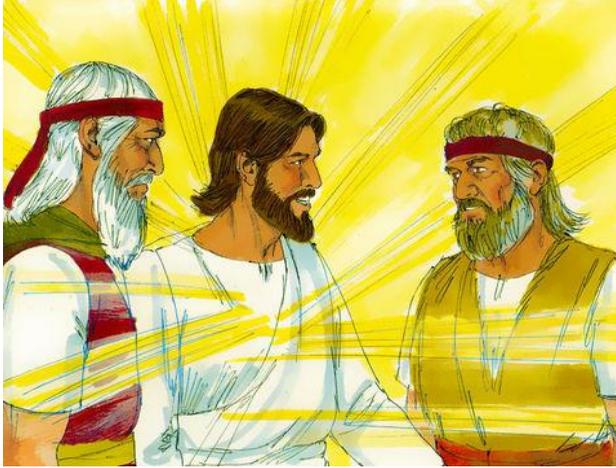


**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury**

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



Transfiguration of Our Lord – 6th August

August 2020

50P



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

REGULAR SERVICES

In the current situation our regular services are somewhat curtailed and times have been changed, so here is a quick referral list for the coming month or so. Social distancing guidelines and hygiene protocols are in place.

We are observing the guidance from the Government, the Church of England and the Diocese of Manchester. There will be no singing, or contact when Sharing of the Peace. Communion will be received in one kind only.

Sunday

10.00 a.m.	1 st	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	2 nd	Family Service	
	3 rd	Holy Communion	
	4 th	Service of the Word	
	5 th	Holy Communion	
11.00 a.m.	All	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
7.00pm		Final, Sunday @ Seven	Probably Zoom (watch out for further details)

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
7.30 p.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Other services as announced

Morning Prayer is said each day at 9.30 a.m.

Evening Prayer is said each day at 5.00 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



"For God so loved the world that He didn't send a committee" is an occasional jocular complaint from PCC members often frustrated at the level of administration within the church. At June's online Clergy Conference, the Bishop of Manchester spoke with similar intensity about the increase of virtual meetings by stating that when God chose to communicate with the human race, "He didn't arrange a Zoom meeting!"

The recent lockdown has prompted a rapid increase in the amount of online worship and the number of meetings conducted by video conferences. (Who had heard of a Zoom meeting four months ago?)

As we take steps to slowly emerge from the lockdown, there are calls to continue these online opportunities to worship and meet together. Whilst these initiatives have been invaluable during the pandemic - enabling churches and other organisations to continue functioning - I do have a concern that church life should not become too virtual and remote.

The essence of Christianity is about relationships – a relationship with God and our neighbour. Jesus said, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."*

A relationship implies a closeness and a desire to be in the physical presence of the other person. Whilst some relationships inevitably need to be conducted electronically or even by phone - when a person is abroad for instance or unable to meet due to sickness – the ideal is for a face to face encounter. One of the most disappointing aspects of recent months has been the inability to conduct pastoral visits in person.

It was a very moving experience to be back in church last month for public worship after so many Sundays away. In my opinion no amount of online worship can beat the sense of gathering together as a Christian community in person.

The obvious positive elements of being able to worship away from church during lockdown – and I know how much the worship offered by our Methodist friends has been appreciated - should not replace meeting in person alongside fellow believers.

I would hate to think that the events of the last few months would create a community of armchair Christians who fail to engage with others in a physical sense and miss out on the benefits of personal Christian fellowship.

With best wishes.

Stay Safe & God Bless.

Dave

250th CELEBRATION

A new celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Parish of St. John has been arranged for December.

We still have all the memorabilia and photographs stored securely and we will also look to find a way to put this on display later in the year.

We would still welcome contributions if you have any.



ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

We have been unable to hold recent draws. However it is planned to do a multi draw as soon as soon as it is possible.



BIBLE READINGS FOR AUGUST

Aug 2 **8th after Trinity**

Isaiah 55: 1-5

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

Aug 9 **9th after Trinity**

1 Kings 19: 9-18

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

Aug 16 **10th after Trinity**

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 10-28

Aug 23 **11th after Trinity**

Isaiah 51: 1-6

Romans 12: 1-8

Matthew 16: 13-20

Aug 30 **12th after Trinity**

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28

Sep 6 **13th after Trinity**

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20



FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

July 15 Pauline Maguire (née Andrew)

FUNERAL SERVICE HELD AT THE CREMATORIUM

June 18 David Ashton

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE CHURCHYARD

July 19 Jean Jenkinson

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



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

- Aug 2 Vacant
Aug 9 In memory of Mary and Norman Leake
Aug 16 Mrs A Standing and family in memory of Alan
Aug 23 Barbara and Bob Taylor in memory of close family members
Aug 30 Mr & Mrs I Riddick in memory of their parents

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 Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Our APCMs have been postponed until further notice.
The deadline of 31 May has been extended to 31 October
and officers continue in post until meetings can be rearranged.



We would also like to remind people who are responsible for a group or organisation that we are still awaiting some annual reports for 2019.

APCMs will be held as soon as current guidelines will allow us. So to help us be ready, if you have not yet submitted your reports, please could you do so to Ian and June Banks at St. John with St. Mark and Ian Riddick at Christ Church as soon as possible.

Thank you

Support for Lahore

Our Diocese has launched the Lahore Diocese Pandemic Appeal seeking to support those in our link Diocese of Lahore suffering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

In an E-Mail announcing the launch, the Bishop of Bolton – the Chair of the Diocesan Lahore Link Committee - reported that:

“Covid-19 is now increasingly affecting Pakistan after a relatively slow start. It is affecting the poorest in society the most, those who live on a day to day basis; those without reserves to fall back on.

The suggestion from Pakistan is that the hospitals are full with coronavirus patients, and many low-skilled workers are now unemployed. Lockdown as we know it, is very difficult when you need to work to put food on the table.

The Church in Pakistan is focusing its efforts on providing food parcels to those in need, and we are appealing to our church communities in Manchester to support this work.

We know that these times have been difficult for many, but if you do feel that you are able to support the poorest, with food and other essentials then it would be really appreciated, making a difference to friends and colleagues in the poorest areas of Lahore Diocese.

Our prayers continue to be with the people of Lahore and surrounding areas, with Bishop Irfan and those in the Church of Pakistan trying to provide food to those in need, for the church schools in Lahore Diocese and the vital work that they continue to do with their young people.”

If you feel able to support this appeal, please contact the Vicar.

From the Vicarage

* It was wonderful to be back in church on 12 July as services were finally allowed to resume. Thanks once again to all those who have worked hard to enable the buildings to re-open for both private prayer and public worship.

For the foreseeable future, we plan to continue the current pattern of Sunday services ie -

10.00am	Christ Church
11.00am	St. John with St. Mark

The midweek services at St.John with St.Mark - on Wednesdays (10.00am) and Thursdays (7.30pm) - also continue as will the First Thursday Communion (2.00pm) at Christ Church Hall.

Whenever we are in church, please be aware of the health and hygiene protocols and the need to maintain social distancing at all times.

The Ministry Team will continue to review the pattern of services as the situation develops. Thanks to everyone who has supported us in recent weeks.

* Congratulations to our previous Curate, the Revd Gill Barnett, who in addition to her post as Priest-in-Charge of Hamer and Healey and St. Ann Belfield in the Deanery of Rochdale, has also been appointed as Borough Dean of that town. The role of Borough Dean is to represent the Church of England within the civic authorities. Please pray for Gill as she begins this new role.

* I continue to say Morning Prayer at 9.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on a daily basis.
By also saying prayers at this time we are uniting together

* Please let a member of the ministry team know if anyone is ill and requires a visit. At the heart of our ministry to the parish is pastoral care. This is not the exclusive concern of the clergy but part of each Christian's duty to love one another.

* The Parish Office is back open – with the necessary social distancing! Enquiries about future baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and Authorised Lay Ministers meet every month – usually on the second Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please contact one of the team.

* Porch Boxes are always in need of food items to meet their current demand. A box is available at the back of both churches.

* Any information for the following week's news sheet should be passed to the Vicar (Christ Church) or David Robinson (St.John with St.Mark) by the Wednesday of the previous week. Also, please contact them, or Ian Banks for St. John with St. Mark, if you would like to contribute towards the cost of the communication in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. The cost is £5.

* Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or require some further information, please speak to one of the Treasurers or Wardens.

* 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 Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

* 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

PRAYER DIARY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.

- SUNDAY:** For all our worship services.
All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes.
Those who read, lead intercessions and serve in our churches
- MONDAY:** Our music ministry. The Study Groups.
Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry
Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- TUESDAY:** All the educational establishments in the parish.
School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools, Primary Schools,
St.John with St.Mark CE School.
Our pastoral care to all the community, especially to those bereaved.
- WEDNESDAY:** Ecumenical Links within the community. Mothers' Union
Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning
- THURSDAY:** Our ministry with young people. Our baptism ministry.
Those preparing to be married in church.
- FRIDAY:** Community involvement. The PCCs and their committees
Those who provide and arrange church flowers
Those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY:** The Vicar and our retired clergy
The Licensed Readers, ALMs.



A letter from Royston

I recently had a letter from Milly Dalgleish – some of you might know her better as Mildred Parris from Sefton Street. She receives the Magazine by post as she now lives in Royston, Hertfordshire. With her permission I'm relaying parts of it to all you avid readers.

Milly wrote, 'I really do appreciate receiving the magazine – it's a very good magazine, and I recommend articles to several people, and keep cuttings of the best bits – which is why I prefer a paper copy. A lot of churches could learn from it!! So I'll enclose a donation for the magazine with any excess to go as a general donation' (which she did and it has been passed on to Barbara Taylor)

She then continued; 'The second reason is that I was so encouraged by your article round Easter and your story of your faith journey. We both had the same Christian influences from Walmersley church. Some were a bit mediocre (??) but in the midst of all that there were a few that I see as a good point of my faith journey..... It's amazing how much you realise God has been at work since childhood and beyond.

I remember with thanksgiving the continuity of festivals at Walmersley and social events. Strangely though the 2 early examples of God at work are:-

1) The 'teenage' Sunday group led by Nancy Hall where we discussed things I'd never thought of!

2) My Confirmation classes (which I think were yours as well-1962) where I really enjoyed Mr Hagerty's teaching. And of course I have many fond memories of other caring church members.'

Milly then wrote about some of hers and Jim's faith journey (that might be for some other time!!) then she wrote:-' I agree with your thoughts on 'In Christ alone'. For me it was 'There is a Redeemer' that spoke to me, as did of course many other modern hymns and I've seen more traditional hymns in a new light.'

It was good to get some feedback on an article.

Barbara Silvester

Mary Sumner's prayer

Mary Sumner, who founded Mothers' Union in 1876, died on 9 August 1921. She used this prayer which is still very relevant for each of us now.

All this day, O Lord
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee.
And every life I touch
do thou by thy spirit quicken;
Whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen



Mustard seed faith



God of miracles
bless our tiny steps of faith
that mountains may be moved.

Almighty and loving God,
take our faith, weak though it is.
Kindle the sparks of life within us
and fan a new flame within our hearts.

And so may we set out with renewed purpose,
resolved to live and work for you,
in the assurance that you are with us,
now and always.

Nick Fawcett Prayers for all Seasons; 1998

UN Youth Awareness Day – 12 August

We pray for children and young adults who face stress, divided homes, unemployment, drug and gambling addictions, frustration or feeling unloved. Help us to reach out to them so that they too will discover the power of being part of God's family. Help us to listen, to love and to keep our hearts open to them.

Amen

A prayer from Australia

Walking with Christ

Heavenly Father, fill us this day with hope and joy
as we step forward with Christ in faith.

Loving Lord, we thank you for creating us in Christ
to live out your purposes,
which you have so lovingly prepared.

We thank you for uniting us with Christ
to carry out your plans
which you have made ready for us.

We thank you that walking with Christ
empowers us for the life of service
for which we are created.

May our daily walk with Christ
lead us to live out our faith in action.
Amen



Emergency Appeal

We are delighted that Mothers' Union has reached the three-quarter mark in its £1 million Emergency Covid-19 Appeal. The committee members here in Walmersley agreed to send £250 from branch funds. In this period of no meetings it was not possible to ask all our members but we are sure you will support this move in such difficult times.

Hearts of hope and love



A couple of months ago I wrote about the making of hearts which are giving hope and spreading love in hospitals, care homes and hospices, helping residents, patients and their families get through these difficult times. These hearts can be sewn, crocheted or knitted and there is still a demand for them, most recently from Salford Royal. Please ask

for details if this is something you would like to do.

"Many patients and their families are separated at the worst possible time, but hospital staff are trying to ease the pain by giving each family a special keepsake. Matching pairs of hearts are given to the patient and their family, so that people can feel more connected with their relatives."

Thank You Keyworkers

Mothers' Union is extending its AFIA (Away From It All) scheme which provides breaks or treats for disadvantaged families.

The aim is a heartfelt "thank you" to families of key workers who have continued to go above and beyond to help others during the



Covid-19 pandemic. There has been an outpouring of compassion and care during the crisis from our hospital workers to our delivery drivers, carers to cleaners and our refuse collectors to bus drivers. But we are very aware that because of their personal sacrifices quality family time has not always been possible.

We care deeply and it is our hope that these experiences and breaks can be used by families that would normally struggle to have time out together. Please ask if you would like to nominate a family for some quality time in this way.

Mary Sumner Day

Sadly, we are unable to hold our annual Bolton Archdeaconry Festival on Mary Sumner Day. There will be prayers available for the day which this year falls on a Sunday. Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers' Union, died on 9 August 1921 and this date is now marked in the Church's calendar. Her personal prayer is printed on page 12 and this is the Collect for the day.

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life: give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through word, prayer and deed your family may be strengthened and your people served; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Increase in domestic violence

A joint submission has been made by the Anglican Consultative Council and the Mothers' Union to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, following a call for submissions on the increase of domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. Read the submission in full here: www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/at-the-un

We look forward to the time when we are able to meet together again but meanwhile we continue to hold each other in prayer.

Bob Taylor (Branch Leader)



As with the rest of Church life, the Open Group have not met since March. We have missed talks by Julian Hartley and Pam Cowie in May and June - however I hope to be able to reschedule them both, presuming they are willing, at an appropriate time.

Our meeting in July was due to be led by Jim Metcalf and a talk on his cycling trips in India and Africa. You may remember Jim from last year when he presented that informative talk on his love of mountaineering. There was some fantastic photography and the meeting went down extremely well. There was also an insight into the work of Community Action Nepal (CAN). I contacted Jim at the end of June to advise that we would be unable to meet but enquired about the ongoing work of CAN, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nepal was closed down, and as of yet, has not been too badly hit by the virus, with only a small number of deaths. However the biggest impact has been caused by the shut down, its severe effects on the tourist industry and those reliant on the travel business. This has affected many including Sherpas, guides, trek leaders, porters, cooks and the owners of tea houses.

Community Action Nepal have however launched an Everest Challenge, which involves a sponsored 'stair climb' to raise funds. Those taking part should climb their stairs 20 times, but in climbing gear for the best effect. Some of these attempts are already being shared by video and photograph on social media. Jim himself has advised he intends to take part and there is more information about this challenge and Community Action Nepal on their website <https://www.canepal.org.uk>

Jim has said he will be happy to return to the Open Group when it suits the programme.

There is no current date when the group can resume but we will keep you posted through the usual communications.

David Robinson



sunday@seven



WORSHIP

August 30th at 7pm

either on-line or off-line!

“Jesus’ top 10 tips on dining out”

**Do join us – from the comfort of your own sofa –
make yourself a tea or coffee – perhaps even treat
yourself to cake & biscuits, loaves & fishes!**



Photo by [Denis Agati](#) on [Unsplash](#)

JOINT SERVICE

**Celebrating 10 years
of the United Benefice of
Walmersley Road**

**Led by
the Bishop of Bolton**



**25 October
10.30am**

CHRIST CHURCH

and A QUARTERMILLENNIAL CELEBRATION

**CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF ST.JOHN'S CHURCH
1770 – 2020**

The original celebration in June had to be postponed
due to the coronavirus pandemic.



A replacement service has been
rearranged for

**SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
beginning at 10.30am
at St John with St Mark**

With the **Bishop of Manchester.**

This will be a joint service with the congregation of Christ Church

PARISH PEOPLE

Personal details removed on web for data protection purposes.

To book baptisms, weddings or just to talk, call in to Parish Office every Wednesday 6.30-7.00pm at St. John's Church Hall

Lots more info on our websites: www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Please send your articles for the magazine by 14th of the previous month to wrub@live.co.uk

Our churches have reopened Socially distanced of course



with hygiene protocols in place
Do come and join us