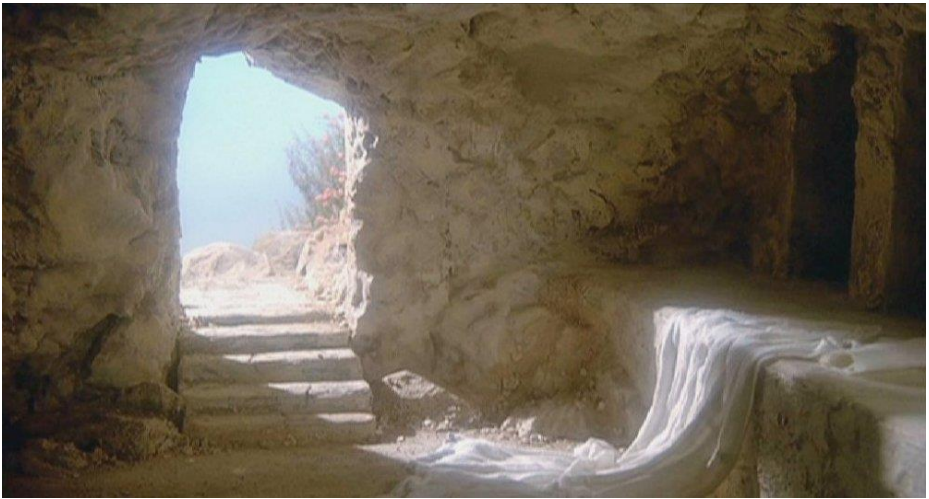




**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



Alleluia

APRIL 2018

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

Monday

7.30 p.m.	1 st Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road
-----------	----------------------------------	---------------------

Tuesday

7.30pm	Christian Meditation	St John w St Mark
--------	----------------------	-------------------

Wednesday

10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
------------	----------------	-------------------

Thursday

2.00 p.m.	1 st 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



A few days ago I had to ring a friend whose family I had not spoken to for some time. Her son answered the phone and I had only said "Hello" when he immediately said "It's Margery. I would know that voice anywhere." Recognised by my voice, but I suspect more by my accent as the person I was talking to lived in the South and had often in the past taken the mickey out of my Lancashire vowels.

It immediately reminded me of the story of Mary Magdalene in the garden on the first Easter Day. She had gone to visit the tomb and was weeping, when a man appeared near her. She thought he was one of the gardeners and asked where he had taken Jesus' body. Mary did not recognise Jesus by his appearance but as soon as he spoke her name, she instantly knew him. Her delight in encountering the risen Lord was enormous.



Two men who walked along the road to Emmaus, remembering the events of the previous week in Jerusalem were joined by a stranger. They continued their discussion and told the stranger how some of their friends had gone to the tomb and found it empty. They did not recognise the stranger as Jesus even though he was explaining the

Scriptures to them. It was only when he accepted their invitation to join them for a meal and broke the bread, blessed it and shared it that their eyes were opened and they realised they had indeed been walking with Jesus. They knew Jesus not by his voice or his words but through his actions.

After Mary Magdalene had reported her sighting of the risen Lord, the disciples went and hid in a room locking the doors for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood amongst them saying "Peace be with you." Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples who were there immediately recognised him, through his words and his appearance.

We are told that they were overjoyed - I think that is probably an understatement!

And of course the disciple Thomas was not with the disciples at that time and did not believe that Jesus had been in the room. Unless he saw the marks on Jesus' hands where the nails had been and put his finger where the nails were he would not believe. He would forever be known as doubting Thomas. But some days later when Jesus appeared again to the disciples and offered Thomas the opportunity to reach out his hands to the scars, then Thomas believed. He knew Jesus by his scars.

Four different ways in which people recognised the risen Jesus; through his voice, his actions, his words and his scars.

That was 2000 years ago. How do each of us recognise the risen Christ today?

Do we discover Him in the words he says?

Do we hear Him in the silence of our prayers?

Do we encounter Him at the communion table?

Do we experience Him in the actions of friends and strangers?

Do we recognise His voice when he speaks to us?

This Easter time may we know the joy of walking with the risen Jesus.

Easter Blessings

Margery

Sovereign God,
help me to live each day in the light of Easter
with its joy bubbling up in my heart,
its laughter shining from my eyes,
its message shaping my life.
So may others, seeing the difference it has made to me,
discover the difference it can make to them.





BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

April 1 Easter Day

Isaiah 25: 6-9

Acts 10: 34-43

Mark 16: 1-8

April 8 Second of Easter

Acts 4: 32-35

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

John 20: 19-31

April 15 Third of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36-48

April 22 Fourth of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12

1 John 3: 16-24

John 10: 11-18

April 29 Fifth of Easter

Acts 8: 26-40

1 John 4: 7-21

John 15: 1-8

May 6 Sixth of Easter

Acts 10: 44-48

1 John 5: 1-6

John 15: 9-17

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

February 25 Freddie Wood-O'Beirne

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

Funerals

February 28 Eva Fitton

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



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

- April 1 At Christ Church
Congregation
- April 8 In memory of Sarah Melling and Jack Illsley
- April 15 In memory of Betty and David Brown
- April 22 Mr & Mrs A Spencer
- April 29 In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme

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).

THE PRIORY Highbank Centre



EASTER SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL

2.30pm

All welcome

JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE

on the 5th Sunday of a month

29 April
10.30am

AT CHRIST CHURCH

PRAYER DIARY

*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.
THEY FORM PART OF THE PRAYERS AT EVENING PRAYER
AT 5.00pm AT ST.JOHN WITH ST.MARK FROM MONDAY - THURSDAY*

- SUNDAY: For all our worship services.
All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes.
Those who read, lead intercessions and serve in our churches
- MONDAY: Our music ministry. The Study Groups.
Those considering 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,
especially to those bereaved.
- 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 and
all 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
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.

From the Vicarage

- * As part of our challenge to embrace social media, both the churches in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road 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.
- * This month's meeting of the MOB – Men of the Benefice – takes place on Monday 23 April. On St.George's Day we will be celebrating all things English! We meet at the Sundial from 8pm.
- * 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 6.30-7.00.
- * 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.
- * If you know of anyone who is unable to come to church at Easter and would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion at home, please have a word with one of the Ministry Team.
- * 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.

MISSION ACTION PLANNING - an update

The Manchester Diocese are encouraging parishes to prepare Mission Action Plans as part of our aim to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. MAPs have been on the agenda of both PCCs for over three years. Items are discussed at each meeting and the benefice MAP is reviewed and updated at the joint PCCs that are held in June and December.

At the joint PCC in December the MAP was updated as detailed below:

JOINT BENEFICE:

- * To encourage more social activities across the benefice.
- * To encourage more vocations to the lay and ordained ministries.
- * To develop the Christian basics group set up to nurture new believers.
- * To establish a presence in social media.

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK:

- * Increase the number of midweek Parade Services
- * More ecumenical activity
- * To deal with the closure of Moorside Library and its impact on church and community activity.

CHRIST CHURCH:

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



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

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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

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.*

ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION

Tuesday 22 May

7.30pm

St. Mary's Bury (Bury Parish Church)

for Wardens and Sidespersons

PCC members are encouraged to attend
and everyone is welcome



THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCH

As I had some scheduled time off work during the middle of March, I had the opportunity to make the Thursday lunch at Christ Church on

15th March. I have never previously been able to attend so this was the first one I had been to.

I made my way up for 12noon and joined what Nigel refers to as 'The Choir Table' and it straight away became apparent it was going to get extremely busy, although there did look to be a good number of volunteers on hand to help.

It was soup and sandwiches day this time so I chose the mushroom soup, home-made by Margery I believe, which was absolutely delicious and just what was needed on a cold March day. This was served with a selection of four different sandwiches, which were presented beautifully. Simnel cake and a mug of tea or coffee finished the meal off.

Although described as a 'light lunch' I definitely felt I had been well fed afterwards.

This event was very popular and it was clear that the people who attend appreciate these lunches, not only for the meal, but the opportunity to socialise with others for a short time when they would perhaps not normally do so.

There is no set charge for these lunches although a donation is always welcome. This month, being Lent, the donations were being given to the work of TearFund.

Sadly, unless I can persuade Nigel to set up a base outside my office in Manchester City Centre, I doubt I will be able to attend on a regular basis. However I hope that my words here will encourage others to give it a try if you have not already done. I understand the lunch takes place on the Third Thursday of each month from 12noon to 1.30pm, with the next one being on 19th April.

Thank you very much indeed to Nigel, Barbara and their team of hard working volunteers.

David Robinson

Prayers for Easter Time

Love overcame
Emerging from a cold tomb
All the truth, majesty and creativity of a living God
Transforming a broken heart
Making a quiet return, in a still and sorrowful garden
The grave stone rolled away, to release redemptive love
Jesus resurrected and restored
Comforts a weeping woman
Speaks with travellers on a journey
Meets with his faithful friends
And they bow down before Christ alive
And acknowledged that the Saviour has arrived
That the word of God has come alive
And that the extraordinary transformation of
heaven and earth
Is complete.



Julie Palmer Faith and worship.com

Lord,
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book Faith and Worship.com

Springtime

For the cycle of life, which brings death and rebirth

We rejoice in the promise of Spring

For lengthening days, and sunlight's warmth upon the soil

We rejoice in the promise of Spring

For a snowdrop's beauty, reflecting its Creator's artistry

We rejoice in the promise of Spring

For new born lambs, their joy and exuberance

We rejoice in the promise of Spring

for all of creation and the majesty of its Creator

We rejoice in the promise of Spring

Faith and Worship.com



Thoughts on Belief

To believe is to know that
every day is a new beginning.
Is to trust that miracles happen,
and dreams really do come true.

To believe is to find the strength
and courage that lies within us
When it's time to pick up
the pieces and begin again.

To believe is to know
we are not alone,
That life is a gift
and this is our time to cherish it.

If only we believe.

Adapted from B.J Morbitzer



Photo credit: Christian Aid

Marcelin Abellard and his daughters Ketia, Linda and Keshna (*left to right in the photo*) still haven't recovered from Hurricane Matthew. Marcelin doesn't expect them to survive if another hurricane hits.

Together we're stronger than the storms

In Haiti, Marcelin raised his three daughters alone. They've endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth. They're not just survivors. They're fighters. But they're only so strong. They won't survive the next hurricane without your help.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be in their corner. You can help them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore.

Christian Aid Week unites kingdom builders like you from all walks of life. We step out in mission for our neighbours like Marcelin, because we believe in life before death. We believe God's kingdom is stronger than the storms.

Join us

Will you join us? If our churches can raise £210, it could pay for two days' construction training for a local builder in Haiti. The builder could then build secure, comfortable homes for people like Marcelin, giving them a safe place to weather the next disaster, and a fighting chance to build a better life.

Together we can be stronger than the storms.

Luncheon Platter

This Christian Aid Week our churches are holding a Luncheon Platter on Sunday, 13 May after the services ie approx. 12.15pm at St John with St Mark's church hall on Parkinson Street.

Tickets: Adults: £5.00 children up to 12 years: £3.00

To join us please contact John Brennan or Rosemarie Ashworth or members of the clergy. Please look out for further details in the coming weeks

God bless

John



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

The branch AGM was held in February, chaired by the Vicar. The branch has 44 members which includes 10 men. Financially we are in a good position and so it was agreed that £150 be divided between three of the Mothers' Union charitable causes in the diocese. The business meeting was followed by a Bible Study.

As we reviewed the meetings of the past year, Dave commented that he had found "Desert Island Discs" most enjoyable. He wasn't the only one, which is why our previous meeting had repeated the theme allowing everyone to share their favourite words and music.



The first of our two Lenten meetings was led by Revd Canon Roy Chow, Faith and Policy co-ordinator for Mothers' Union in the diocese. He used three Psalms as a basis for discussion in small groups – what is your birth story? (Psalm 139); what are the greatest fears and threats that you face right now? (Psalm 121); what special skills has God given you? (Psalm 71) being a few of the questions we considered. In addition he related something of his own life story, from his birth in China to the present day. This was extremely well received by all.

On Mothering Sunday members were involved in the 10.30am service and during this it was a pleasure to enrol a new member.

Our meetings in April are a light-hearted quiz (4th) and a talk by Geoff Stokes our church organist and MU member (18th).

The Mothers' Union daily wave of prayer on April 23-25 focuses on Manchester and its links. We meet in Church on Tuesday 24 at 10am for a short service. Copies will be available for those unable to attend so that they can join in this opportunity to remember our sisters and brothers from dioceses in Ghana, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter,

Bob Taylor (Branch Leader)

Feast of the Annunciation

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is one of the days marked by Mothers' Union members as a special day of prayer. March 25 this year falls in Holy Week so the Feast has been transferred to Monday, 9 April. Here is a prayer you may like to use on that day.

Loving God,
You live in us and make us whole.
You call us your friends,
You guide us in new and unexpected ways.
You heal us and you hold us in your arms.

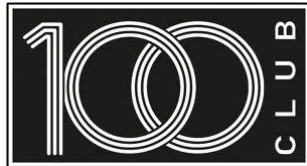
You chose Mary from the powerless
and unnoticed in the world,
Yet greatly loved and cherished in your sight,
That she should be the mother of our Saviour.
So fill us with your grace,
That we may accept the invitation of your Spirit.
Let us welcome your angel with open arms,
with joy and hope,
despite the pain we often have to face.

You live in us and you love in us,
With Mary we want to say "yes Lord".

FEBRUARY 2017 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ John & Judith Kelly

2nd Prize ~ Maureen Nuttall



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



The Open Group resumed for their first meeting of 2018 on 14th March and we welcomed Reverend Keith Trivasse to lead us for our Lent evening. Keith has been worshipping with us for the last couple of years and leading our regular services as a retired priest, and we value his ministry. However we did not know a great deal about Keith's journey to faith and priesthood so we invited him to talk to the group to find out a little more.

We heard how Keith began his life in Eastbourne and his early days as a member of the Brethren Church and subsequent baptism, which was of course full immersion.

It was not until Keith's move to Manchester to study at university that we discovered he had found his true home after attending a nearby Church for an Ash Wednesday service. Confirmation followed and then later Keith put himself forward for selection and ministry. We heard about the different situations experienced as part of that selection process.

Two Curacies followed in Prestwich and Warrington and it was in the former where Keith began his work with the Jewish community and interfaith work, which was itself described as 'a calling within a calling'. We already knew about Keith's work with the Muslim population and how he had helped to found the Muslim-Christian Forum in Bury. This was driven by his later ministry at St. Thomas Bury, the Parish of which is predominantly Muslim.

This group still exists but is requiring new leadership to help move this along.

After Keith had spoken there was an opportunity for a question and answer session around further aspects of the interfaith work, sermon style (you have probably noticed how Keith is great at preaching without the reliance on notes), favourite hymn choices and worship patterns and of course marriage to Margaret.

The group enjoyed the evening and felt we had learnt a lot. Thank you, Keith.

Apologies to regular members of the Open Group who have not received their annual programme of events for the year. This is because we still have a couple of slots to fill. However it is intended for us to meet on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding August). Speakers for later in the year include Elizabeth Brennan (John & Margaret's daughter), who will discuss her work as a Religious Education teacher, and Nigel Silvester will talk about his life and faith. We also of course have our customary craft evening with Linda in the Autumn.

However for next month, Ian Banks will lead the evening for us on Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm. You'll have to be there to hear the topic as it is currently a surprise. All are welcome and we are also grateful for small raffle prizes for each evening.

David Robinson



SATURDAY WALKING GROUP

Unfortunately it just wasn't to be this month. The early March snow that brought many parts of the country to a halt even managed to stop our own walking group from going out. Well that, along with illness and general 'neshness'. You may need to look that one up.

However we are going to try again next month with Holcombe Hill and Irwell Vale on Saturday 14th April (note the second Saturday this time). 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

SUNDAY @ SEVEN

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



Sunday April 22nd at 7pm
at Christ Church Hall (back room)

He is risen! Let's celebrate!!

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

For your diary:

ASCENSION DAY

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

Thursday 10 May

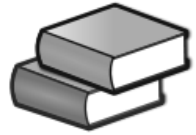
*Services at both
St.John with St.Mark & Christ Church
at 7.30pm*



You are invited to an



Afternoon Tea with Book Fair



Saturday 28th April from 2.00pm
St. John with St. Mark Church Hall

Admission is free.

There will be a charge for the afternoon tea

We are also looking for donations of china cups & saucers prior to this event.
If you can help, please see June Banks.
They do not have to be matching sets.

FORMBY RETREAT 2018



The annual retreat to the St. Joseph's Prayer Centre in Formby will take place from Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th May inclusive. The centre is situated in beautiful grounds surrounded by the National Trust pine forest and red squirrel reserve.

As with previous years there will be an opportunity for reflection, study, relaxation and also free time for your own leisure.

The cost of the trip includes accommodation and meals, which are provided at the centre.

We do not currently have many people signed up this year, so if you have never previously attended and feel like giving it a try then please contact Ian Banks or speak to a member of the Clergy.

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Sun 1		Easter Day Services as usual
Tue 3		GOA Whisky Galore trip
Wed 4	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sun 8		Second of Easter Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
Mon 9	7.30pm	Listening Prayer (Not Mon 2)
Wed 11	2.30pm	Easter Service at the Priory
	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Sat 14	9.30am	Walking Group (CC Lychgate)
Sun 15		Third of Easter Services as usual
Wed 18	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 19	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
Sun 22		Fourth of Easter Services as usual
	12noon	APCM (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (CC)
Mon 23	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (The Sundial)
Tue 24	10.00am	Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer service
Sat 28	2.00pm	Afternoon Tea and Book Fair (SJM)
Sun 29		Fifth of Easter Early Services as usual
	10.30am	United Service (CC)
Mon 30	7.30pm	APCM (CC Hall)



Winter Warmer Lunch

March 18th

at St John with St Mark's

Thanks to all involved today,
and especially for providing
the takeaway service for
those unable to leave their
homes due to snow

