



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



*What kind of love is this?*

**MARCH 2018**

**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	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parade Service	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> United Service	Alternately CC/SJM

### **Monday**

7.30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road
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### **Tuesday**

7.30pm	Christian Meditation	St John w St Mark
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### **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

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



Why am I writing this?

Really; why am I writing this? It's a thought that hits me every time I have to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard.)



Being of a scientific background there has to be a reason for what you write – no flannel – no waffle – in fact at Poly (now Manchester Metropolitan University) we were penalised if we wrote too much – you had to be able to be concise and factual.

So, why am I writing this?

It's my turn – true.

I have something to say? – often – but about what? And why?

We're back to that why again!

Because I'm part of the Ministry team – true – but why?

Because Jesus gave me a poke in the back and didn't give up on me.

Like many of us I can suffer from inertia!

Back in the late 70's I'd "found" Jesus, (He wasn't really lost – just lurking in the background) thanks to a lot of things going on then in the Renewal/Revival scene. I'd known all about Him all my life through School and Sunday School, but this was different, it was as if the Gospels and Acts were alive and I wanted a part of it. It was there- the world I wanted for my family.

It was the 'what' – what Jesus did for others that struck me – healing – helping – standing up for the poor and oppressed and against the authorities that made it so hard to escape from that oppression of poverty and low position, the dispossessed etc.etc. - even to dying on a cross – falsely accused.

The 'why' struck me like a thunderbolt, - because he loved me unconditionally. Not because I'd done anything good or special, there were no strings attached. Just the 'amazing grace' that John Newton wrote about in that famous hymn. So why am I telling you this? – because 23/4 years ago Jesus gave me another poke in the back and I started Reader training, (still working full time and with two dependent children) - somewhat younger than I am now!!

Jesus still pokes me in the back and there is always a 'why.'

The thing is - is Jesus poking you in the back and 'why?' Nobody is too young or too old to be prodded to action by Jesus. Why respond? – because, if you don't you might regret it! And would you really want your life to be filled with 'what if' and regret.

So again 'why' write this letter? There is so much to be done to bring God's Kingdom about on earth that we all need encouragement to step out from our inertia.

Is Jesus calling you to ministry? It's not just for the ordained but for each one of us. Consider this over the next month till Easter.



Blessings in Jesus name,  
Barbara

***HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2018***

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week beginning 25 March

Monday	7.30pm	Holy Communion	SJM
Tuesday	7.30pm	Holy Communion	SJM
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion	SJM
	7.30pm	Seder Meal	SJM Hall
Maundy Thursday	6.00pm	Child Friendly Communion	CCW
	7.30pm	Parish Communion	CCW&SJM
Good Friday	<b>9.00am</b>	Morning Service	CCW
	2.00pm	Last Hour at the Cross	SJM
Easter Eve	7.30pm	Service of Light	SJM



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

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**Mar 4     Third of Lent**

Exodus 20: 1-17

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

**Mar 11     Fourth of Lent Mothering Sunday**

Exodus 2: 1-10

2Corinthians 1: 3-7

John 19: 25b-27

**Mar 18     Fifth of Lent**

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

**Mar 25     Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mark 11: 1-11

**April 1     Easter Day**

Isaiah 25: 6-9

Acts 10: 34-43

Mark 16: 1-8

### **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

#### **PARADE SERVICES**

at both St.John with St.Mark & Christ Church

**SUNDAY 11 MARCH**

**10.30am**



## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **Baptisms**

February 18                      Jackson Finlay Riggs

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

### **Funerals**

January 29                      Dorothy Yarker

February 19                      Joan Holt

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

## ***FLOWERS IN CHURCH***

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At Christ Church

No flowers in church during Lent

April 1                      Congregation

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).



If you are a devotee of Facebook please follow our church pages, and spread the word to those you know – this is a great way to share our mission among those who do not attend regularly.

Just search for **Christ Church Walmersley** and **St John with St Marks Church**.



## ***CAFÉ CHURCH 2018***

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Our Cafe Church services this year will have a common theme based on the report released by the Archbishops' Council in Feb 2017, '**Setting God's People Free.**'

This challenging report looks at 'the true treasures of the Church' – i.e. YOU and why change is needed for church growth. We are going to investigate how the majority in church can be empowered and liberated for fruitful, faithful mission and ministry not just on Sundays but Mondays to Saturdays too.

You are warmly invited to join in the conversation at Cafe Churches throughout the year with a mix of styles and services and always, cafe-style food and drink.

### **Worship is the work of all God's people!**

#### **Dates**

CCW	4 <sup>th</sup> March*	20 <sup>th</sup> May*	9 <sup>th</sup> September	18 <sup>th</sup> November
SJM	18 <sup>th</sup> March*	17 <sup>th</sup> June	23 <sup>rd</sup> September	9 <sup>th</sup> December*

(\* indicates Holy Communion)

## ***What's your excuse?***

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Every Christian is called into the service of God in mission. People have tried lots of excuses – here are a few:

Jacob was a cheater. Peter had a temper.  
David had an affair. Noah got drunk.  
Jonah ran from God. Paul was a murderer.  
Gideon was insecure. Miriam was a gossip.  
Martha was a worrier. Thomas was a doubter.  
Sara was impatient. Elijah was moody.  
Moses stuttered. Zaccheus was short.  
Abraham was old. Lazarus was DEAD!

### **What's your excuse?**

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## From the Vicarage

\* Thanks to everyone who contributed to the great success of the pantomime at St.John with St.Mark last month. The performances of Dick Whittington were very entertaining and the whole event was a credit to all those involved. This was the twelfth panto the young people have taken part since the productions reformed in 2007. Here's to next year!

\* In addition to our church websites and other means of communication we are now on Facebook! Search for both Christ Church, Walmersley and St.John with St.Mark, Bury and "like" and "follow" to receive messages from the site. Thanks to Adam Cooper for creating the Facebook pages and as always thanks to Barbara Taylor and Ian Banks for updating our websites.

\* Our Lent groups continue this month as Christ Church, St.John with St.Mark and Seedfield Methodist work together to study God's word during this season. The meetings are on Mondays at 150 Walmersley Road, beginning at 7.30pm; Tuesdays at Seedfield (7.30pm) and Thursdays at Christ Church (2.00pm). Everyone is welcome.

We will be following a new study by York Courses called 'On the Third Day' written by Bishop John Pritchard.

*The resurrection is the Big Story that turned a little Jewish protest movement into a world-transforming religion. And yet by Easter Monday we've almost forgotten about it and are planning our summer holidays. How can we re-capture the explosive power of the resurrection that ricocheted around the world? How can we live in the glow of resurrection and be an Easter people? How can 'there and then' become 'here and now'?*

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



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

\* 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 6.30-7.00pm.

\* Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. Thanks to those who responded to this as a result of our recent Stewardship Campaign. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the wardens.

\* Meetings of the Churches Together in Bury take place bi-monthly at various churches around the town. The next meeting is on Wednesday 14 March at Bury United Reformed Church. More details are in the Bulletins / News Sheets. Everyone is welcome to attend.

\* If you know of anyone who is unable to come to church during Lent and would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion at home, please have a word with one of the Ministry Team.

\* If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

\* 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.

### **St. John with St. Mark report 1 February 2018**

Upcoming social dates were confirmed, including the Pantomime from 8th to 10th February, Coffee Morning & Book Fair on 24th February, Buffet dance on Friday 9th March & Winter Warmer on Sunday 18th March.

Latest stats from the Website were provided, including the fact that more people are now accessing us from phone devices.

The Library moved out on 19th December and all their furniture etc was removed early in the New Year. We have managed to keep the whiteboard and projector for Church use along with the Wi-Fi system, which will now mean us having to purchase a TV licence for ourselves. We have also retained some of the books, which will be sold at the February coffee morning with the proceeds being given to a literacy charity. It was felt that we need to stop referring to the room as the 'Library Room' going forward.

The Quinquennial report has now come back. We will begin the process of going through this to identify any priority jobs. There did not seem to be many major items of work which needed doing at present.

The main item on the agenda was the draft accounts for 2017. Ian produced the reports in the usual clear format detailing the incomes and expenditures for the past year. There was an opportunity for questions and discussion. It has been decided to close down some of the smaller funds we have with the exception of the organ fund, which still receives donations. All was approved and the accounts have now been passed for independent examination.

It was confirmed that £552 was received from the Christmas services to be donated to Crisis and the North West Ambulance defibrillator campaign.

At the end of 2017, we were made aware that an amount of £50,399.62 had been received from the estate of our friend Jean Barritt. In acknowledgment of this generous legacy it has been decided that we rename the former library room 'The Barritt Room' and it is suggested we have a suitable dedication and ceremony to mark this at some point after we speak to the family.

The PCC were made aware that our day school had been awarded an outstanding grade in a recent SIAMS inspection report. Congratulations to all who contributed to the rating.

The Vicar informed us we are looking for a delegate from our Parish on the Pastoral Committee, which meets occasionally to discuss Parish re-organisation in the area. They meet as and when required.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st March at 8.00pm.

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## ***THANK YOU***

We would like to thank Dennis Collins who displayed his paintings at the recent "Bacon Buttie Morning" at Christ Church and gave a generous donation from each sale to church funds.



Dennis is a member of the Art Workshop which meets on Monday mornings from 10.00am until noon. We do not have a tutor but we are a friendly bunch who help each other. There are some vacancies. If you are interested contact Margery Spencer.

### **Christ Church Walmersley PCC report 15 February 2018**

- It was noted that we had ordered the additional large print hymn books. Also the cards for people who pay by direct debit into the parish share had been produced by Barbara Taylor.
- The various licences that the church has for music performance etc., were discussed and it was noted that we did not have any licence to use pictures or articles from publications and members of the PCC should be aware of this.
- It was noted that the benefice magazine was running at a loss.
- A copy of the unaudited accounts was distributed to the PCC and there will need to be another meeting of the PCC to approve the audited accounts when they are received from the auditor.
- It was noted that GDPR which is a new data protection regulation will need to be reviewed by the PCC when direction is obtained from the diocese.
- It was noted that the consultancy document on the sale of the field and the buildings was on the church website but there had not been any comments back as yet.
- The Standing committee is meeting regularly regarding the sale of the field and reporting to the PCC for ratification of any decisions made.
- There is a notice board at the back of church which gives the current status of the sale of the field and this will be kept updated.
- The vicar reported on the visits that had taken place to review the fact finding work on the rebuild at St Paul's Kersal and the new build church at All Saints' Elton.
- Vocations will be talked about at the joint benefice service on the 29<sup>th</sup> April.

- It was noted that the two falls that had happened recently in church had been noted in the accident book.
- Reports were received from the Synod Committee and the Property Committee.
- In the vicar's notes he said that the diocesan stewardship officer had been pleased with the results of the Stewardship campaign. He also commented that the mission action plan needs to be reviewed along with Children's ministry and services.

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

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St.John with St.Mark:	Sunday 22 April	12noon
Christ Church :	Monday 30 April	7.30pm

**COME ALONG & INFLUENCE THE WAY  
YOUR CHURCH OPERATES**

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

If you have been a regular worshipper 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 next year.

**Please note:**

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

## QUIET MOMENTS IN HOLY WEEK

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### Palm Sunday

Almighty God,  
on this day your Son Jesus Christ entered the  
holy city of Jerusalem  
and was proclaimed King  
by those who spread their garments and palm branches along his way.



Let those branches be for us signs of his victory,  
and grant that we who bear them in his name  
may ever hail him as our Lord,  
and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life.  
In his name we pray. Amen.

### Maundy Thursday

On this night Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Give us Lord, an understanding of what you have done and teach us to follow the example of your humility.

On this night Jesus ate in fellowship with his friends. Lord make us good members of the Christian fellowship.

On this night Jesus commanded us to love one another but was rejected himself. Help us to love our neighbours especially those we find it difficult to relate to.

On this night Jesus was betrayed. Lord forgive us for the times when we have let others down by our thoughts, words or actions and for the times we have denied you.



On this night Jesus took bread and wine and blessed them commanding us to take and eat and drink in remembrance of him. May we always remember his sacrifice for us.

**Good Friday** I know that I have used this before but I make no apologies for repeating it.

At the Cross,  
Earth meets heaven,  
Pain meets bliss,  
sorrow meets joy,  
Sin meets grace,  
Fear meets faith,  
Law meets love,  
Absence meets presence,  
Death becomes life.



Patricia Newland      Mothers' Union Anthology of Poetry.

### **A response to Jesus' commandment**

*"Love one another as I have loved you"*

Grant us Father,

the love that is always ready to forgive  
the love that is always ready to help  
the love which encourages and supports  
the love that delights to give rather than to get  
that we may reflect the light of your love to all we meet.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Our first meeting of the new year was a service of Holy Communion led by Revd Gill which was followed by a supper of Christmas "left overs". Thanks to Gill for taking time out from her removal upheaval that week.

Our two Lenten themed meetings will be led on 7<sup>th</sup> March by Rev Roy Chow, Faith and Policy Co-ordinator and on 21<sup>st</sup> March by the Area Dean, Rev Simon Cook. If you're thinking of giving up something for Lent how about these 2 Wednesday evenings and come and join us. All are welcome.

Mothering Sunday is on 11 March and we hope to be taking part in the 10.30am Communion Service.



Have you thought about what you're going to get your mum this Mothering Sunday? Why not buy one of our ethical gifts, ranging in price from £6 to £100? Or give a gift in memory of a mother figure. This is just one example. Leaflets are available in church or visit the website at

*[www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org)*

£6 A greater love will support projects in the UK that help restore broken relationships in communities.

"Dear Lord . . ." a new collection of around 150 prayers and poems from members across the world has just been published, costing £3. Available from MUE or (post free) from the shop in 90 Deansgate, or have a word with Hilary Riddick. I have a copy if you wish to see it.

Bob Taylor





## ***All God's Creation is Good***

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This is the largest ecumenical organisation in the world. It started in 1887 and now has branches in countries across the world.

The design of the logo comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Its focus is on **Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.**

Each year on the first Friday in March there are services across the world prepared by the women of one country.

This year the service has been prepared by the women of Suriname and the theme is ***"All God's Creation is Good."***

If like me you have never heard of Suriname, it is the smallest country of South America on the North East Coast, with a population of 558,368, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, French Guiana to the east, Guyana to the west and Brazil to the south.

The services will involve prayerful consideration of the need to care for God's creation.



The service in Bury will be held on Friday March 2nd at Bolton Road Methodist Church at 2pm and is open to all – men, women and children.



## ***SATURDAY WALKING GROUP***

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Owing to the absence of leaders and regulars, and the fact that February weather can be a bit unsettled, we opted to have a month off. Therefore there is nothing to report this time. However our next walk includes Holcombe Hill and Irwell Vale on Saturday 3rd March. Please meet at Christ Church Walmersley, Lych Gate, at 9.30am. Packed lunch and usual essentials are required please. All are welcome

Best foot forward, David Robinson



## ***OPEN GROUP***

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The Open Group will resume after the Winter break on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm. We have invited Reverend Keith Trivasse for our Lenten evening for a time of reflection and maybe a chance to hear a little about Keith's journey of ministry and faith.

All are welcome to join us in the Barritt Room (formerly the Library).

At present we have not completed a full programme of events for 2018. Please see future magazines and weekly sheets where we will keep you posted. We would also be grateful for donations of small prizes we can use for the raffle at each of our meetings.

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### **JANUARY 2017 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Jean Dodson

2nd Prize ~ Kelly Watson



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

## **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH**

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We have been serving up our light lunches for the better part of two years now. What started as Lenten lunches for Tearfund back in March 2016 has become an established part of the church monthly calendar. Most Thursdays we see around thirty people – sometimes more.



Our regular 'customers' come from members of both churches in the Benefice and several from our surrounding community – we welcome all!

Importantly, we would emphasise that there is no charge for lunch. If you are able to make a donation to help cover costs that is gratefully received. The main aim is social, not financial - come and enjoy a light lunch with friends and, perhaps, make new friends.

Amazingly, over the last year, through the generosity of our patrons, we have not only covered costs but made a profit which has enabled us to send money to Tearfund (£208), Porch Box (£60), Save the Children (£98), and to Christ Church Walmersley (£840).

So a big thank you to all those who come and support this project. Also a special thank you to all our regular helpers – Claire, Margery, Alan, David, Margaret and Bob – and to our occasional helpers. We couldn't do it without you!

If you have not yet come to lunch with us then please feel free to join us. You will find not only a hearty midday snack but a hearty welcome from staff and customers alike – we are a very friendly bunch!! Lunch is served from 12 noon till 1.30pm at Christ Church Hall (back room).

The next lunch is on Thursday March 15th.  
Barbara & Nigel Silvester

## ***SUNDAY @ SEVEN***

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We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer) on –

**Sunday March 4th  
at Christ Church Hall (back room) at 7pm**



*“Where are we walking?”*



Do come and join us – it lasts about an hour - you will be most welcome!

## ***PAUSE FOR THOUGHT***

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*Contributed by Ralph Mallinson*

Christ, our all in all  
Bless both morning and evening  
Bless our waking and sleeping  
Bless our travelling and arriving  
Bless our working and playing  
Bless our listening and talking  
Bless our beginning and ending  
Christ, our all in all.

*© John Birch, [faithandworship.com](http://faithandworship.com)*

## ***OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD***

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This last Christmas (2017) was the second year at Christ Church that we had packed shoeboxes for this international charity project. (Our friends at St John with St Mark have been doing it for many years!)

Last year we sent 50 boxes. This year we are pleased to say that number increased to 62. Our boxes formed a part of the total of 7239 boxes which were loaded on to a lorry in Bolton and driven across Europe to Romania in time for distribution at Christmas.

This year we got some direct reactions from those receiving the gift boxes. Here are a couple –

Lidia wrote: "I'm Lidia from Romania! I received your shoebox Christmas gift! I wanted to thank you for the amazing gift you sent me! God bless you and your family! I liked the pencil box, the shell, the hair pins... You must have a girl because you knew very well what a girl likes."

Patrik wrote: "My name is Patrik and I am 12 years old. I have received your gift. I enjoyed it a lot. Thank you very much! I live in Baia Mare, Romania, with my parents and 4 cats. The more I liked airplanes gift received from you. We wish you Happy Christmas!"

It's warming to get such messages of appreciation and to know that you are making a difference to children in less fortunate circumstances. So a big thank you to all of the shoebox packers of 2017!

Maybe this year (2018) we can do it again!!

Thank you.

Barbara & Nigel Silvester

## ***NEWS FROM THE CUBS***

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The 11/24 St John with St Mark Cubs completed a countryside ramble from Church to Summerseat in November 2017 to raise money for Children in Need. We raised a total of £205.30. (*see p32*)

The Cubs also collected money and tinned food in Tesco for needy families in the community.

Well done to all involved.

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

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On Monday 29th January the MOB met at The Sundial for a chat, a drink and to suggest some ideas for the programme of events for 2018. Vicar Dave came prepared with calendar, pen and paper.

Several ideas were floated around including speakers from our own congregations and suggestions for social events such as a games night in The Sundial, 'school day memories', an evening walk to a local hostelry in May and the possibility of two meals out this time in June and December.

We began to discuss history and significant events during our chat, which lead us on to the idea of a 'where were you when' evening later in the year.

We hope to begin in February in The Sundial with an opportunity to watch our local football team in action on the TV.

We think we may have actually covered the next two years with suggestions so please keep up to date in future magazines, weekly sheets and the website when we can hopefully tell you more.

David Robinson

## ***THE EGG THAT SHARES THE EASTER STORY***

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### **THE REAL EASTER EGG**



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 an Easter story booklet in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from its sales.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010. To date, over one million eggs have been sold, with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools.

The new look 2018 range is available to order. People are encouraged to buy one as a special gift for a family member or friend as a unique way to share the wonderful story of Easter.

The original egg costs £3.99 and the Special Edition £9.99. There is also a dark chocolate alternative with a cross shaped Easter story for £5.50.

The Real Easter Egg is available in three ways:

- \* by people buying directly from The Meaningful Chocolate Company (please see forms in church)
- \* from independent retailers, such as Traidcraft, Embrace the Middle East, Christian bookshops and cathedrals
- \* from supermarkets. Tesco, Morrisons, Waitrose and ASDA will have stocks from the middle of February but only in their larger stores and in limited quantities.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company is based in Lymm, Cheshire and produce the Fairtrade Easter Egg and the real Advent Calendar.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THEM**

## ***THE WOOD STREET MISSION***

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The Mission is a children's charity based in the centre of Manchester. More than one in three local children is living in poverty. We help children and families living in poverty in Manchester and Salford by alleviating the day to day impact of poverty and improving life chances.

### **THE EASTER PROJECT**

Families in poverty struggle on a daily basis to provide the basic items of food and clothing for their children. Treats are one of the first things to go and we continue to try and help provide these. For Easter 2018 we would appreciate your help with donations of Easter Eggs to give out to the children we support via our clothing project. We will be accepting donations of eggs until Friday 16th March, to distribute them to families in plenty of time for the Easter weekend.

- THE 2018 CHRISTMAS APPEAL enabled us to hand out over 12000 gifts to 3677 children. On behalf of all our families thank you for your generosity at this challenging time of year.
- On 22 December a Christmas party was provided by the Sheridan Suite on Oldham Road was attended by 227 children and 115 adults.

THE CLOTHING PROJECT aims to provide items including children's clothing, school uniforms for all ages, clean bedding and towels, new or excellent quality laundered, used duvets and new shoes for families in need.

PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP  
BY PROVIDING ITEMS FOR MISSION.

Wood Street's mission is to help alleviate the effects of poverty on local children and their families through practical help.

Wood Street's vision is that all children in Manchester and Salford should live a life free from poverty.

Find out more at [www.woodstreetmission.org.uk](http://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk)  
Or contact them on 0161 834 3140 25 Wood St. Manchester M3EF



## **EVENTS FOR MARCH**

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### **Fruitfulness on the frontline**

'Be still and know that I am God' *Ps.46 v.10*

### **Seedfield quiet day**

- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018
- 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
- Seedfield Methodist Church (Linton Ave. Bury BL9 6NL)

A day of silent prayer and reflective worship for you to:

- Draw closer to God
- Focus on Jesus
- Rest + be refreshed in His presence
- Explore new ways to pray

**All very welcome**

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 9th MARCH ~ 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH  
£7.50 EACH

ALL WELCOME



## ***MORE EVENTS IN MARCH***

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### **Christ Church**



Saturday March 10th  
7.30pm

Teams of Four compete for the  
**STAN PARKINSON TROPHY**

Bring your own team  
or meet up with new friends when you get here.

£4

Pie Supper available for £1.50



ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK SCOUT GROUP

### **WINTER WARMER LUNCH**

AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE

IN THE CHURCH HALL, 18th MARCH (approx 12noon)

Proceeds in aid of Scout Group funds  
Menu & price details along with tickets available in March

**ALL WELCOME**

## ***MORE EVENTS IN MARCH***

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### ***SEDER MEAL***

in HOLY WEEK

Wednesday 28 March

**An adaptation of the Passover  
for the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**

THE EVENING WILL BE LEAD BY A SPEAKER FROM "JEWS FOR JESUS"

St.John with St.Mark Hall

£7.50

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church  
if you would like to attend

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### ***Girls Out Alone (GOA)***



Oldham Coliseum  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 7.30pm  
full price £23.00, concessions  
£21.00

Please contact Gill Barnett  
for more details

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

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The school were recently the subject of a SIAMS inspection. These Statutory Inspections of Anglican & Methodist Schools look at all aspects of the school's religious education including its links with the local church.

School is delighted to announce that the outcome of the SIAMS was regarded as outstanding. The full report is available on the school website.

Parts of the report are quoted below. Thanks to everyone who contribute to enhancing the Christian character of our church school.

*The distinctive vision of this outstanding school is lived out with confidence by all members of the school community. The Headteacher, supported by a committed staff team, relentlessly places Christian values at the heart of decision making.*

*The school is rightly proud that its diversity is its strength and this is reflected in the deep knowledge staff have about pupils, their families and their culture. It is exemplified in the many ways in which the school goes far beyond what might be expected of them to enable pupils to learn and enjoy school.*

*The school's curriculum is planned around a series of big questions where pupils play an active part in planning their own learning. The big questions link with RE themes and worship plans and as a result, the curriculum is both broad and distinctively Christian.*

*Partnerships with the local church and community, supported by the links each class has with a local charity, make significant contribution to school life and enrich the lives of pupils. The Vicar's support, both as governor and spiritual leader, is clearly welcomed by staff and pupils. Members of the church team support the school in a number of ways, enhancing the school's Christian character*

There are still some 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HEADTEACHER MR. OLLIS  
AND EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOL



*St. John with St. Mark School,  
Athlone Avenue, Bury. BL9 5EE  
Tel: 0161 764 5330  
[www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk](http://www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk)*

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

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Fri 2	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer
Sat 3	9.30am	Walking Group (Lychgate CCW)
Sun 4		<b>Third of Lent</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (CC)
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (CC)
Mon 5	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Tue 6	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Methodist)
Wed 7	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 8	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC Hall)
Fri 9	7.30pm	Buffet Dance (SJM)
Sat 10	7.30pm	Quiz Night (CC)
Sun 11		<b>Fourth of Lent Mothering Sunday</b> Services as usual

Mon 12	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Tue 13	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Methodist)
Wed 14	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
	7.30pm	Churches Together
Thu 15	12 noon	Thursday Lunch (CC)
	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC)
Sun 18		<b>Fifth of Lent</b>
		Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
	12 noon	Winter Warmer Lunch (SJM)
Mon 19	7.30pm	Lent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Tue 20	7.30pm	Lent Group (Seedfield Methodist)
Wed 21	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Thu 22	2.00pm	Lent Group (CC)
Sun 25		<b>Palm Sunday</b>
		Services as usual
	3.00pm	Collation of Archdeacon (Bury Parish Church)
Wed 28	7.30pm	Seder Meal (SJM)
Thu 29	6.00pm	Child Friendly Communion (CC)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (CC,SJM)
Fri 30	9.00am	Morning Service (CC)
	2.00pm	The Last Hour (SJM)
Sat 31	7.30pm	Service of Light (SJM)



## SOFT TOYS & TEDDIES

required for the various Fairs at Church.  
Please speak to Jackie Yates if you can help or bring to  
St. John with St. Mark Church. Thank You



A countryside ramble by  
the Cubs from St John with St Mark  
raised a magnificent £205.30 for Children in Need (*see page 22*)

