



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



HOLY WEEK

APRIL 2017



50p



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Service of the Word 5 th Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 nd Parade Service	St John w St Mark
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



LET'S HEAR IT FOR EASTER!

When is Easter this year? Is it early? Is it late? Why is it different every year – it doesn't half muck us about for planning holidays! For most of the population that is about as excited as they get about Easter – apart from the chocolate lovers of course!

Christmas is a different matter. The retail industry – and others – start the build up from about the end of August. The rest of us get swept along with the tide of expectation as the world looks toward the big – if not the biggest! – annual feast/fiesta/blow-out. The economy of the country depends on all of us spending exorbitant amounts of money to mark the occasion. If we don't join in we are liable to be called party-poopers and miserable so-and-so's. Yet amid all the consumerism and commercialism you can still, just about, find a nod toward the fact that Christmas is a feast to celebrate the birth of Jesus – nativity plays, carols, angels, peace on earth, etc.

At Easter there is no such nod – Real Easter Eggs apart! Chocolate eggs and bunnies abound; a long weekend holiday beckons; queues at airport check-ins; and that's it. No great fuss really. Not even the pressure to buy presents and increase the credit card debt. If you do want to send an Easter card you can struggle to find one with a Christian message. It often seems too that many Christian folk find it hard to get in festive / celebration mood. Why is that?



Easter should be the big one. Easter should be the loud declaration of our faith; the big statement of what makes us stand out as Christians. Jesus paid for our sins by a cruel death on the cross and then, on the third day rose from the tomb. He showed that death, the big fear in life, can be overcome.

That God's love is so strong for us, nothing can overcome it! Now surely that is enough to make Easter a time to stage a major celebration!

Let's face it - December 25th for Christmas is something of an arbitrary date. Originally placed then to make a major – and uplifting – celebration in the depth of dark, cold winter. A Christian feast replacing a pagan one.

It is hard, if not impossible, to say that Jesus was born at that time of year – it's his official birthday as opposed to his actual birthday!

Easter on the other hand is the time of year when Jesus was crucified and rose from the tomb. We know that because it was the time of year when the Jewish Passover is celebrated. Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples was their Passover meal. The exact date changes each year because it is governed by the phases of the Moon. When the time of Passover was set many, many years before Jesus, the Moon provided a calendar which was available to all and relatively easy to follow!

Unfortunately the lunar calendar does not sit conveniently with today's demand for instant certainty and modern time/date calculations. Hence the frustration of a different date for Easter each year.

Be all that as it may; the question is - what plans have we got for Easter 2017? Is it to be the long weekend relaxing with a chocolate egg – or are we really going to recognise the importance of the occasion and re-organise our priorities so that making a shout for Jesus rises to the top of our list?

Shall we make a point of joining with our fellow Christians on Maundy Thursday to remember Jesus and his disciples having their Passover meal; shall we meet on Good Friday to reflect on how Jesus suffered on the cross; shall we come together on Easter Sunday to celebrate that Jesus won the great victory over the greatest fear - death?

Perhaps we could even join together at Easter Praise in CCW hall on Sunday 23rd April!



Let's open our hearts to be touched by what Jesus did for us; let's open our mouths in praise; let's make this the big one. Yes, let's make the effort to do it properly and give Easter the significance it deserves. To round things off we could even have a massive family meal – with all the trimmings – and eat chocolate eggs!!

Easter blessings to all.
Nigel

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

April 2 Passion Sunday

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

April 9 Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 21: 1-11

April 16 Easter Day

Colossians 3: 1-4

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 28: 1-10

April 23 Second Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

John 20: 19-31

April 30 Third Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Luke 24: 13-35

*Christ is risen
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!*

JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE

3rd Sunday of Easter



SUNDAY 30 APRIL 10.30am

Christ Church, Walmersley

SERVICES AT 8.30am (JMB) & 9.00am (CCW) AS USUAL



Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

Joanne Fuchs

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

March 5 Charlie Kinsey Dickinson

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

Funerals

February 22 Kenneth Mansell

March 7 John Stephenson

March 9 Stuart Crowther

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

FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

April 16 Congregation

April 23 Mr & Mrs A Spencer

April 30 Vacant

If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of flowers please contact Betty Winterbottom on 7644907.



FROM THE VICARAGE

- * The list of services for Holy Week and Easter Day are printed elsewhere in this magazine. Please make it a priority to attend church during this special week. On Good Friday there will be a Walk of Witness organised by the Bury Churches Together, setting off from the United Reformed Church on Parsons Lane at 12noon.
- * 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.
- * There will be a Child Friendly Communion service beginning at 6.00pm on Maundy Thursday at Christ Church. This is in addition to the 7.30pm service later that evening.
- * The next gathering of the Men Of the Benefice will be on Monday 24 April. We meet at The Sundial beginning at 8pm. Nigel Silvester will speak about the shipwrecks around the Isles of Scilly.
- *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 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

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.

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

FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 9 FEBRUARY 2017

The draft APCM report had been circulated prior to the meeting and this was discussed and approved. Thanks to Ian & June for compiling this at this early stage of the year.

Upcoming social dates were confirmed, including buffet dance on Friday 24th March and Formby day retreat on Saturday 25th March.

January was another busy month for website viewing. Ian is also looking into a new provider for the website.

Some of the points raised from the Archdeacon's Parish Visitation report were discussed.

The new boiler is to be fitted in the Church Hall during week commencing 24th April and it should take about a week for the work to be done.

Stuart Ashworth is to retire as bar manager this year on 30th September. We will be looking for someone who can fill this position shortly. Thanks were recorded to Stuart for his service to the role.

We now have a facility for recycling used ink cartridges, supported by Recycle4Charity. Boxes have been placed in Church and in the library, for branded cartridges.

The PCC were asked to consider a questionnaire for completion as part of the process for renewing the Child Friendly Church award. A discussion took place and we were asked to consider if any of our activities had changed since we were first given the award. The service provided to the running of the Youth Group by Nickie Kelley was noted. Nickie has moved out of the Bury area at the end of February.

We discussed the announcement concerning the closure of the community library in the summer (subject to consultation) and that we would shortly need to look to a time when the library service was no longer with us. The obvious pastoral needs of the affected library staff also need to be considered as this is a difficult time for them.

A second Christian basics course is to begin on Thursday evenings in the Chapel from 16th March, and run for 4 weeks. Anybody new to the faith or who wishes to know more about the faith is welcome.

Gill confirmed the dates for the first aid courses in March, organised by ReBuild. The Church will pay half towards the cost of the course however if anybody wishes to pay the full amount then this would be welcome.

As all issues and accounts have been sorted ahead of the APCM on Sunday 2nd April it has been decided that we do not need to hold the PCC meeting on 16th March. Those who are up for re-election this time were made aware that their term of office is up.

CHRIST CHURCH MEETING ON MARCH 8TH

1. The audited 2016 accounts were reviewed and approved.
2. Thanks were recorded to Nigel Silvester our book keeper for 2016 and to Alistair Gillian the auditor.
3. The remaining Archdeacon's visitation points were reviewed and actions were to be taken on point 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 by nominated PCC members.
4. The vicar reviewed the Archdeacon's minutes from the CCW task group meeting and visits to modified churches by members of the PCC and congregation will be undertaken on the 1st of April.
5. Children's ministry is to be discussed at the Pastoral meeting on the 10th of March.
6. There will be a child friendly communion service on Maundy Thursday at 6pm at CCW.
7. Committee reports:
The church hall committee brought to the PCC the subject of keys for the church hall. After a discussion it was decided that individuals and organisations would be allowed the number of keys that they had previously been given and a fee would be charged of £15 per key. The vicar also suggested that the PCC look at a secure alarm system for the Church hall. It was noted that the inner door at the toilet entrance would again be locked during church services to allow entrance to the toilets but not the church hall.

8. There was no written Synod meeting report but Barbara Taylor noted that there had been a presentation by Mr. James Emmerson Diocesan Stewardship Officer and that members had been encouraged to positively seek new members to be elected to synod.
9. The vicar noted that Mission Action Plan activities are ongoing and will be reviewed again at the joint PCC in June. The vicar continues to liaise with the community about the field. There is a meeting on a Stewardship campaign being organized and a meeting with the pastoral committee to look at children's ministry.
10. The contract on our printer in the parish office is due for renewal; Brian Crow had received a quote from the supplier for a new machine to be installed at an increased cost of £33 per quarter and all were in favour.
11. The Church property committee was asked to clean the algae off the gravestones in the pedestrian area around the church.
12. The policy statement on safeguarding children and young people for inclusion in the APCM report was approved by all.

Ian Riddick
PCC secretary



Music for Easter



by the United Christian Singers

at Bridge Street Methodist Church, Radcliffe, M26 1WD

Saturday, 8 April at 7.30pm

£6 – pay on the door

featuring songs from *The Witness* and *Les Miserables*

Week One – Enriching Thoughts

The most destructive habit – worry
The greatest joy – giving
The greatest loss – loss of self-respect
The most satisfying work – helping others
The most endangered species – dedicated leaders
The ugliest personality trait – selfishness
Our greatest natural resource – our youth

The greatest 'shot in the arm' – encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome – fear
The most effective sleeping pill – peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease – excuses
The most powerful force in life – love
The most dangerous pariah – a gossip
The world's most incredible computer – the brain
The worst thing to be without – hope

The deadliest weapon – the tongue
The two most power-filled words – I can
The greatest asset – faith
The most worthless emotion – self-pity
The most beautiful attire – a smile
The most prized possession – self-esteem
The most powerful channel of communication – PRAYER



Contributed by Joan Birch

Holy Week and Easter

Part of the Hymn of Christ the King



Sing of the King whose crown of thorns
wounds him,
Whose throne is a cross, whose sceptre a reed,
Robed in torn flesh without human beauty,
Dying with convicts, abandoned in need.

Sing of the King, now raised from the dark tomb,
In heaven still bearing the scars of his love,
Reigning, yet still the servant and lover.
Raising our frailty to heaven above.

(hymn text copyright © 1989 Rosalind Brown)

Easter Day

When our faith
stands at the grave,
grieving
for a stone that's rolled away,
forgive us.

When our faith,
beset by doubt, sees
no further
than an empty tomb today,
forgive us.

Bring to mind
the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!



Easter Service

At the Priory

Wednesday 12 April
The Priory Highbank Centre, Walmersley Road.
2.30pm

ALL WELCOME



Seder Meal

In Holy Week

Wednesday April 12th at 7.30pm

An adaptation of the Passover

For the United benefice of Walmersley Road

£7.50

Please sign on the sheet at the back of church
if you wish to attend

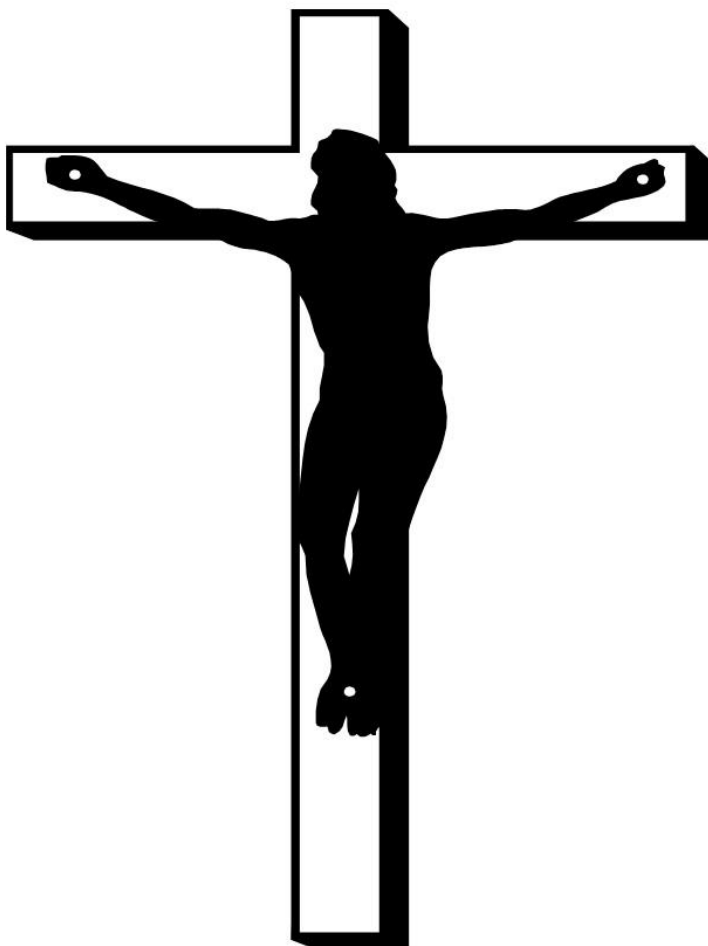


Holy Communion
on Maundy Thursday
especially for families
6pm
at Christ Church



Please support the Churches Together in Bury

Good Friday Walk of Witness



Starting at Bury URC Church, opposite Tesco,

12 noon on Good Friday, April 14th

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2017

Monday	7.30pm	Holy Communion – SJM
Tuesday	7.30pm	Holy Communion – SJM
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion – SJM
	2.00pm	Service at the Priory
	7.30pm	Seder Meal – St.John with St.Mark Hall

Maundy Thursday

6.00pm	Child Friendly Communion – CCW
7.30pm	Parish Communion – CCW & SJM

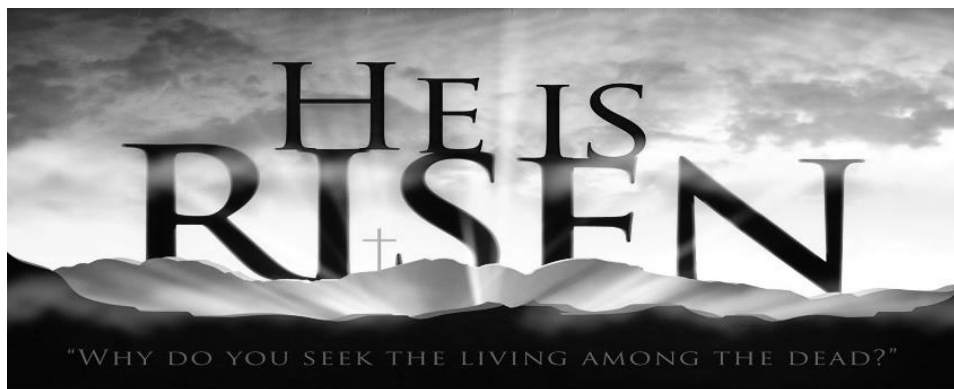
Good Friday

10.00am	Morning Service – CCW
12 noon	Walk of Witness
2.00pm	Last Hour at the Cross – SJM

Easter Eve

8.30pm	Service of Light – SJM
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EASTER PRAISE

- a celebration in song,
readings and prayer.

Sunday 23rd April 2017

At 7pm

Christ Church

Walmersley Hall

(Back Room)



At my first meeting as Branch Leader our scheduled speaker Rev Keith Trivasse was unfortunately unable to attend due to family illness so, at short notice, vicar Dave stepped in to talk about the Mothers' Union theme for 2017 "Faith in Action".

We discussed in groups of 2/3 what is faith, how did we come to faith, what do we do to put our faith into action? Much to consider during 2017, beginning with our meeting on 3 May.

The 10.30am Mothering Sunday service was led by two members, Barbara and Nigel, with input from other members. I was commissioned as branch leader by Dave and consider it a great privilege to be able to lead a branch of this great worldwide organisation.

Our April meetings will be a Lenten reflection led by Ian Banks (5th) and a quiz about what we know (or don't!) about Mothers' Union (19th).

Each year a Wave of Prayer upholds in turn each of over 600 dioceses. The dates on which our members worldwide remember our Diocese are from April 23-25 and I intend to hold a short service in church at 10am on Tuesday 25th.

Everyone (men included) is welcome to this and indeed to any of our meetings which are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Bob Taylor

** Faith in action is love, and love in action is service. By transforming that faith into living acts of love, we put ourselves in contact with God Himself, with Jesus our Lord. *Mother Teresa* **

COPPER COLLECTIONS



Our Junior Church / Sunday School members 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 Parish Communion services.

In recent months, these collections have helped a number of charitable organisations. These have included the Joshua Wilson Brain Tumour Charity, North West Air Ambulance, RNLI, Pennies for Pakistan, Water Aid, The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research.

The organisations currently in receipt of our donations will be regularly included on the weekly News Sheets / Bulletins.

Thank you to all who contribute and especially to the young people who collect them on each occasion. Little do we realise how much these coppers can make 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.

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB



The Friday lunch club run by Moorside Community Library in St. John with St. Mark Church Hall continues to be popular as ever.

Here is an image from one of the most recent, supplied by volunteer Rosemarie Ashworth.

"I enjoy my Friday Dinners", says this regular guest.

PRAYER DIARY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS

SUNDAY: For all our worship services. All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes. Those who read, lead the intercessions and serve in our church services

MONDAY: Our music ministry. Those who play the organ/keyboards. The Study Groups. Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.

TUESDAY: All the educational establishments in the parish. School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools, Primary Schools, St.John with St.Mark CE School. Our pastoral care to all the community.

WEDNESDAY: Links with other church communities across the world. Mothers Union Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning

THURSDAY: The Sunday School /Junior Church. Café Church services. Our work with young people. Those preparing to be married in church. Our baptism ministry.

FRIDAY: Links with our local communities. The PCCS and their committees Those who provide and arrange church flowers Bury Library Service and those who use our church halls.

SATURDAY: The Vicar, Curate and the Assistant Priest. The retired clergy The Licensed Readers & ALM. Ecumenical Links within the benefice. Our ministry to those bereaved.



THE WALKING GROUP

Ralph volunteered to lead our latest walk on Saturday 4th March. We had previously been on a journey around Ralph's former parishes in Crawshawbooth and Goodshaw last year, and this time it was two other former parishes of St Thomas' Bury and St George Unsworth. Ralph previously advised us we were in for "lots of road and lots of mud".

We journeyed towards St Thomas' via Taylor Street and Wash Lane before walking towards Openshaw Park and picking up the Roch Valley for a short while towards the Lakeside estate and Hollins Lane.

It was a really lovely day by this point and actually getting quite warm. Ralph had arranged for us to have our coffee at St. George at 11.00am, where we arrived promptly. We were made to feel very welcome and were given a small tour of the Church and a talk on its history – the present building celebrates its 175th anniversary next year.

After our refreshment, we continued towards Unsworth Pole and Unsworth Cricket Club before crossing the M66 (using the bridge of course)!! We then journeyed along the edge of the motorway for a short distance, reaching Egypt Lane and then arriving at Egypt Farm, where we had splendid views of Blackstone Edge and the Pennines. We had arrived at Simister by then, and another St. George's Church. It was then we hit the mud!! The mud continued for a few hundred yards until we got to Heaton Park and stopped for lunch.

We had a stroll around the park for about 20 minutes and wandered onto the tramway. "Not to worry" reassured Ralph, "the tram does not run at this time of year". At that moment what came round the corner? The 1914 Manchester 765, number 53 route to Belle Vue; we had got out of the way in time but joked it would have been an unexpected accident on one of our walks.

We made our way to the Metrolink at Heaton Park for return home about 2.15pm.

Thank you Ralph, for organising this enjoyable day for us.

Best foot forward,
David Robinson

NEXT WALK

Saturday 1st April
to Stoodley Pike in the South Pennines
Meet for transport at **9.00am** at either St.
John with St. Mark Church Hall or Christ Church Walmersley Lych Gate.
Cars will be arranged from there.
Approx. 12 miles and bring packed lunch and the usual essentials.

BENEFICE BOUNDARY WALK

Saturday 6th May from 9.30am. More details next time





THE OPEN GROUP

The Open Group returned after the Winter break on Wednesday 8th March. During our brief service at the start of the meeting we remembered our friend Stuart Crowther, who sadly passed away in February. Stuart was the previous correspondent for the Church magazine and his contribution to the group will be greatly missed.

David had asked Ralph to lead the first meeting, and he very kindly accepted the invite. We were given a presentation of Ralph's photography group, which he attends each Thursday evening at Tottington Library. We were given a brief insight into how he became involved as well as talking about the first camera(s) he owned. Ralph came along with a memory stick containing about 70 photographs from various aspects of his life and different scenarios. He said that the group were sometimes given a set topic and to focus on those themes, which included abstract and portrait.

Several of the photographs were of images that were familiar to a lot of people; in that they were of local Bury life or photographs of Church members, which brought back happy memories for some. There were also images from holidays and time away, including the Vatican (the Pope was not in we were informed). Wildlife and flowers also featured regularly. As it was Lent, it was also appropriate for us to see photographs of a variety of crosses from different locations and various styles.

The talk went down really well with those who attended and there was a good mix of photographs on display for us to see. There was input

from others also, which all helped to make this first meeting of the year informative and enjoyable. Thank you Ralph for leading.

Since the meeting, David asked Ralph to forward two photographs he had taken, which the Open Group said they had been particularly impressed with, and asked if these could be shared in the magazine.



The first is of the ELR and the locomotive is entering Bolton Street station from Heywood, making the short climb into the station;

The second is of a glass bottle appearing to be suspended over Market Place in Bury opposite the Parish Church. It is in fact hanging from the window of one of the restaurants, which faces The Rock. There is no evidence of any strings attached. The white object behind the bottle is the roundabout outside the Church.



There will be no Open Group on 12th April, as this is date of the Seder Meal in the Church Hall. Please speak to the Clergy or Ian & June Banks about this.

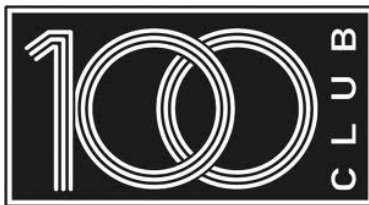
The next meeting of the Open Group will be on Wednesday 10th May and led by Margery Spencer for a talk entitled 'The Odd Couple'. All welcome at 7.30pm in the Library.

FEBRUARY 2017 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ George Hall

2nd Prize ~ Joan Birch

3rd Prize ~ Kelly Watson



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

St John with St Mark Church Hall
Saturday 22nd April from 10.00am

BOOKS

BRIC A BRAC

CAKES

BACON SANDWICHES

TEA & COFFEE

OTHER STALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS



Light Lunch

The next lunch will be on Thursday, April 20th at 12.00noon
in the Hall at Christ Church

Everyone is welcome to share food and fellowship – so please bring your friends.

Everyone simply pays what they can, or what they consider to be its value.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



"Am I Being Unfair to You?" was the theme of this year's service held at Bury Parish Church on 3rd March.

Prepared this year by the Christian Women of the Philippines we heard of the injustices that people have to suffer and the unfairness of life in the Philippines.

We heard that just as they began to prepare the services the Islands were struck by Typhoon Haiyan causing much destruction.

Edith, a 69 year old widow, lost her shop and her home but was evacuated safely. Now living in a make-shift hut with her neighbour she related that she had not received any help to rebuild her home, but was very thankful to receive a gift of cash from Christian Aid.

The scripture reading was from Matthew 20 vs 1-16 and we were led in a short meditation to consider the injustices of the world and to hold on to the truth that God is a fair and just God.

The prayers spoke of the need for Healthcare, Just Laws, Education and the need to preserve the indigenous legacy received from God.

The service ended with all the congregation holding hands and saying "The Grace" together.

We thank the people of the Philippines for a very thought provoking service. Please remember them in your prayers.

This service is held each year on the first Friday in March – why not make a note for 2018 and come along?

Jean Slater

THY KINGDOM COME

Joining with the family of God the Father to pray

"Come Holy Spirit"



Last year more than 100,000 people joined the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to pray in the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost.

This year, even more are expected to join in as this initiative has "gone global".

From 25 May – 4 June 2017 churches are being encouraged to join in. The aim is simple and threefold:

- **To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father**
- **To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit**
- **That we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ, God the Son**

There are a number of local events, including both our churches being open during the week beginning Monday 29 May for an hour from 5.30pm for a time of prayer. This will begin with a short service of Evening Prayer.



**PLEASE JOIN IN WITH THIS GLOBAL EVENT
AND PRAY THY KINGDOM COME.**

Further details and ideas in next month's magazine.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2017

14-20 May

Christian Aid Week is the single biggest act of Christian witness in Britain and Ireland

"We've been there for refugees since 1945.
We won't turn our backs now."

Christian Aid Week 60th anniversary

"British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, we launched Christian Aid Week to help fund this ongoing work." *Christian Aid website*

Our churches are holding a **Luncheon Platter** on Sunday 14th May at St John with St Mark church hall Parkinson St 12.15 pm after the morning services.

Tickets £5.00 Adults Child under 12 £3.00

(raffle, wine available to purchase)

. contact: John or Rosemarie to join us.



WHAT'S ON APRIL

Sat 1 9.00am Walking Group (SJM)

Sun 2 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Services as usual

12 noon APCM (SJM)

Tue 4 7.30pm APCM (CC)

Wed 5 7.30pm Mothers' Union (CC)

Sun 9 **Palm Sunday**
Services as usual

For Holy Week Services please see centrefold

Sun 16 **Easter Day**
Services as usual

Wed 19 7.30pm Mothers' Union (CC)

Thu 20 12 noon Light Lunch (CC)

Sat 22 10.00am Book Fair and Coffee Morning (SJM)

Sun 23 **Second Sunday of Easter**
Services as usual

7.00pm Easter Praise

Mon 24 8.00pm Men of the Benefice (Sundial)

Tue 25 10.00am Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer (CC)

Wed 26 7.30pm Joint PCC (SJM)

Sun 30 **Third Sunday of Easter**
9.00am (CC) and 8.30am (SJM) Services as usual
10.30am Joint Benefice Service (CC)

ALADDIN



Congratulations to all the production team, cast and chorus of "Aladdin"

The colourful scenery and costumes all helped to create a wonderful setting, and the performances of all the cast from the youngest to the oldest (no names mentioned!) was full of enthusiasm.

Who needs "Britain's got talent" when we have such a host of young talent on our own "doorstep?"

Panto always has been and always will be a very large part of my life, and I very much appreciate all the hard work which has been put into this production so, again – well done Debbie and all concerned.

May it long continue! Thank you all for the happiness you have given to so many people.