



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



**PRAY**



**FAST**



**GIVE**

**Lent**

**MARCH 2017**



**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
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

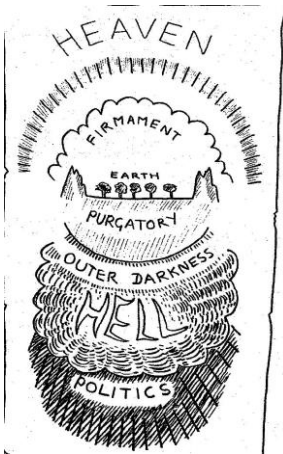
Both churches have Fairtrade status



## ***FAITH ON THE FRONT LINE***

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Religion and Politics – dangerous bedfellows! Some believe they should never be in the same discussion never mind the same sentence and subscribe to the idea encapsulated in the cartoon below (© Murray Watts), entitled 'The Order of the Universe':



But in these last few weeks, I have found these two facets of life uncomfortably at odds with each other. Our current political situations are difficult and confusing – locally, nationally and internationally and have aroused passions not seen since the poll tax riots of the 90s or the miners' strikes of the 70s and 80s.

We have leaders who seem to ignore the voice of the people; walk all over the weak; deny aid to the vulnerable and bring very little clarity of thought or action to the people they are elected to serve. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the aid-worker didn't stop to question who it was he was helping. He didn't challenge the traveller or question him about why he was out on such a dangerous road. He didn't just give him aid at his point of need. No, the Samaritan went on to give hope, too.

Justin Welby, in his paper on practical evangelism, says, "In cases of need, I believe we ought to reject the notion of any possible 'neutral' perspective on these issues and also reject the idea that religion is a purely private matter or that it is possible to divide public and private values for anyone."

So where does that leave us when God himself says he will mediate for peace (Isaiah 2 v3-5); his promises will be extended to all nations (Isaiah 56 v1-8); when we are warned about our behaviour towards the weak and vulnerable (Malachi 3 v1-5); when Jesus gave us parables to challenge our biases and Paul writes about service that pleases God (Hebrew 13 v1-3, 16)? We may not be in charge of millions of pounds or dollars or be able to direct aid to the most needy but we are all called to serve in some way.



We must not sulk or bury our head like Jonah. We do have a responsibility to pray for and support or challenge those in power. We must live as a lamp on a lamp stand, doing God-works, not to satisfy our own consciences but to give him the glory.

Please visit these sites for more information about the role of the church in a very needy world and may you be a blessing to those you have the privilege to serve in Jesus' name – you may entertain angels in disguise!

With love

Gill B

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/pages/evangelism.html>

<http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/files/files/Doing%20Good%205.pdf>

## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH***

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Mar 5	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Genesis 2: 15-17, Romans 5: 12-19      Matthew 4: 1-11 3: 1-7
Mar 12	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Genesis 12: 1-4a    Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17    John 3: 1-17
Mar 19	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Exodus 17: 1-7      Romans 5: 1-11      John 4: 5-42
Mar 26	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent    Mothering Sunday</b> Exodus 2: 1-10      Colossians 3: 12-17    Luke 2: 33-35

## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **Funerals**

January 19	Alice Carnegie
February 13	Bill Blagg



### ***Café Church in Lent***

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12 March	Christ Church
19 March	St.John with St.Mark

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* Thanks to all who attended our Chinese New Year buffet to celebrate the Year of the Rooster. It is always good to share in fellowship together. Once again the food was provided by Lee's takeaway on Argyle Street. Thanks also to them.

\* Christ Church will be hosting a Confirmation Service on Sunday 9 July at 10.30am, led by the Bishop of Bolton. Anyone interested in being confirmed on that occasion, should have a word with me or another member of the Ministry Team. Any child in Year 6 or above is eligible to be confirmed. Junior Confirmation classes will begin after Easter.

\* 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.

\* A reminder that there will be Holy Communion services at 7.30pm in both churches on Ash Wednesday – 1 March – to mark the beginning of Lent. These are in addition to the regular 10.00am Wednesday morning service at St.John with St.Mark on that day.

\* The next gathering of the Men Of the Benefice will be on Monday 27 March. We meet in The Sundial from 8pm. A programme of meetings and other events have been arranged for the year. All gentlemen are welcome to join us.

\*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.

\* 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 (June Banks for St.John with St.Mark and Jennifer Wood for Christ Church) if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged.

\* Material for the parish magazine should be given in 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)

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## ***ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS***

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St.John with St.Mark:	Sunday 2 April	12 noon
Christ Church:	Tuesday 4 April	7.30pm

### **YOUR CHANCE TO 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 at for at least 6 months, please consider filling in a form to join the electoral roll.

These can be found at the back of each church.

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

A complete revision of electoral rolls will take place in 2019.

Please note:

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

**St. John with St. Mark January Meeting**

Ian spent some time discussing the draft financial accounts for 2016 and outlined the usual incomes and expenditures. It was noted there had been a drop in the overall Gift Aided Planned Giving for 2016. There was an opportunity to look over the 2017 budget and for PCC members to raise any potential items of income or expenditure not already highlighted. Once again, the reports were well presented for us and Ian took questions. A vote of thanks was recorded to Ian for his work and especially for getting the accounts completed by only the second week of January.

The Vicar informed us that Cath Hilton had volunteered to be the Safeguarding Officer for the Benefice.

Forthcoming social dates were confirmed, including the Chinese New Year celebration on Friday 27th January and Book Fair on Saturday 4th February. Volunteers have come forward to organise the Firework party for 2017, following last year's cancellation of the event.

We have had some positive feedback concerning use of the Website, in that an enquiry concerning the Christmas Lunch had come from someone in London looking for a nearby lunch in Bury, for a relative unable to travel to the capital to see his family.

We went through the action points required following the Archdeacon's Parish report and his presentation to the PCC, and were advised that the Quinquennial inspection is now scheduled for this year.

Two quotes have been sought for the replacement of the Church Hall boiler. One has been provisionally accepted pending the outcome of a third quote. Following the clarification that Faculty applications should apply to the Church Hall, this work will now need to go through the Faculty process. The Library has also been made aware that the Faculty applications apply to the Hall.



Dave read out an acknowledgment he had received from Bishop Mark following his visit to the Benefice on Sunday 8th January. He thanked people for his welcome on the day. There were also some positive comments from the congregation who appreciated his visit.

We were updated on the Mission Action Plan following the joint PCC in December.

A further Christian Basics course will commence in Lent on Thursday evenings at St. John with St. Mark after the communion service.

The PCC were made aware of two First Aid courses being held by Rebuild, one covering Emergency First Aid at Work and the other which covers Emergency Paediatric First Aid. Some of our PCC members expressed an interest in these.

Dave also announced that the Funeral of our much loved and much missed friend Reverend Una Kroll would take place at Radcliffe Crematorium on Friday 3rd February. A link to a Guardian Newspaper obituary for Una has also been placed on our Website.

The APCM will take place after the Sunday service on 2nd April.

## **Christ Church February Meeting**

1. The year's finances to December 2016 were reviewed and the records are now with the auditor.
2. The application to the War Graves Commission for the signs to be installed at church has been resubmitted with new photographs showing the signs positioned on the wall rather than a freestanding post.
3. It was suggested that we put a plaque in the Lych gate with the names of the individuals referred to by the War Graves Commission signs. This to be further discussed at the next PCC.

4. A stone plaque to Canon Evans had been found in the church cellar it appeared to have been removed from the church at some time. The secretary to investigate the requirement for a faculty if this is to be considered for re-installation.
5. Several items have been completed from the Archdeacon's visitation report.
6. There is to be a Task Group meeting in the Church Hall on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February at 2pm to discuss strengthening mission
7. There will be a review of Children's ministry at the 9<sup>th</sup> March Pastoral committee meeting.
8. Vocations: the vicar is the ALM chaplain and information on ALM's is being produced by the diocese.
9. It was reported that Rebuild are running two health and safety courses at a cost of £40 per person
10. Vicar's remarks: there was a short discussion on the Mission Action plan. There is to be a joint PCC meeting on the topic of Stewardship on the 26<sup>th</sup> April at St John's. There is to be a Christian Basics group at St Johns starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> March for 4 Thursdays at 8pm. This will be repeated at Christ Church in October. A mid-week café church service was being considered for the summer.
11. It was decided that any sales in church will take place after the service has been completed.

Ian Riddick  
PCC secretary



SERVICES (in both churches)

Sunday 26 March  
at 10.30 am

## LENT MATTERS

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There will be three study groups taking place during the season.

Mondays at 150 Walmersley Road 7.30pm

Tuesdays at Seedfield Methodist Church 7.30pm

Thursdays at Christ Church Hall 2.00pm

They all begin in the week beginning 5 March and are using the same material.

"Food for Thought" is a course designed by the Church Urban Fund. Part of their publicity states: *"Lent is a chance to interrogate our relationship with food - perhaps the most basic relationship we have with the world around us. In many ways 'food is the new rock and roll' - it defines the culture - but despite shows like 'The Great British Bake-off', these days we do less and less actual cooking ourselves, and more and more consume what others, or machines, have created for us. Today food is politics, food is class, food is religion, food is society - but that was equally true in Jesus' day."*

The final sessions begin in the week beginning 2 April. During Holy Week all are invited to attend the Seder Meal at St.John with St.Mark on Wednesday 12 April, beginning at 7.30pm.

- Also in Lent we will be holding another basic Christianity course. Anyone who would like to know more about the faith is welcome to attend. Meetings will be held on Thursdays 9, 16, 23 & 30 March in the chapel at St.John with St.Mark between 8.00 – 9.00pm

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THESE GROUPS DURING THIS  
IMPORTANT SEASON IN THE CHURCH YEAR.



## ***Mission Action Planning***

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*Manchester Diocese is encouraging parishes to prepare Mission Action Plans as part of our aim to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. MAPs have been on the agenda of both PCCs for over two years. Items are discussed at each meeting and the benefice MAP is reviewed and updated at the joint PCCs in June and December. At the June 2016 meeting our identified mission priorities were:*

### **JOINT BENEFICE:**

- \* Encourage more social activities across the benefice.
- \* Establish a pattern of joint benefice services on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays
- \* A Christian basics group to be set up to nurture new believers
- \* Responding to the issues identified in the questionnaire issued to Electoral Roll members in Lent 2016.

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### **ST.JOHN with ST.MARK:**

- \* Increase the number of midweek Parade Services
- \* More ecumenical activity

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### **CHRIST CHURCH:**

- \* Engage more with community groups to heal the rifts caused by the field issue.
- \* Dealing with the possible sale of the church field and securing agreement about use of the current church buildings.
- \* Engage more with our young people and refresh our approach to Junior Church

*Mission Action Planning is an ongoing process that will be constantly under review by the PCCs. If you have any ideas for this aspect of our church life please speak to one of the ministers.*

*You may like to download this flyer*

[https://cofemanchester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2016/11/Congregation\\_Flyer.pdf](https://cofemanchester.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2016/11/Congregation_Flyer.pdf)

*Please pray for us as we continue to seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ within our benefice.*



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**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



If you think you would enjoy a few days on a desert island, I can certainly recommend the one visited by members of the Mothers' Union on an evening in February. It may have been cold and blustery outside the church hall but inside it was warm and there was music to soothe you, to uplift you, to take you back in time and to make you laugh.

It was a good mix of classical, sacred, light listening and pop music and one tune which our recorder classified as 'odd'. As well as enjoying the music we learned quite a lot about the people who had chosen the items. We ended the meeting with John Rutter's arrangement of "The Lord bless you and keep you." A wonderful evening.



Our recent AGM was a positive meeting reflecting on our past year and looking forward to the new year and new theme - Faith in action'

Barbara Silvester gave a detailed account of the branch finances which show a healthy position and have meant that throughout the year we have been able to support a variety of Mothers' Union projects.

The new branch leader was announced and we are really thankful that Bob Taylor has agreed to take up the role.

The new committee therefore is as follows :

Bob Taylor - Branch Leader  
Barbara Silvester - Treasurer  
Tricia Stokes - Secretary  
Claire Altham  
Shelagh Beetson  
Ruth Butcher - Card Secretary  
Karen Hawkings  
Pam Hoyle  
Joan Riggs

I am grateful for all the support I have received during my time as Branch Leader. The committee members continue to carry out their roles behind the scenes quietly and efficiently and deserve our thanks and appreciation.

I have learnt a lot as Branch leader and it has been an enormous privilege to have had the opportunity to lead the branch forward. Branch leaders come and go but our faith continues and it is my hope and prayer that Christ Church Walmersley Mothers' Union members will continue to demonstrate their 'Faith in Action'.

Kathryn

All members of the branch extend their thanks to Kathryn for all her work in the last four years. She has been inspirational in her leadership and loving in her care of members. We have been truly blessed.

## Make a Mother's Day

### Putting mothers at the heart of everything this Mothering Sunday

Mothers' Union would like to offer you a very special and powerful way to celebrate your mother this Mothering Sunday. With a gift from your heart you can say thank you to, or remember, your own mum and also help mothers like Violet to flourish.

With a husband and two children to care for, Violet lived a hand-to-mouth existence in Zambia. Unable to find work, the family survived on what little maize would grow in the dusty land. In years of poor harvest, they simply starved. It's hard to imagine the daily heartbreak of struggling to raise a family while never knowing where your next meal might come from.

### Thankfully Violet no longer fears going hungry.

She received training from Mothers' Union that helped her start a small baking business and now even earns enough to send her children to school.

This Mothering Sunday you could buy a gift for your mum from our **Make a Mother's Day** collection that will bring about real change for other mothers, like Violet, who find themselves marginalised.

You could give the life-changing gift of learning to read and write, helping a woman find a job or take an active role in her community. You could help women overcome inequality and violence, or put a local church group at the very heart of change in their parish.

For each one of these empowering gifts that you buy we'll send you a beautiful card to give to your mum on Mothering Sunday, or keep in her memory.

By celebrating your mother in this special way you can give women, in the UK and overseas, the faith, education and training they need to transform not only their own lives, but those of their families and communities.

To check out the Make a Mother's Day range of gifts  
visit [www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org)



### Week One – A Lenten Prayer

Lord Jesus, desert dweller,  
help us now, at this time of Lent,  
to accompany you.



If we have grown soft, cushioning our lives  
with excuses,  
expose us to the toughness of your way.

If we have grown lazy, cushioning our minds  
with easy, thin thoughts,  
expose us to the rigour of your truth.

If we have grown comfortable, cushioning our living,  
With satisfaction and success,  
expose us to the challenge of your life.

As we walk, God, be our way.

As we learn, God, be our truth.

As we grow, God, be our life

*John Harvey and Millicent (The Iona Community)*

### Week Two Fairtrade Fortnight

We give thanks for those who provide us with food,  
those who grow it,

those who sell it,

those who cook it,

Help us to be mindful that we have so much and yet others are  
starving and assist us to ensure that we pay fair prices for our  
food.



## **Week Three**

### **Some Beatitudes in a different form**

Be happy when you are caring for others, because it is in caring for others that you will find that you have a heavenly Father who cares for you.

Be happy when your heart is right with God, because it is then that you will see that God is at work in the world around you.

Be happy when you help others to get along peacefully with one another, because it is then that you will know the peace that comes from being a part of the family of God.

Matthew 5 1-13

## **Week Four**

### **Mothering Sunday**

Loving God, we pray for our mothers

who cared for us when we were helpless;  
who comforted us when we were hurt,  
whose love we often took for granted.



We ask your blessing on:

those who are grieving the loss of their mother;  
those who never knew their biological mother and now yearn for her;



those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love;  
those separated from their mothers by war or conflict.

## ***NEWS FROM ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CE SCHOOL***

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- The school was the subject of an Ofsted Inspection in December 2016. The full report is available on the school website. The overall effectiveness was deemed as good. Some very positive comments were made in the report. We were particularly delighted to read: "Relationships within school are excellent. Staff and pupils treat each other with mutual respect. This has a positive impact on pupils' learning." In a similar vein, "Safeguarding is a strength of the school. Leaders have skilfully used the school's values to reinforce pupils' confidence and resilience, along with their knowledge of how to keep themselves safe."
- There are a still several vacancies on the School Governing Body which usually meets once every term. If anyone is interested in serving on this important committee please speak to the Vicar or Sue Law, the Chair of Governors.
- At the end of January, the number of children at school totalled 341. The children share 23 different languages.

### ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:***

*Thursday 23 March: Mothers' Day Fair*

*Friday 31 March: Easter Assembly*

*Friday 31 March: Last day of term*

*Tuesday 18 April: Summer Term opens*

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PLEASE PRAY FOR EVERYONE

CONNECTED WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOL

## ***An Invitation***

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to a ladies meeting hosted by Freedom Church:

**Brand New** - a time to eat, relax, breathe and enjoy.

Kathryn (senior pastor) feels called to gather the women of Bury together so has issued this invitation.

Please speak to Gill or go on-line ([www.freedomchurch.org.uk](http://www.freedomchurch.org.uk)) to book (£5) for **Friday, 24th March**, 7.30pm at **Freedom Church**

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## ***LIGHT LUNCHES***

Thanks to all who have supported the Thursday lunches.

The lunch on March 16 at Christ Church will be a simple soup and roll with money raised going to Tear Fund.

The logo for Tearfund, featuring the word "tearfund" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark grey rectangular background.

Last year, 92,246 generous supporters trusted Tearfund to help those in the most extreme poverty - bringing change in the places of greatest need.

## ***FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2017***

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February 27 – March 12

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

Fairtrade Fortnight is a time of the year when campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries. This year's theme is 'Add a little Fairtrade to your break'.

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.

The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs, all derive from farmers who toil, sweat and slog. However hard they work to provide the things we depend on, millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve. It's not a new problem. The Fairtrade Foundation work tirelessly to highlight the need to amplify the voices of marginalised producers.



PLEASE HELP PROMOTE FAIRTRADE  
BY PURCHASING FAIRTRADE GOODS  
WHEREVER THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

(St.John with St.Mark has a Fairtrade Stall)



## ***THE WALKING GROUP***

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### **Next Walks**

**Saturday 4th March** ~ led by Ralph Mallinson and titled 'Revisiting Old Haunts'. Taking in areas along the River Roch, Radcliffe, Hollins, Unsworth Pole, Simister, finishing at Heaton Park and round some of the sights there.

Approximately 8-9 miles and not too strenuous

Meet at St. John with St. Mark Church Hall at 9.30am.



If you have a bus or travel pass, please bring this with you as we will return home on Metrolink from Heaton Park. Otherwise, please bring fare!!  
All other usual essentials required.

**Saturday 1st April** ~ led by Paul Sanderson to Stoodley Pike, in the South Pennines near Todmorden.

Meeting times and venues to be announced

A small group participated in a walk on Saturday 4th February. Due to a coffee morning at St. John with St. Mark I was unable to attend. However I am advised that Paul did a rerun of the January route to Waugh's Well, as there were some who had missed this last time.



Best foot forward, David Robinson



## ***THE OPEN GROUP***

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The Open Group returns this month after the Winter break. However this year there will be some changes.

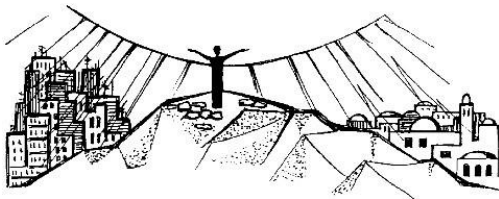
Joyce Hopkinson, Phyllis Holt and Betty Roe have expressed a wish to hand over the running of the group to new people. At this point we acknowledge the service they have provided to the Open Group over a good number of years, and say a huge thank you to them. Everybody is extremely grateful for their immense hard work to ensure meetings have been well organised and run smoothly.

However it was their desire that the group continued, and as such this year the Open Group will be organised by Ian & June Banks and David Robinson. It will retain the familiar format and a programme of events has been put together consisting of regular speakers and also some new ones.

If you would like a programme for the year, please speak to Ian, June or David. The price is just £1.00. It would be good if new faces could join us on the second Wednesday of each month in the Library room at 7.30pm.

The first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 8th March, and is a Lenten evening led by Reverend Ralph Mallinson.

All are welcome at 7.30pm



## ***MEN OF THE BENEFICE (MOB)***

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Our first meeting of 2017 was at The Sundial on Walmersley Road on Monday 30th January. The intention was for us to put together a programme of monthly events for the year. It was a constructive evening with various contributions made, and between us we were able to produce a schedule for the year, along with an opportunity to socialise afterwards.



Several suggestions were put forward, including speakers from across the Benefice to discuss their own specialised subjects. Not all our meetings are intended to be in The Sundial this year. We hope to confirm details of these each month.

Other events such as a crown green bowling evening at Walmersley Conservative Club and a meal out later in the year are being looked into. Watch out for a Friday evening short walk led by Geoff Hamilton in May.



It is also hoped to organise an outing to Moorhouse's Brewery in Burnley. We will be joining a scheduled tour therefore minimum numbers are not required. More details soon.

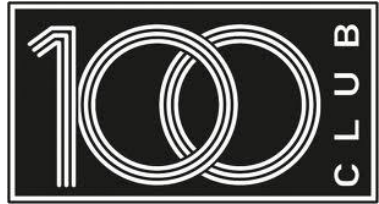
All are welcome to join us – do please come along.

## JANUARY 2017 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ Joyce Hopkinson

2nd Prize ~ Vicky Senior

3rd Prize ~ Phyllis Holt



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

Quiz night at Christ Church  
Church Hall school lane  
18<sup>th</sup> March 2017  
7pm for 7-30 start



£3 entry at the door or ticket to include  
Pie and Pea supper £5.50

Bring your own team of 4 or 5 or join up with new  
friends when you get here.



## *Am I being unfair to you?*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, 3 March

2pm Bury Parish Church

7.30pm Dundee Lane United Reformed Church

Service this year written by the people of the Philippines



# Real Easter Egg NEW 2017 Range



## The egg that shares the Easter story

The new look Real Easter Egg 2017 range has been launched and churches are being asked to encourage people to support this unique way of sharing the story of Easter.

This year a 24 page Easter story-activity book illustrated by Alida Massari is included in the Original, Egg Hunt and Dark eggs. The Special Edition has an Easter traditions booklet inside. The Sharing box, with 30 eggs, comes with colour-in posters.

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from sales.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 but the supermarkets turned down the idea. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders to fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company to make The Real Easter Egg.

To date, more than one million eggs have been sold with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools. The rest have been sold through independent retailers and supermarkets.

The success of The Real Easter Egg has meant that the production of Fairtrade chocolate has moved to the UK. Over £250,000 has been raised from sales for charitable causes.

## Where to buy

The whole range can be ordered online at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stock.

You can also buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose, Morrisons.

**See the full shop list or order  
at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)**

A 24 page Easter story-activity book  
illustrated by Alida Massari.

## ***MARCH EVENTS***

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ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH INVITES YOU TO

### ***A BUFFET DINNER DANCE***

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC & DANCE,  
WITH DELICIOUS BUFFET  
AND GUESTS, LITE MUSIC GROUP  
IN ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL  
ON FRIDAY 24th MARCH ~ 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH  
£7.50 EACH

Please note that tickets must be purchased  
no later than Sunday 19th March

*ALL WELCOME*



ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK SCOUT GROUP

### ***WINTER WARMER LUNCH***

AFTER THE MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE  
IN THE CHURCH HALL, SUNDAY 26th MARCH

TICKETS AND MORE DETAILS SOON

*ALL WELCOME*



## ***WHAT'S ON IN MARCH***

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Wed 1	7.30pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Holy Communion (CC, SJM)
Fri 3	2.00pm 7.30pm	World Day of Prayer (Bury Parish Church) World Day of Prayer (Dundee Lane UR, Ramsbottom)
Sat 4	9.30am	Walking Group (SJM)
Sun 5		<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
	7.00pm	Reflective Praise (CC)
Mon 6	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Rd)
Tue 7	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Church)
Wed 8	7.30pm 7.30pm	Open Group (SJM) PCC (CC)
Thu 9	2.00pm 7.30pm	Lent Group (CC) Pastoral meeting (CC)
Sun 12		<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual with Café Church at 10.30 am (CC)
Mon 13	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Tues 14	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Church)
Wed 15	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 16	12.00noon 2.00pm	Light Lunch (CC) Lent Group (CC)

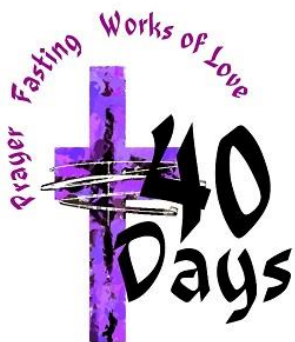
Sat 18	7.30pm	Quiz Night (CC)
Sun 19		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual with Café Church at 10.30 am (SJM)
Mon 20	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Rd)
	7.30pm	Bury Churches Together (Bury UR)
Tue 21	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Church)
Thu 23	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC)
Fri 24	7.30pm	Buffet Dinner Dance (SJM)
Sun 26		<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Mothering Sunday</b> Services as usual incl at 10.30am Commissioning (CC)
	12.00	Winter Warmer Lunch
Mon 27	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice
Tues 28	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Church)

## ***Commissioning***



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During the 10.30 am service at Christ Church on Mothering Sunday, the Vicar will commission the new Branch Leader of Mothers' Union here in the Benefice. Please support Bob Taylor on this occasion and if you cannot be at the service please pray for him, for the committee and all members.



# ***REFLECTIVE PRAISE FOR LENT***

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7pm

Christ Church Walmersley Hall

(Back Room)

*Come and join us for evening worship in an informal setting with coffee/tea – and cake! Together we can reflect on the ebb and flow of life this Lententide.*

