Tablets? No, not your list of regular medication - the list of Ten Commandments given by God to Moses!

It may be more traditional to consider such things in Lent but there is never a bad time to refresh and restore the heart and mind with the Commandments - Monday afternoon seems as good a time as any. Starting at 2pm on Monday May 9th the Monday @ 2 group will discuss and reflect on one Commandment each week. We begin at number 10 and will end with number 1.

Do come and join us for an hour at 49 Fairlands Road. Tea/coffee are served – and because it isn't Lent you can have a biscuit too!

Barbara & Nigel

## ***Lent Lunches at Christ Church – An Update***

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Further to our Thank You in the April magazine, now that Lent is over we can tell you that a total of £312.31 was given in donations for Tearfund. So can we repeat our thanks to all who supported this venture – thank you, thank you .....

It was so encouraging to see people enjoying lunch and each other's company that we are holding a simple light lunch on the third Thursday of each month at Christ Church Hall – noon till 1.30pm. On offer will be soup, sandwiches, salad or similar with tea/coffee. There is no set charge – just give a donation. Any profits will go to church funds. See p 28

Barbara & Nigel



### **PLANT SALE**

14<sup>th</sup> May 10 am – noon  
Christ Church Hall

# CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

Representatives of every church are invited to an important strategic event to meet Bishop David and diocesan officers to contribute thoughts and ideas of what our Church for a different world might look like.

As a diocese, we have been looking at some priority issues which we must address in order to go on being a worshipping, growing and transforming Christian presence in every community. Bishop David will lead a discussion on the progress which has been made in dealing with these issues and share his thoughts on the vision for the diocese. He will challenge us to ask some difficult questions about how the Church needs to adapt and change to remain vibrant and active and make the most of its opportunities to grow in the modern world.

A range of stalls will be staffed by diocesan officers who will be on hand to offer advice on property, stewardship, church schools, heritage buildings, youth and children's work, communications and community outreach projects. They can also answer questions about grants and Parish Share and how they can best help and support our ministry.

They will also be showcasing resources that are available to help with Mission Action Planning (MAP), an excellent tool for assessing the strengths of the parish and developing a plan of action.

Join in worship, workshops and lunch. Attendees can choose from a number of workshops on:

- Resourcing young people and children
- Places of welcome: offering unconditional hospitality
- Safe church for a different world: safeguarding for every day
- Church in School

Booking is essential. If you would like to attend please contact the Vicar to see if there are spaces still available.

18 June 2016 9.45am-3.30pm  
Bolton Road Methodist Church, Bolton Rd, Bury BL8 2NZ



## ***SATURDAY WALKING GROUP***

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Our planned route on 9th April was to the village of Edgworth near Blackburn. This was changed at the last minute due to other members of the group being on holiday.

Despite just three members being available, myself, John Brennan & Michael Ryan, it was such a lovely day and as we had lunches prepared it seemed a shame to waste the opportunity. Therefore we thought it was a perfect chance to experience the view from the summit of Knowl Hill. We headed back to Michael's house and opened the maps on his dining room table to plan our route.

Leaving just after 9.30, we headed up to the top of Nangreaves. We walked about 90 minutes before reaching Owd Betts on Edenfield Road, and began our ascent up Knowl Hill.



Although a steep climb, the reward is a fantastic view across the region, taking in Manchester & Cheshire. It was observed that a wooden cross has recently been placed on the summit of the Hill (I have since Googled this and discovered it was placed there by Churches Together North West Rochdale on Palm Sunday).

We dropped a little further down the hill and stopped for refreshment, before 'zig-zagging' our way down to the edge of Greenbooth Reservoir and paused for lunch shortly afterwards. We made our way towards Norden via Red Lumb and along Overtown Lane, then back onto Edenfield Road.

Our last leg took us along Cheesden Brook and then towards Bircle. We made our way home across the motorway bridge and alongside the golf club, before back onto Chesham Road.

It may not have been our intended route this month, but it was certainly a worthy replacement. Thank you, Michael, for stepping into the breach.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

The June Walk will be on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> taking in Ryeburn Reservoir to Blackstone Edge and Dog Hill. Meet at St John with St Mark Hall at 9.30. As you will need transport let us know if you are joining us.

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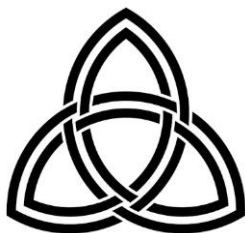
### ***Café Church***



On 22 May at 10.30 am

at St.John with St.Mark

in the Hall



# Trinity

Church but not as you've known it

relaxed . . . fun . . . interactive . . . different



The Open Group met on 13th April and welcomed Paul Sanderson to present an illustrated and light-hearted talk on his latest adventure; this time along the Cotswold Way, a 102 mile journey from Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire to Bath. Paul explained how it was his brother, Mark's suggestion to complete the route, and so along with Mark's wife Tracey, and also mutual friend Peter Johnson, our intrepid heroes set off last September.

Paul opened our meeting with brief worship, in which he thanked God for the wonderful country we have, and treated us to a brief video clip at the start of the talk, to give us more of an idea as to the atmosphere and landscape of the route, which static photographs cannot always give you.



The walk began in Chipping Campden, familiar to some members. Paul brought along some props, fine cutlery that was manufactured at a shop in Chipping Campden. Although Paul explained the set he brought was actually purchased in Buxton!

It was intriguing to see how much history has occurred in this 100 mile route. Example, there is a monument at the site of Haile's Abbey in Gloucester known as 'Cromwell's Chair'. Legend has it that Oliver Cromwell sat here whilst he watched the destruction of the Abbey.

The walk also focused on the light-hearted side of the area, particularly the famous Cooper's Hill cheese rolling contest, where rolls of cheese can come hurtling down the hill at speeds of up to 70mph. Not for the faint-hearted, by the sounds of it.



The walk lasts 6 days, and each day can vary from 10-20 miles in length. Bed and breakfast accommodation was waiting for the group at the end of each day. Hot baths, comfortable bedding and delicious breakfasts were appreciated. The group took advantage of a useful courier service, taking their luggage from one destination to another. A lot of planning must go into these things.

The clips we were shown by Paul gave us an indication as to how much natural beauty they were treated to on this 6 day trip. It definitely made the sometimes tired legs worthwhile. We also made an interesting discovery concerning one of Paul's ancestors. We won't spoil that for you here though, as it is more compelling hearing it from Paul himself.

Once again, a really entertaining and informative talk from Paul. We closed the meeting as ever with refreshments and our raffle.



Our next meeting  
Wednesday 11th May  
at 7.30pm in the Library.

A talk by the Street Pastors

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

**Every day people are straying away from the church,  
and going back to God.**

*Lenny Bruce*

## SUMMER FAIR



SATURDAY  
11 JUNE

*St. John with St. Mark*  
**CHURCH HALL**

*from 11.00am*

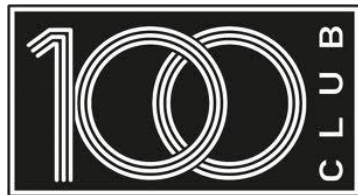
***ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE VARIOUS STALLS***

### **MARCH 2016 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Barbara Leigh

2nd Prize ~ George Hall

3rd Prize ~ Val Dawson



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

The Guides spent a busy, fun filled 26 hours at Waddow Hall, Clitheroe in April.



From arriving at 12 noon on Saturday they were non-stop:

*Lunch*

*Zip wire*

*Abseiling*

*Tea*

*Heritage talk and quiz*

*DVD (with cake, crisps and sweets!)*

*Bed.....and maybe an hour or 2 sleep*

*Breakfast*

*Tree climb*

*Archery*

*Lunch*

*Home*

Great time with friends

Couldn't have been better

MUD!

Loved it

Luxurious rooms

No duties!

Amazing time

We stayed in the main hall for the first time so we all had en-suite bedrooms, the food was cooked and served for us, all the washing up done and our rooms cleaned after we had left so we didn't have to any duties. What a luxury weekend for the Guides AND the Leaders!

Everyone had a great time. Hannah Mae and Edie made their Guide promise having joined us from St John with St Mark's Brownies in January and we celebrated Freya's 13th birthday with cake.

Photos of our visit can be seen on the back page.

If there are any girls aged 10-14 years who wish to join this active and thriving Guide unit then please do call in to Christ Church hall on a Friday evening from 7.30pm.



# THIRD THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCH

Soup, sandwiches, salad or similar with tea/coffee.

Come and meet up and chat over a friendly snack!



WALMERSLEY  
CHRIST CHURCH  
HALL

ONCE A MONTH ON  
THE THIRD  
THURSDAY –  
NOON TILL 1.30PM

FIRST DATES -  
APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>, MAY 19,  
JUNE 16

NO SET CHARGE –  
JUST GIVE A  
DONATION

ANY PROFITS WILL  
GO TO CHURCH  
FUNDS

Further information,  
or if you want to help  
out, please contact  
Barbara & Nigel via  
[www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk](http://www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk)

## ***News from St John with St Mark CE School***

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- There are a number of vacancies on the School Governing Body that usually meets once every term. If anyone is interested in serving on this important committee please speak to the Vicar or the Sue Law, the Chair of Governors.
- The school's website has recently been updated. The address is [www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk](http://www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk)

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

Monday 2 May	School closed for Bank Holiday
Monday 9 May	Year 6 SATS week begins
Monday 23 May	French Week begins
Thursday 26 May	French showcase
Friday 27 May	School breaks up for half term
Tuesday 7 June	School re-opens

*"Our school is a safe, welcoming place where God's love is reflected in the way we respect and care for each other. It is place where differences are valued, diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated equally. A place where quality teaching ensures we enjoy learning and we work hard to reach our full potential. St.John with St.Mark is a place at the heart of our community, encouraging us to become responsible citizens of the future."*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR MRS MOORE AND ALL THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, STAFF & GOVERNORS CONNECTED WITH THE SCHOOL**

***St.John with St.Mark School, Athlone Avenue, Bury. BL9 5EE  
Tel: 0161 764 5330***

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

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Sun 1		<b>St Philip &amp; St James</b> Services as Usual
Wed 4	7.30pm 7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC) Archdeacon's Visitation St Paul Ramsbottom
Thu 5	2.00pm 7.30pm	<b>Ascension Day</b> Thursday Prayers (CC) Services (CC, SJM)
Sat 7	9.00am	Prayer Walk (CC lychgate)
Sun 8		<b>Seventh of Easter</b> Services as usual
Wed 11	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Sat 14	10.00 am	Plant Sale (CC Hall)
Sun 15		<b>Pentecost</b> Services as usual
	12.30pm 3.00pm	Christian Aid Lunch (SJM) Bishop Chris's Farewell Service, Bolton PC
15-22		Christian Aid Week
Mon 16	7.00pm	Mothers' Union Deanery AGM
Wed 18	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 19	12 noon	Third Thursday lunch (CC)
Sun 22	10.30am	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Café Church (SJM) Other services as usual
25-28		Retreat at Formby
Sun 29		<b>Trinity 1</b> Services as usual



Just over half way  
to the top of the  
tree climb!

# Guides at Waddow



Listening

intently to the archery instructions

and time to see if

they could be

followed



Edie made her  
promise part  
way down the  
abseil



Hannah Mae made  
her promise by  
shouting it out along  
the zip wire

Everyone outside the front of  
the hall ready for home

