

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



We will remember them

November 2025



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

Don't miss the next ones - 6.30pm
Tuesday, 28 October
and Tuesday, 18 November

actions

Our first

CAMPFIRE CHURCH

lively music

popcorn
straight from
the fire

Every praise is to our God

Every word of worship with one accord

Every praise every praise is to our God

real fires

flame
prayers

Cover photo by Klemen Vrankar on Unsplash

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this November issue of our magazine. It is now something of a tradition that the theme for this month is Remembrance, and that will form many a different manner here in Church. Whether it be the ancient or modern Saints' we do not know, but who have played such a vital part in the history of our Church, or those close to us on All Souls' Day. Of course, the act of remembering our war dead continues to be a prominent part of our national commemoration. So many opportunities to remember this month.

At the end of July this year, I was out walking down a country path in Merseyside when I was stopped by the sight of a few poppies in the lush grassland. They were very still in the calm day I was enjoying and I took a few moments to look at these real, live flowers



and took a photograph. Although this bold red flower with black centre is something we would normally associate with a November day, here it was on a lovely sunny day in late July. It got me thinking briefly that these signs of remembering are here for us all year round and not just when we do it out of tradition with others.

So, what are these signs? Well, everyone of us will have encountered loss at some point in our lives and we are constantly reminded of that loss throughout the year with anniversaries, birthdays or items around the house. However, with that loss comes a sense of sharing. A time to share with others who have experienced the same loss or can empathise. Many of us rely on our faith at these moments and the Bible can provide a huge source of comfort for some. One of the most notable Bible verses for times such as these is from the Beatitudes, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted' (Matthew 5.4).

The Church and its mission can provide that comfort for those who need it and I have seen, and will continue to see, many examples of that here in our two Churches.

People are reminded of our loved ones in various ways. That may be a regular gathering with a key person missing, a phone call which no longer happens, or a life event without someone at the dinner table. For many people, they will find a way to adapt, but still knowing that things will not be the same again. However, God is with us through every step of our journey of grief and mourns alongside us, as well as sharing in our many joys and memories.

Later this month, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. A day when we mark the completion of Jesus' time on Earth before we begin another cycle again the following week on Advent Sunday. More about that at the time, however we could also use this day as an opportunity to remember and look back on the year just gone in the work of our own Churches. The things we have achieved, the decisions we have made and of course the people in our congregations and communities we have lost. All these people are now resting alongside Jesus but never forgotten. As for the things we have achieved, well perhaps we should reflect on those and see where that leads us.

Finally, once you have finished reading this letter, perhaps you could spend a short moment in quiet prayer remembering someone close to you and thank God for all they did for you. However way you choose to mark this month, may God be with you.

Yours in Christ,
David Robinson

So, with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. (John 16.22)



FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Oct 12 Ralphie Nicholas

Oct 12 Harriet Lea Baines

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

MARRIAGE

Oct 11 Cezary Olszewski and Paula Kuca

"those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder"



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

Nov 2 Vacant

Nov 9 In memory of past MU members

Nov 16 In memory of Aston Mitchell-Male

Nov 23 Vacant

Nov 30 Vacant (*joint service at SJM*)

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church for a specific week, 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).



BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 2 **All Saints' Sunday**

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

Nov 9 **3rd before Advent**

Job 19: 23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17 Luke 20: 27-38

Nov 16 **2nd before Advent**

Malachi 4: 1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 Luke 21: 5-19

Nov 23 **Christ the King**

Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43

Nov 30 **Advent Sunday** (Year A cycle begins)

Isaiah 2: 1-5 Romans 13: 11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

Dec 7 **2nd of Advent**

Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13 Matthew 3: 1-12

ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP

Please join us as we begin the season of Advent
with a joint United Benefice Holy Communion
service at St. John with St. Mark on Sunday 30th
November at 10.30am.



The Book of Common Prayer service at
Christ Church will still take place at 9.00am
and an Advent themed Sunday @ Seven
is later in the day at Salvation Army.

- * On Sunday 30 November 2025, Bishop David will mark the 25th anniversary of his consecration as a bishop. We pray for him at this significant milestone in his life and ministry.
- * Reverend Jason Lawton from our Mission Community was licensed as Vicar of the Parish of St. Andrew Hillock, and St. George Unsworth on 30th September. Later this month, Reverend Simon Watkinson will leave St. Peter's, Bury, to take up a new role in London. We send our prayers to both Jason and Simon.
- * As we go to press, we are discussing plans for an Advent study course. So please watch out for more details on the weekly notice sheets and social media. It is likely we will begin in the week commencing 24 November.
- * As part of Bury Mission Community, we have been invited to support the people of St Thomas', Rochdale Road at their monthly Coffee Morning, which begins at 10.30am on Saturday, 8 November.
- * Each month our Deanery holds a time of prayer in the chapel at St John's House. All are welcome to Pray for Growth. In November this will be held on Thursday, 20 at 10am and the theme will be Christ the King.
- * There is a very real need for the work of Porch Boxes at this time. Please do all you can to contribute. A box is available at the back of both churches and there are lists of the items most needed.
- * Contributions for the magazine are always welcome. Please send to wrub@live.co.uk or contact Barbara Taylor or David Robinson. The next issue will be for two months so please think ahead. The deadline for this December/January issue will be 14th November.
- * If you would like to put a Christmas greeting in the next magazine please send to wrub@live.co.uk or speak to the editors.

Together we make a difference

There have been several events in October where donations have been made to charities which impact on us, and for which we thank everyone who has supported them.

£60 has been sent to TEARFUND for the emergency Earthquake Appeal

A Brew and a Chat was an opportunity for fellowship and raised £80 for THE CHRISTIE CHARITY

Thanks to the generosity of Tesco, the Harvest Lunch was able to contribute £160 to the work of BURY HOSPICE

The Third Thursday Lunch annually, in October, sends its proceeds to BURY HOSPICE - £106.42 this year.

As we go to press the figure is not known for the Harvest TEARFUND Appeal.

And on a very practical level, Nigel Silvester writes:

"A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest gifts for Porch Boxes last Sunday. My car was very heavily laden as I took them to Porch Boxes on Wednesday morning where they were very gratefully received.

The place was buzzing with cars and people bringing their donations - much to the delight of Porch Box volunteers who told me it was so good to see so much coming in and refilling the emptying shelf spaces.

Thank you for making a difference to people's lives!"

THANK YOU EVERYONE



Christmas Appeal



The Christmas Toy Appeal (run for many years by the Salvation Army and now by Churches Together in Bury) meets a great need in Bury - last year over 400 children in 250 families received gifts.

We shall be collecting new, unopened and unwrapped toys and games, or if you prefer we can accept monetary contributions, which will help organisers to fill gaps.

At Christ Church our main collection point will be each Sunday from after Remembrance Sunday to Christingle on 1 December; at St John with St Mark at the Christingle Service, also on Monday 1 December.

So please start looking for great buys as you shop, not forgetting older children too.



Can you spare a couple of hours?

At a base in Seedfield Methodist Church, helpers are needed to sort toys by age and gender:

Saturday, 15 November	10am – 12 noon
Saturday, 22 November	10am – 12 noon
Saturday, 29 November	10am – 12 noon
Saturday, 6 December	10am – 12 noon

Then between 8 and 12 December teams are needed to help collate the toys and gifts for families, as identified by social services, etc.

Offers of help please to, and more details from, David Robinson or Barbara Taylor.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR THESE FAMILIES

On 28th September we were delighted to join with Connie as she celebrated her first Eucharist after Confirmation the previous Sunday. There was a good turn out in Church for this occasion with both family, friends and regular congregation in attendance. Reverend Paul Sanderson presided at a lovely service and invited Connie and her family to gather around the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer.

Early October marked the end of Creation Season and an opportunity to give thanks for all God has done for us in the world.

Here is a prayer:

"Lord, we thank you for the world and all that is in it. Teach us to care for it and for all your creatures. Let us not be responsible for the hurt or spoiling of anything, but let us help to make your world a good place to live in. Amen."

Our display board at the back of Church continues to be updated with what we have done on Sundays.

Christmas outreach

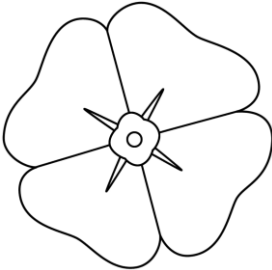


During December, 2900 Christmas cards will be distributed from our churches to homes in the benefice, with details of Christmas services and our greeting. We know that these make an impact on the recipients.

Would you be able and willing to deliver in your neighbourhood? Please let us know if this is something you would do.

Church in the Open at Christ Church was the brainchild of Barbara and Nigel Silvester during the pandemic. At that time, we were unable to enter the church building, prompting them to try and bring certain aspects of church life out into the churchyard.

We believe there is value in doing this once more - allowing everyone to stroll through the grounds 24/7 with a particular focus for their reflections. God is present with us all the time, so let's use whatever moments are convenient for us, not just Sunday morning.



During November, we are encouraged to REMEMBER. There are displays featuring the names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, along with several war graves. There are suggestions for prayer, as well as ideas for using this quiet space for personal contemplation.

Then an invitation to join in a village Service of Remembrance in church at 10:30 am on November 9th.

We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to wander, to reflect, to be at peace.

In December, we shall FOLLOW THE STAR as we move towards celebrating the birth of Christ.



Suggestions for 2026 are welcomed - how can we best make this space work for those in our community? Please send any ideas to all.ccwalmersleybury@outlook.com reach out through social media or speak to any member of the PCC.

Quiet Moments for November

*At the start of this month we mark **All Saints** and **All Souls***

We often forget that we are all saints, as this prayer reminds us.

The Spirit of God is upon you and has anointed you.
You are the salt of the earth and you bring light to the world.
You are not too young or too old,
you are not too rich or too needy
to bring good news to the impoverished,
to give a hand to the broken-hearted,
and to live out freedom and pardon
through the gifts you have been given.

So remember to pack peace in your toolbox,
hope in your briefcase, love in your lunch box,
and may integrity, honesty, and joy be your designer wear of choice.

Do not be frightened, for you are never alone.

The God in whose image you are made
will walk with you and guide you today, tomorrow, and every day.

Connie Epp

A Prayer for those loved and lost who we remember at this time.

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



churchofengland.org

A prayer for Remembrance Day.

God, it's difficult to see the point of wearing a poppy,
or what difference two minutes' silence will make
when we could be shouting protests.
But we can recognise a broken life being valued,
a gift being given,
and taking two minutes to reflect on how much we
have.



We look to the future, not to the past.
We cannot change what has been
but do not need to repeat its mistakes.
So as old and young come together before you,
take the very best of our lives;
bind us into one people of faith
and help us to share our common values,
love of Jesus and care for each other;
to build dreams,
and, with your Holy Spirit,
turn them into reality.
Amen.

Rootsontheweb.com

Each year (this year on 24 November) in Manchester Cathedral a service is held of Remembrance for Lives Cut Short, in memory of those who have died as a result of murder or manslaughter. Let us pray for the families affected.

Heavenly Father, we ask for your comforting embrace to surround every person affected by violence. They may feel lost, afraid, or overwhelmed by the trauma they've experienced, but you are the God of comfort. We pray that your peace will fill their hearts and minds, helping them to heal. Lord, bring them to a place of rest in you. May they feel your loving arms around them, reminding them that they are not alone. Amen

prayerlit.com

We very much enjoyed experiencing, second-hand, something of the trials and the highs of the walk to Compostela, from pilgrim Frances Branton. Frances, who is a MU member from St Anne's Tottington, undertook this pilgrimage with her husband in June. Sadly, Mark Knight, who walked a similar route in July was unable to join Frances for our meeting – but had supplied a number of titbits to add interest.

In 2019, a MU member, Linda Barlow, through Eagles Wing, enquired about holidays through the Away From It All scheme. She didn't think the family, being Muslim, would be eligible but she knew just how much stress they had been under during their two years as asylum seekers here. MU Manchester paid for a break at Haven – they chose Pwllheli – and Zeinab took her four children, under 8, for a 'Heaven' holiday. The eldest, Ali, is now 15 and gave us an accomplished PowerPoint reflection on a holiday which they all remember so fondly, as well as telling us about the work of Eagles Wing.

Our meetings in November, to which all are welcome, will be held at 2pm.

On 5th we meet at St John's House, The Rock to see our new diocesan offices and visit the MU Shop – an opportunity to buy cards, diaries, calendars and more.

Emma King is treating members to a Cozy Corner Retreat in the Hall on 19th. This involves creating products, learning relaxation techniques, and more. Emma will also have with her some handmade festive bundles for us to buy. Why not come along?

Bury and Rossendale Deanery MU is holding the annual Advent Service on Sunday, 30th November, at 2pm at Emmanuel Church Centre, Longsight Rd, Ramsbottom, BL8 4DB. Everyone is welcome.

Tricia, Deanery Leader, has asked if anyone can help with gifts for teenagers (high street vouchers suggested), and, as always, selection boxes are needed.

Barbara Taylor, Branch Secretary



We met on Wednesday 8th October for a talk by Canon Ian Stamp on Saints, looking at the Good, Bad and the Ugly. The evening began with a focus on the Saints we are particularly familiar with in Church, notably the apostles (with Matthias, Judas' replacement thrown in). Also featured were Paul, Mary Magdalene, the Virgin Mary and Joseph. Each of us has our own favourite Saint we can relate to or liken ourselves to. But how would we compare against some of the lesser-known ones which Ian spoke about. Over the course of the hour, we learnt something about the Patron Saints of Hangovers, Drug Dealers, Loud Noises and the Internet. The latter of which is much more ancient than you may think. Each of these individuals were appointed their title for very good reason and all had an interesting back story. We also took a look at a few Priests who had an eventful calling with stories of drunkenness and unusual eating habits. For the record, I am happy to confirm we did not know any of them! Towards the end of the meeting Ian asked each of us to call out our Birthday's to see whose Saints Day we share our big day with. We discovered then just how many Saints there are. If you've never done so before, perhaps you could check Google to see who you share your Birthday with when you have a free moment. We summarised the evening up by contemplating these people we had learnt about, but also to consider our own role in life. We are all Saints in our own right and are carrying on doing the work of these mainly good people through history. Thank you to Ian for coming along and enlightening us.

Next time on Wednesday 12th November I am considering having another go at an idea we last had two years ago, 'The Big Idea'. It was a laugh and got us thinking, so all are welcome at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room. Finally, one or two of our regulars have not been with us recently due to illness or injury. We send them our prayers for a speedy and successful recovery.

David Robinson



Entering God's Presence

Favourite Psalms – Psalm 24

This month's psalm is Psalm 24. There are three parts to this psalm. The first is a hymn of praise to God for His power as Creator (verses 1 and 2), then there is an instruction to those who wish to enter the sanctuary of the temple or as is more likely, the city of Jerusalem (verses 3 to 6) and the final stanza (verses 7 to 10) heralds the arrival of the ark

of the covenant which travelled with the people of Israel wherever they went until Solomon's Temple was built. This signified the presence of God among His people. The ark was a box which contained the Ten Commandments.

Let us now look at each section in detail. In the first stanza, God (the Lord) owns the earth, He founded it and He created everything in it. As we read in Genesis, the Creation of the World by God started as a watery chaos, which God transformed. The sea in verse 2 represents this watery chaos.

We are never out of God's presence, but we need to be pure when we are in it, so this means we need to be pure all the time (*clean hands and a pure heart*). This means we must try to do the right things all the time, avoiding the bad things mentioned in verse 4 (stanza 2).

Whenever I read Psalm 24 verses 7 to 10 it reminds me of the chorus in Handel's *Messiah*. This section was probably recited by David or a priest, leading a victorious army into the city, or allowing those who feel included, according to the stipulations of the second stanza, to follow on into the city and then later, when the temple was built, to go into worship God, the King of kings. GAF Knight in *The Psalms Volume 1* (St Andrew's Press (1982) suggests that two choirs may say the various parts of the stanza antiphonally which means one choir asks the question and the other one replies. This section accompanies the entry of the Ark of the Covenant.

The relevancy of the psalm for us today in 2025 is that we can only come into the real presence of God if our hands and heart are clean when we pray at home or worship in church. That is why, near the beginning of our worship we seek God's forgiveness. Today we can relate the psalm to Jesus, the King of Glory. Wherever His Spirit and Church are, there the King of Glory will enter.

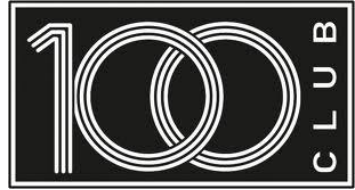
The text for the psalm is taken from Common Worship 2000.

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?
- 4 Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an
oath to a lie;
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 Who is the King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the king of glory shall come in.
- 10 Who is the King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Alan Thew

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

Thank you to everyone who has paid for this year, which will now run from September '25 to August '26. There is still time to join, your number will be in the draw for the next two months so we can all catch up.



SEPTEMBER 2025 DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize £15.00 – (87) Alf Goldfinch

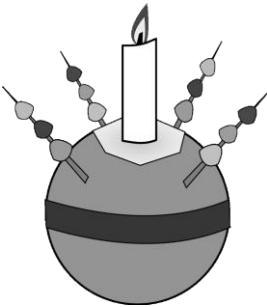
2nd Prize £10.00 – (55) Peter Halligan

OCTOBER 2025 DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize £15.00 – (24) Craig Smith

2nd Prize £10.00 – (72) Stuart Ashworth

Congratulations to all



Both churches are holding
CHRISTINGLE SERVICES
on Monday, 1 December
at 6.30pm

Don't miss this this annual, lively, interactive
worship and support the work of the Children's
Society.

This charity fights alongside young people for local and national change. For more than 140 years, it has been there for young people when most needed. Its aim is to create a society that works for all children.

A Brew and a Chat

Thursday, 6 November

10am – noon

Christ Church Hall



An opportunity to meet friends.
or bring someone along who has not been before

Proceeds will go to
the Churches Together Christmas Appeal
or bring a gift
(new, unwrapped, suitable for a child or young person)

Third Thursday Light Lunch



Come and join us
on the third Thursday of every month
for a light lunch.

A chance to enjoy a chat
in the company of friends.

Lunch is served 12 noon – 1pm.

Christ Church Walmersley Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP

There is no charge – though, if you can
a donation toward costs would be appreciated.
Any profit will go to charity or church funds.

It would be great to see you!

So come along on 20 November and 18 December

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday		
9.00am	All Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Family Service 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Holy Communion 3 rd Morning Worship 4 th Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven	Venue tba
Wednesday		
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
Thursday		
12.30 p.m.	The Gathering	Zoom
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (3rd – Compline)	St John w St Mark
Other services as announced.		
Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.		

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

St John with St Mark's Church has Fairtrade status



We are members of the Manchester Diocese Transforming Prayer Community

Personal details have been removed in our online edition for data protection purposes.

Please contact us through our websites or social media accounts and we will ensure your message reaches the correct person.

Whilst the Vicar is unwell enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made to the Wardens through our websites or at the parish office which has re-opened each Wednesday evening from 6.30 – 7.00pm at St. John with St. Mark's Hall.

Lots more info on our websites:

<https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk>

<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Check out Facebook

@christchurchwalmersley

@stjohnstmark

X

@cofewalmersley

Instagram

cofewalmersley

and YouTube

CofE Walmersley

FOR YOUR NOVEMBER DIARY

Sun 2		All Saints' Sunday
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Tue 4	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Wed 5	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (St John's House)
Thu 6	10.00am	A Brew and a Chat (CC Hall)
	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sat 8	10.30am	Bury MC Coffee Morning (St. Thomas)
Sun 9		3rd Sunday before Advent – Remembrance
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
		followed by laying of wreath at St Mark's
Wed 12	7.30pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
Thu 13	7.30pm	Deanery Synod (St Mary, Rawtenstall)
Sun 16		2nd Sunday before Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
Tue 18	6.30pm	Campfire Church (CC Hall yard)
Wed 19	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury (Salvation Army)
Thu 20	12 noon	Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 23		Christ the King
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Mon 24	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Hark to Dandler)
Sun 30		Advent Sunday
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Holy Communion (SJM)
	2.00pm	MU Deanery Advent Service (Emmanuel Centre)
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (SA)



Sunday



@ Seven



We next meet for our time of informal worship

November 30th

**At the Salvation Army
Brookshaw Street**

**"Looking back, going
forward"**

Advent themed worship reflecting on the past year and looking forward to the year to come. Come and join us for an hour - or you can be with us via Zoom. Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks for more details.



**CHRISTMAS FAIR
ST. JOHN WITH
ST. MARK**



**Saturday 29th November at 11.00am
in the Church Hall**

TOMBOLAS

RAFFLE

BOOKS

CAKES

CARDS & GIFTS

TOYS

OTHER STALLS

LUNCHES & BREWS ALSO SERVED

