



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



PENTECOST

JUNE 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 Fairtrade status



PENTECOST OR WHITSUNTIDE?

Recently I came across some old photographs and was distracted from what I should have been doing. Cleaning up took a definite second place to wandering down memory lane. The photo which triggered big memories was a one of a teenage me hanging on to a ribbon attached to a large banner which appeared to be blowing in a force ten gale.

I was obviously at the head of a procession heading down Tottington Road towards Bury. I was "walking with the scholars" as it was commonly known. It was Whit Friday and along with most of the Methodist churches in Bury we were heading toward Union Square where there would be singing to all the brass bands from the processions and then we would begin the long trudge back to Woolfold Chapel. It seemed much further than the outward journey!



The Anglican churches had set off well before us and had their own service. I don't think that members of Christ Church tackled the long walk to Bury (they walked around the parish) but St. John's and St Mark's congregations would have been there and the Roman Catholic Churches had had their walk on the previous Sunday, Whit Sunday.

We used to watch the Roman Catholic processions and be very impressed with the heavy, decorated statues carried at shoulder height by men of the church.

For all of these walks, the streets were lined with people. The day would end with food and games. I remember fish paste sandwiches and watered down cordial.

The walks were a strong display of Christianity, bringing the town to a standstill.

I don't remember much about Pentecost from my youth but I am sure I was taught about it. Perhaps to a child the walks were more memorable.

The first Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, was something the first disciples would never forget. In the days immediately after the resurrection they would have been afraid, apprehensive, unsure of their ability to carry on the work of Jesus.



Then they were gathered together when suddenly a sound like the blowing of the wind filled the whole house where they were sitting and they saw tongues of fire which touched each one of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. There were people of many nationalities in Jerusalem and as the disciples spoke they were all able to understand them in their own language. The crowd were amazed and even thought the disciples were drunk because they were exuberant and joyful.

But what an empowerment for the disciples! Suddenly through the power of the Holy Spirit they had certainty, ability and confidence.

Jesus did not only promise the Holy Spirit to those in Jerusalem on that day; he promises it to us so that we can continue to spread the good news of the gospel in our words and our actions, achieving things we never thought possible.

God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
and may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to serve and worship you
now and always.

Yours in Christ,

Margery

BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE

Jun 4 **Pentecost**

Acts 2: 1-21 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 John 20: 19-23

Jun 11 **Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 40: 12-17, 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 Matthew 28: 16-20
27-31

Jun 18 **First after Trinity**

Exodus 19: 2-8a Romans 5: 1-8 Matthew 9:35 –
10:8

Jun 25 **Second after Trinity**

Jeremiah 20: 7-13 Romans 6: 1b-11 Matthew 10: 24-39

FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Jun 4 Mr & Mrs N Silvester

Jun 11 Vacant

Jun 18 Mrs J Wood

Jun 25 Vacant

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



CONFIRMATION

On July 9th, these young people from our congregations will be confirmed at Christ Church. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for this moment in their life.

Joseph Peat, Jessica Cooper, Charlotte Brown, Louie Standring, Adam Walsh, Grace Gore, William Tyrer, Isaac Robinson and Annabel Baumber.

FROM THE VICARAGE

* 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. Junior Confirmation classes have already started whilst adult preparation will begin this month.

* 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 "pay as you feel café" is being planned in Bury. The cafe will use surplus food sourced locally to make meals for local people. Anyone interested in knowing more and getting involved should contact Sally Rogers on 07940 576822.

*The Ministry Team, consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister, meets 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.

* There is an afternoon tea in aid of Save the Children at St. Francis House, Hebburn Drive, off Brandlesholme Road, Bury on Wednesday 14 June 2 pm - 4 pm. Tickets £5. Anyone interested, please see Hilary Riddick or Margaret Peters. All welcome!

* Porch Boxes are desperately in need of food items to meet the current demand. A box is available at the back of church. Please support this worthy cause.

* This month we will once again asking regular members of the congregation to complete the diocese's Annual Income Survey. This is needed for the calculation of parish share which is the amount of money requested from each parish for diocesan and clergy support.

Forms will be available at the back of church. Please note this survey is entirely anonymous.

* 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

Next months' magazine will be a double issue for July and August. Please send material pertinent to both months.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



4 JUNE

St.John with St.Mark

10.30am

CAFÉ CHURCH

St John with St Mark

- Gill passed round extracts from the updated Diocesan handbook for safeguarding, particularly highlighting model policy statements of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The complete document will be available in the Vicar's vestry and they are on the church website in the safeguarding section. We were asked to think about helpline numbers we could promote on posters around our building; such as Childline, Samaritans and any local organisations.
- Upcoming social dates for May were confirmed along with the Summer Fair on 3rd June.
- Ian provided us with more statistics from the Website, including how the usage has increased over the last couple of years, the most popular pages viewed and a 'Where in the World' people are viewing us from.
- The condenser boiler for the library and toilet area was fitted at the end of April and is functioning well. As the bar needs to be cleared out for this work, Stuart Ashworth is to use the opportunity to decorate the bar.
- We discussed the possible library closure and it was agreed the PCC will make no decisions until Bury MBC have completed their Review.
- We have received correspondence from the Lay Chair of the Deanery Synod to say that all Parishes are invited to have a Lay representative on the Deanery Pastoral committee. Anybody interested should see the Vicar.
- The recent coffee morning raised £277. £150 from the sale of books was donated to the local campaign 'Get Alfie to Disney'.

- Remembrance Sunday was discussed and the suggestion that the poppy wreath could now be presented by both a child and older person together during the act of remembrance.
- We will not be renewing the Child Friendly Church award this time. We will now remove the award logo from around Church and from any literature.
- The Stewardship meeting with James Emmerson on 26th April was reviewed. Our findings concerning 'Foundations of Effective Stewardship' were discussed, including how we preach generous giving as a Parish, how we link giving with mission, our regular review of giving and how good we are at saying "Thank You" for giving. It is expected that the campaign will be launched in October, ending at the joint Benefice Service on 29th October.
- Dave highlighted the potential usage for social media across the Benefice in his report (also discussed at the joint meeting on 26th April). It is hoped we may have found someone who can set the pages up for us.
- The next PCC meeting will be on Thursday 15th June at 8.00pm.

Christ Church

- The vicar reported that we have received the latest Quinquennial report on the condition of the church. The condition of the building is very much as it was in the last inspection.
- The vicar had received an email which expressed an interest in purchasing the church field. This was to be referred to the land agent for future reference.
- The financial report was received and it was noted that we had paid £12,000 towards our parish share. The new copier has been installed in the parish office.
- It was agreed by the PCC that we would conduct a Stewardship campaign starting at Harvest and finishing on the 29th October.

- There was a general discussion at this point on the sale of the field and the focus groups. The vicar noted that the focus groups had arisen from the task group meetings with the Archdeacon. There were to be four groups, The Friends of Walmersley, The Congregation, The Church groups and the wider community. The first Focus group meeting was to be held on Saturday the 13th of May.
- The next task group meeting is to be held on the 18th of May and the land agent will be present.
- Church visits by the PCC and the congregation to St Martins, Castleton and The Triangle church in Bolton took place on the 1st of April. David Peters provided a memory stick with photos on from the visit to be circulated to PCC members. Further church visits are planned.
- It was agreed that the PCC would meet every month for the rest of this year.
- The safeguarding policies from the diocese were proposed by Revd. Gill Barnett and accepted by the PCC.
- A large number of Church records (37) have been deposited in Manchester Archives (Central Library).
- The confirmation service is on the 9th of July, classes are to start week commencing the 8th of May.
- The Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry were processed
- It was noted that a donor had come forward to pay for a nativity set for Christ Church.
- The fees for the vergers were agreed.

The principal function, or purpose, of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP



We have been holding Praise & Prayer worship on a regular basis for over twelve months now and around twenty of us attend. Usually we meet once every month or so at Christ Church Walmersley Hall – though there is talk of coming down to St John & St Mark's Hall for 27th August.

Songs are mainly, but not exclusively, of the more modern variety with prayers, scripture readings and time for reflection. We seek to set an informal, relaxed atmosphere – a bit like Café Church. Tea/coffee are served - with cake!

You will have seen from our adverts in the magazine and on church notice boards that often there is a theme – Advent, Easter, etc.

Our next meeting is on July 2nd at Christ Church Hall when Summer Praise will be on the agenda – with the added attraction of ice-cream! Why not come along and see if it's for you. It might be worth it for the ice-cream (with a flake?) and having tasted it you might quite like it!!

More information is available from Nigel & Barbara Silvester.

PARADE SERVICE

at St.John with St.Mark

WEDNESDAY 12 JULY

Church Hall
6.30pm



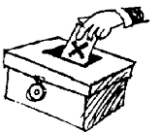
Week One Pentecost

The Spirit came
and your Church was born,
in wind and fire
and words of power.

The Spirit came
blowing fear aside,
and in its place
weak hearts were stronger.

The Spirit came
as your word foretold,
with dreams and signs,
visions and wonders.

The Spirit came
and is here today,
to feed the hearts
of a world that hungers.



Week Two Prayer for the nation

Lord, this last week has seen the election of a new
Government, so we pray for those elected to serve:

Grant them wisdom in their decision making;
Compassion for those they serve;
Vision to see the bigger picture;
That through their thoughts, words and actions they may enable the
lives of all to be valued, supported and enriched.

Week Three Exams



This week we remember all those young people who are taking examinations at whatever level.

Help them Lord, to overcome their fears and to remain calm so that they do themselves justice.

Lord, whatever their results, may they know that they are loved by families, friends and by you.

In the difficult decisions about their future may they find a way to fulfil their potential and live their lives to the full.

Week Four As we journey on holiday or for business

Be to us O Lord,
A support in our setting out,
A comfort on the way,
A shadow in the heat,
A covering in the rain,
A conveyance in weariness,
A protection in adversity,
A staff in unsteady ways,
And a port in a shipwreck.



That with you being our leader,
That we may reach the place we seek,
And at length we may return to our home in safety.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND NEWS

A recent poll has shown that more than half of the people surveyed would regard the closure of their local church as significant loss to their community.

Organised by Ecclesiastical Insurance which insures more than 15,000 Anglican buildings, the survey questioned 4,500 adults throughout the United Kingdom during February.

One third of those polled said they would join a campaign to keep the church open and the same percentage would be prepared to be help finance a campaign if their church was in financial difficulty.

A spokesperson for Ecclesiastical said that: "Churches provide a wide range of community services – from holiday clubs and parish nursing to foodbanks and mother and toddler groups – provisions many people rely on day-to-day. This work often goes unnoticed, but, to the people that use these services, it is invaluable.

We know from our engagement with the church community, up and down the country, that the value and reach of churches' work is on a scale that would be almost impossible to replace."

Light Lunch



The next lunch will be
on Thursday, June 15th at 12.00 noon
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.

THE GENERAL ELECTION



The season of Easter invites us to celebrate and to renew our love of God and our love of neighbour, our trust and hope in God and in each other. In the midst of a frantic and sometimes fraught election campaign, our first obligation as Christians is to pray for those standing for office, and to continue to pray for those who are elected. We recognise the enormous responsibilities and the vast complexity of the issues that our political leaders face. We are constantly reminded of the personal costs and burdens carried by those in political life and by their families.

Our second obligation as Christians at these times is to set aside apathy and cynicism and to participate, and encourage others to do the same. At a practical level that could mean putting on a hustings event for candidates, volunteering for a candidate, or simply making sure to vote on Thursday 8th June. The Christian virtues of love, trust and hope should guide and judge our actions, as well as the actions and policies of all those who are seeking election to the House of Commons and to lead our country.

This election is being contested against the backdrop of deep and profound questions of identity. Opportunities to renew and reimagine our shared values as a country and a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only come around every few generations. We are in such a time.

Our Christian heritage, our current choices and our obligations to future generations and to God's world will all play a shaping role. If our shared British values are to carry the weight of where we now stand and the challenges ahead of us, they must have at their core, cohesion, courage and stability.



Cohesion is what holds us together. The United Kingdom, when at its best, has been represented by a sense not only of living for ourselves, but by a

deeper concern for the weak, poor and marginalised, and for the common good. At home that includes education for all, the need for urgent and serious solutions to our housing challenges, the importance of creating communities as well as buildings, and a confident and flourishing health service that gives support to all - especially the vulnerable - not least at the beginning and end of life. Abroad it is seen in many ways, including the 0.7% aid commitment, properly applied in imaginative ways, standing up for those suffering persecution on grounds of faith, and our current leading on campaigns against slavery, trafficking, and sexual violence in conflicts.



Courage, which includes aspiration, competition and ambition, should guide us into trading agreements that, if they are effective and just, will also reduce the drivers for mass movements of peoples. We must affirm our capacity to be an outward looking and generous country, with distinctive contributions to peacebuilding, development, the environment and welcoming the stranger in need. Our economic and financial systems at home and abroad should aim to be engines of innovation, not simply traders for their own account. The need for a just economy is clear, but there is also the relatively new and influential area of 'just finance', and there are dangers of an economy over-reliant on debt, which risks crushing those who take on too much. Courage also demands a radical approach to education, so that the historic failures of technical training and the over-emphasis on purely academic subjects are rebalanced, growing productivity and tackling with vigour the exclusion of the poorest groups from future economic life.



Stability, an ancient and Benedictine virtue, is about living well with change. Stable communities will be skilled in reconciliation, resilient in setbacks and diligent in sustainability, particularly in relation to the environment. They will be ones in which we can be collectively a nation of 'glad and generous hearts'.

To our concern for housing, health and education as foundations for a good society, we add marriage, the family and the household as foundational communities, which should be nurtured and supported as such, not just for the benefit of their members, but as a blessing for the whole of society.

Contemporary politics needs to re-evaluate the importance of religious belief. The assumptions of secularism are not a reliable guide to the way the world works, nor will they enable us to understand the place of faith in other people's lives. Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England serve people of all faiths and none. Their contribution and that of other denominations and faiths to the well-being of the nation is immense – schools, food banks, social support, childcare among many others - and is freely offered. But the role of faith in society is not just measured in terms of service delivery.

The new Parliament, if it is to take religious freedom seriously, must treat as an essential task the improvement of religious literacy. More immediately, if we aspire to a politics of maturity and generosity, then the religious faith of any election candidate should not be treated by opponents as a vulnerability to be exploited. We look forward to a media and political climate where all candidates can feel confident that they can be open about the impact of their faith on their vocation to public service.

Religious belief is the well-spring for the virtues and practices that make for good individuals, strong relationships and flourishing communities. In Britain, these embedded virtues are not unique to Christians, but they have their roots in the Christian history of our four nations. If treated as partners in the project of serving the country, the churches – and other faiths – have much to contribute to a deep understanding and outworking of the common good.

Political responses to the problems of religiously-motivated violence and extremism, at home and overseas, must also recognise that solutions will not be found simply in further secularisation of the public realm. Mainstream religious



communities have a central role to play; whilst extremist narratives require compelling counter-narratives that have a strong theological and ideological foundation.

Cohesion, courage and stability are all needed in our response to the continuing national conversation about migration and refugees. Offering a generous and hospitable welcome to refugees and migrants is a vital expression of our common humanity, but it is not without cost and we should not be deaf to the legitimate concerns that have been expressed about the scale of population flows and the differential impact it has on different parts of society. The pressures of integration must be shared more equitably.



These deep virtues and practices – love, trust and hope, cohesion, courage and stability - are not the preserve of any one political party or worldview, but go to the heart of who we are as a country in all of its diversity. An election campaign, a Parliament and a Government that hold to these virtues give us a firm foundation on which to live well together, for the common good.



We keep in our prayers all those who are standing in this election and are deeply grateful for their commitment to public service. All of us as Christians, in holding fast to the vision of abundant life, should be open to the call to renounce cynicism, to engage prayerfully with the candidates and issues in this election and by doing so to participate together fully in the life of our communities.

In the Name of our Risen Lord,

+Justin Cantuar

+Sentamu Eboracensis

THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY & YORK

THY KINGDOM COME

In calling for this initiative the Archbishops' 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**

During the 10 days from Ascension to Pentecost, both our churches will be 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.



To mark the end of this Wave of Prayer everyone is invited to a special Service of Prayer for God's blessing on Bury. This will take place on Pentecost Sunday, 4 June at 2.30pm at All Saints Parish Church in Brandlesholme.

Please join this global event and pray "thy kingdom come".

WORKING TOGETHER

There are varieties of gifts
But the same spirit

There are varieties of service
But the same Lord

There are different ways of working
But the same God is at work in all



1 Corinthians 12

Taken from the Archdeacon's Visitation when he thanked all those who work, in whatever way, to ensure that the message of the love of Jesus is shared with all.

In May Pam Hoyle tested members on what they knew about Mothers' Union. As it turned out it was quite a lot. The winning team consisted of Gill Smith, Barbara Taylor, Tricia Stokes and Jess Dewhirst.

Several members met on Tuesday 25th in church for a short service to mark the three days on which Manchester, Kisangani, Kagera, Awka, Sunyani and Popondota are the worldwide focus in the Wave of Prayer.

Christine Sharp, Action and Outreach Coordinator, came to tell us about the work Mothers' Union carries out in prisons. A resumé of her talk is given by Geoff Stokes:-

Christine has been visiting prisons for over 5 years. She is very much concerned with the effect on prisoners' families as forgotten victims. These families deal with special problems such as criticism of neighbours, and effectively suffer a "hidden sentence".

Christine gave us various interesting statistics. The present capacity of Her Majesty's Prisons (HMPS) is about 88,000 nationwide, with a population of 86,735, while the predicted number for 2020 is 90,000. There are 150 prisons including 12 for female offenders and 18 for young offenders. Across the age ranges, there are 4,357 in the 18-20 group, peaking at 25,374 for the 30-39 group. There are 4 prisons in Greater Manchester. HMP Manchester (previously known as Strangeways, but that name is discouraged) has 1269 adult male prisoners including some Category A. Forest Bank (Salford) has some Category B but mostly C. Buckley Hall (Rochdale) is Category C and Hindley (Wigan), Category C, 18-21 age group.

More stats: 47% male prisoners ran away from home as a child; 67% were unemployed beforehand; 40% have a reading age below 11.

We found that Mothers' Union input is quite extensive, partly through the Chaplaincy, including support for services, flowers and prayer letters. Other support includes Christmas cards, baby boxes, assisting in the mother and baby unit (MBU) with toys, clothes, toiletries, etc. There is bereavement care, staffing for play areas, helping with

refreshments and providing a listening ear. There is a board of Visitors and Christine is a member of the Family Links Committee. A number of courses are provided, including Building Stronger Families, Communication, Parenting and Budgeting. A course on 'Building Bridges' considers, communication, anger styles, forgiveness, resolving conflict and Life Plan.

People in these situations often already suffer already from mental illness, domestic violence and abuse. Christine discussed the effect on the family in more detail, especially involving stigma and stress. She was particularly concerned about the need for support in the community as described by an inmate. Some members of the family need to learn new skills such as cooking. Acceptable clothing is required during visits, and visitors are sometimes turned away because of this. (Typical undignified clothing includes crop tops, short skirts, low hip jeans etc.)- see Christine's special appeal below. We felt in conclusion that these situations desperately need our prayers and support.

Appeal: Please help provide much needed track suits, male and female, all sizes. Good quality second hand are perfect: they do not need to be new. Many visitors have the threat of being turned because they arrive in unsuitable clothing. The prison service does provide second hand, but is constantly running out, and they rely on donations. If you have any of these items, please pass on to Mothers' Union or speak to me.



Our first meeting in June is Holy Communion followed by a "Strawberry Sparkle" – goodies of scones, meringues, strawberries, cream, drinks – yummy!

The second meeting is a talk on "Pills and Potions" given by member Alison Fewtrell, a retired pharmacist.



Everyone is most welcome at any of our meetings.

I hope to see all members at the Deanery Festival on Sunday July 2nd, 2.30pm at St Pauls, Bridge Street, Ramsbottom.

Bob Taylor

Branch Leader



BENEFICE WALK 2017

It is now customary for the walking group to use the first Saturday in May for the annual Benefice walk around the borders of our two Parishes.

Traditionally known as 'Beating the Bounds', this was an event that we would have been able to complete on a Sunday afternoon when we were two separate Parishes and it was common for this to take place on Rogation Sunday, before Ascension Day. Now a Saturday is required for the whole 13 miles, and like last year this gave us the perfect opportunity to pray for the Benefice, the people who live in it and the activities which take place, in what is such a diverse area. At certain landmarks, which are of particular significance to the Benefice, we stopped for quiet prayer and then recited the Lord's Prayer.

We assembled at the Lych Gate at 9.00am when we prayed for the Parish of Christ Church and for the day ahead. Vicar Dave had arranged to meet us there to trigger the starter gun. From there we walked down Walmersley Road to Parkinson Street, when at 9.30am we prayed for the Parish of St. John with St. Mark. We were pleased to be joined here by Derek Ryan for the first time, who accompanied us for part of the walk.

We continued through the Burrs Country Park and Woodhill Road, across the Irwell before arriving at the fire station at 10.20am when we prayed for the work of the emergency services in the town.

Ten minutes later we arrived at Tesco and paused at the Brunswick Memorial site for reflection. We also used this opportunity to pray for commerce.

We continued past the site of the old St. John's Church on The Rock and then in a slight deviation from past years we walked to the Salvation Army Centre, which is now the site of the former St. Mark's Church and School. Here we prayed for all religious buildings that serve the Benefice, both past and present.

We continued along Chesham Road, past the former home of the 'Just William' author Richmal Crompton, and stopped for elevenses near Walker's Field, where we held up prayers for recreation.



From here we continued past the golf club and Birtle Edge House, the childhood home of the late Bury born comedian Victoria Wood. We arrived at Buckhurst for our scheduled lunch stop, only to discover another party had commandeered our bench (how inconsiderate)!!

However as it was a little chilly we decided to walk on further across the farming communities towards the Lord Raglan, where we had lunch near the car park. Here we prayed for the whole of Bury MBC, ideal, as you can see the whole of the town from this point.

After lunch we continued towards Bass Lane and into Summerseat. We were intending to turn right off Hill Street and cross the Waterside Bridge however a suggestion was made to do something a little different and head left instead, which resulted in some slightly strange goings-on near the Robin Road area of Summerseat.

(If you wish to know more then please ask a member of the walking group who was there).

David Robinson

*Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light,
Walk in the light of the Lord.*





We were delighted to welcome Margery Spencer to our group on 10th May, for a talk entitled 'The Odd Couples'. This was a slight change to the original title of 'The Odd Couple' as we were focusing on more than one couple. Margery has previously given this talk to the Mother's Union and looks at some of the most significant couples in the Old Testament.

Margery opened by explaining that she has researched her own, and also Alan's, family trees and the work that goes into this. It may look extremely glamorous and straightforward on shows like 'Who Do You Think You Are?' but from Margery's account it is anything but, with lots of painstaking effort going into researching your ancestry. Despite there not being a national register for births, marriages and deaths until 1837, Margery explained she had managed to go back to the 1600's with her research.



This led us onto the theme of the evening and the ancestry of the early Old Testament couples. Beginning with Abraham & Sarah, and the slave-girl who bore a son for Abraham, we continued through stories including Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob & Rachel & Ruth & Boaz. Like the story of the slave-girl it is quite apparent that some of the situations we heard would not be tolerated today. Monogamy was not considered to be the normal thing in Biblical times.

To conclude, we heard about Esther & Ahasuerus. The story of Esther explains the origins and meaning of the Jewish festival of Purim, which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman. One of the customs of the festival is the giving and exchanging of little parcels of sweets and foodstuffs, as prescribed in Esther Chapter 9.

As such, Margery very generously brought each Open Group member a small bag of chocolate as a thank you for being asked to lead the group.

We also thanked Margery for coming along to the group, for sharing some of these stories with us and giving us an insight into her family background.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm in the Library

Led by Ian Banks ~ **'Ian's Curiosity Shop'**
including a very old book, a silk rug, some vinyl
and a wrong way round map

All are welcome to this meeting, and please remember that we have a stall at the Summer Fair on Saturday 3rd June selling bathroom and kitchen items. If you have anything, then please bring to Church before the day for pricing.

APPEAL



On Sunday July 29th our elder daughter, Helen will be taking part in the London cycle ride which follows the Olympic course from 2012 and is 100 miles. As she is over 50 and only took up cycling a few years ago this will be quite a challenge.

She is raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association to fund research into this debilitating disease for which there currently is no cure. We will of course waiting in the Mall to cheer her on as she finishes!

If you would like to sponsor her or just make a donation, there is a list at the back of Christ Church or speak to me or Alan. We will be very grateful for your support.

Margery Spencer

Our uniform groups awards on St. George's Day

50 years service: - John Partington (St. John with St. Mark)

30 years service: - Joy Dures (St. John with St. Mark)

25 years service: - Keith Duckworth, Alyffe Janczarski, Stuart & Rosemarie Ashworth (all St. John with St. Mark)

15 years service: - Pam Colbert (St. John with St. Mark)

Young leader belt & Chief Scout Platinum awards: -
Harry Smith, Sam Devenport, James Weston, Freddie & Archie Nicol
(all Christ Church Walmersley)

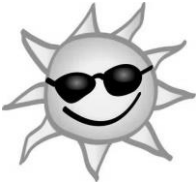
Chief Scout Gold awards: - Thomas Davis & Oliver Grasby

Chief Scout Silver awards: - Mark Pullen, Cameron Bailey & Liam Bailey
(all Christ Church Walmersley)
Edie Watson, Finlay McDonald, Kayden Collins
(all St. John with St. Mark)

Chief Scout Bronze awards: - Zacharias Carter, Ryan Bailey, Jamie Smith, Saul Marrs & Reeve Angulin (all Christ Church Walmersley)
Marley Desir, Reuben Biega, William Keck, Harrison Leyland & Duncan Whalley
(all St. John with St. Mark)

Congratulations to everyone!

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK'S SUMMER FAIR



SATURDAY 3rd JUNE 2017
11am to 2pm
in the Church Hall



**Please come along and support this event
and enjoy our friendship.**

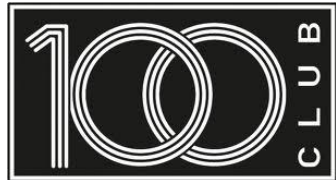
If you have any new ideas for stalls and attractions, or you do not normally help and would like to be involved (either on the day or setting up on the Friday), please speak to the wardens or clergy in advance.

APRIL 2017 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ Phyllis Holt

2nd Prize ~ Kelly Watson

3rd Prize ~ June Banks



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

Men of the Benefice

Brewery trip – Moorhouses in Burnley on the evening of Friday 23 June £15.50 including 4 pints cask ale (may be brought home) with pie and pea supper. Names to Vicar please to arrange transport.

ON GROWING OLD

Lord, you know better than I know myself that I am getting older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from my craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on aches and pains. They are increasing and the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains but help me to endure them with patience.



I dare not ask for an improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that I may occasionally be mistaken,

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen

Attributed to a seventeenth century nun - nothing changes



Summer Praise

Sunday 2nd July 7pm

Christ Church Walmersley Hall

(Back Room)

Come and join us for worship in an informal setting with coffee/tea and cake - and ice cream!



"...may they who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Judges 5 v 31

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

Sat 3	11.00am	Summer Fair (SJM)
Sun 4		Pentecost Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
	2.30pm	Thy Kingdom Come Service of Prayer (All Saints Elton)
Wed 7	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sun 11		Trinity Sunday Services as usual
Wed 14	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
		Magazine (July/August) deadline
Thu 15	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sun 18		First after Trinity Services as usual
Wed 21	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 22	7.30pm	Deanery Synod with commissioning
Fri 23		MOB
Sun 25		Second after Trinity Services as usual
July 2	2.30pm	Bury Deanery Mothers' Union Festival
	7.00pm	Summer praise (CC)

Please let us have details of your planned events for the calendar and websites.



***Congratulations
to the Revd
Canon Ralph
Mallinson***

***21 May marked
the 50th
anniversary of his
ordination***

***and a special
service was held
at St John with St
Mark's Church***

