

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



Easter

April 2023



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

Holy Week and Easter 2023

2nd - 9th April

Palm Sunday	9.00am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion in both churches
Monday 3rd	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St John with St Mark
Tuesday 4th	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St John with St Mark
Wednesday 5th	10.00am	Holy Communion at St John with St Mark
	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St John with St Mark
		Seder Meal at St Stephen, Bury
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Holy Communion at St John with St Mark
Good Friday	9.00am	Reflective Service at Christ Church
	12 noon	Churches Together Walk of Witness starting from United Reformed Church
	2.00pm	Last Hour at the Cross at St John w St Mark
Holy Saturday	6.30pm	Easter Vigil at Bury Parish Church
Easter Sunday	9.00am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
	10.30am	Holy Communion in both churches



Given a choice, would you call Good Friday, 'Good Friday'? Or would you call it something else? What's 'good' about Jesus being wrongly arrested, falsely tried, unjustly sentenced to death and killed by crucifixion? The cross itself, a sign of suffering, humiliation and disgrace.

In German-speaking countries it is referred to as *Stiller Freitag* or *Karfreitag* – 'Silent Friday' or 'Mourning Friday'. In Scandinavia it is called the equivalent of 'Long Friday'. In France, Italy and Spain it is 'Holy Friday'. In Greece, Poland and Hungary it is 'Great Friday'. In Bulgaria it is 'Crucified Friday' and in Serbia 'Loved Friday'. The Malayali people in India call it 'Sad Friday'.

In Orthodox Christianity, clergy wear black vestments and instead of stripping the altar on Maundy Thursday the church hangings are changed to black. Which has led to Friday being called 'Black Friday'.

In English, 'Good' is meant in the sense of 'holy', in the same way that we sometimes refer to the Bible as the 'good book'.



So, given a choice, what would you call it? Which fits best with how you see the day? Silent, mourning, long, holy, great, crucified, loved, sad, black – or good? Perhaps it's all of those things, all at the same time. It can be both unsettling and uplifting to think through the implications of what happened that day.

Stanley Hauerwas, in his book 'Cross-Shattered Christ', said that he found writing meditations on the subject hard and difficult – and hoped that those who read them found them hard and difficult too. It can be painful, he wrote, to acknowledge the reality of the Son on the cross.

But Friday was 'good' because it marks the reality of God revealing Himself in Jesus and shows the amazing extent of God's desire to make a way for us to be in relationship with Him. Rowan Williams once wrote that God is going to love and forgive whether you like it or not. Or, as Hauerwas puts it, God's love was demonstrated because God refused to have us lost.

Friday is both a reminder of God's justice and a celebration of that love. The Father's sacrifice of the Son and the Son's willing sacrifice is God's justice. And, as Paul says in Romans 5: 'Christ died for us...and that is God's own proof of his love towards us'.

Friday wasn't the last word because we know there is Easter Sunday to come. But Friday had to happen first. Friday was 'good' because it means that a relationship with God is available for **all** people through Jesus.

And that should be Gospel for all of us. Good News on Good Friday.

Happy Easter!

Ian

Further reading:

- Hauerwas, S. (2005). *Cross-shattered Christ*. DLT.
- Williams, R. (2017). *God with us*. SPCK.



The image on the cover is by Jeff Jacobs from Pixabay.com

FUNERAL IN CHURCH

March 2 Dennis Dutton
March 16 Ann Barlow
March 20 Alice Denton



INTERMENT OF ASHES

March 5 Anthony Sudhurst
March 14 Brian Pearson
March 17 Violet Wells

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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The deadline for APCMs is 31 May

**The meeting at St John with St Mark
will take place at 12 noon on Sunday, 16 April
At Christ Church the meeting will be
at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 24 May**

Forms to elect new Churchwardens and PCC members
will be available in church prior to the meetings.

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

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

ARCHDEACONS' VISITATIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE



BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

Apr 2 Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 27: 11-54

Apr 9 Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-43

Colossians 3: 1-4

John 20: 1-18 or
Matthew 28: 1-10

Apr 16 2nd of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

Apr 23 3rd of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

Apr 30 4th of Easter

Acts 2: 42-47

1 Peter 2: 19-25

John 10: 1-10

May 7 5th of Easter

Acts 7: 55-60

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14



Flowers in church

At Christ Church, if you would like to contribute to Easter flowers (traditionally given by the Congregation), please put your donation in the box at the back of church. At St John with St Mark, please speak to Rosemarie Ashworth about Easter flowers.

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).

Interregnum Notes

- * The Revd Dr Matthew Porter, currently Vicar of St Michael le Belfrey in York, will be the next Bishop of Bolton, 10 Downing Street has announced. Read more at <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/new-bishop-of-bolton-announced-by-downing-street.php> and on page 10.
- * Archdeacon Jean will be leaving the Diocese in June to take up the post of Archdeacon of Bournemouth, in the Diocese of Winchester. We offer our prayers for Jean and Graham as they prepare for this next step in ministry.
- * Our Bury Mission Community meets regularly and its leader, Julian Heaton, provides us with updates and events. We are aiming to keep everyone in the Benefice informed through the magazine, so please see page 21 for this month's updates.
- * Many thanks to our own ministry team and to visiting ministers who are currently ensuring that all our usual services are continuing.
- * The Ministry Team (Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister) meets every month – normally on the second Tuesday evening. If you have an issue that you would like them to discuss, please contact one of the team.
- * Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the treasurers.
- * Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches. Thanks to those who support others in need.
- * There is so much happening within the Benefice. If you use social media that is a great way to keep up to date with everything. See page 25 for details.

Summary of St John with St Mark meeting on 23 February 2023

- Following a suggestion at the last PCC, it was confirmed that the Christingle would now be the first Monday of December.
- Mission Community: It is hoped that a monthly Thursday Morning and Evening Prayer can be introduced, with each venue being asked to host alternately. A volunteer has offered to be involved with this; A Mission Community page will appear in the magazine, as and when there are updates; The More Than Sunday course continues in March.
- Seedfield proposed building work: It has been noted that Sport England and the council are to oppose this development.
- The Parish profile is in the process of being compiled. We have produced various reports surrounding different aspects of our Church life.
- The main focus of the meeting was to look over the draft accounts for 2022 and budget for 2023. The accounts were produced in the usual clear standard and thanks were recorded to Ian for the work put in. Items of note included the increase in hall bookings last year and that the Hall is rarely empty. The Parish share allocation was discussed as were heating bills.
- Other finance: The coffee morning in February raised £362.00; the organ has recently been serviced; The DEC appeal for the Turkey & Syria Earthquake had raised £392.00 as of this meeting. Many Thanks to all who have supported this.
- The service rota has been compiled for April to June. There are just a small number of gaps need filling, so thanks to all who are helping.
- Future dates: Coffee morning and book fair on Saturday 29th April; Summer Fair on Saturday 3rd June; Other suggestions and dates for events have been discussed.
- Next PCC meeting is suggested for Tuesday 28th March with the APCM on Sunday 16th April at 12 noon.

Summary of Christ Church meeting on 6 March 2023

1. Opening prayers were led by the Lay Chair.
2. Discussions were held regarding the Church of England rules on graveyard management. The rules were revised in 2019 to determine what can be put on graves or into the graveyard. Jennifer will confirm and the website be amended if necessary.
3. The problem with woodworm in the church hall main room was discussed. The property committee will inspect the floor and if necessary will get an outside contractor to come in to repair the problem.
4. A quote for replacement of valves, wiring and time clocks for the church hall heating system was discussed and approved.
5. The Baldingstone fund was discussed and it will be necessary to appoint a new trustee to replace the vicar who has now left the parish.
6. The financial report was given by the treasurer.
7. The garden of remembrance extension was discussed, a faculty has been applied for and the secretary is working on resolving the questions from the diocese.
8. No information is yet available on the sale of the church field. We are still awaiting the planning decision from Bury Council.
9. It was decided to go ahead with a community party to celebrate the Coronation of Charles the III. Further information will be published later.
10. There were reports from the property committee and the pastoral committee.
11. Easter cards will be distributed again within the parish.
The meeting closed with prayer.

OUR NEW BISHOP OF BOLTON

The next Suffragan Bishop of Bolton in Manchester diocese is to be the Revd Dr Matthew Porter, Vicar of St Michael-le-Belfrey, York, it was announced on Wednesday, 15 March. He will succeed the Rt Revd Mark Ashcroft, who retired last month.

Dr Porter, who is 53, was ordained priest in 1997. He served his title at Christ Church, Dore, in Sheffield diocese, and was then Vicar of St Chad's, Woodseats, from 2000 until 2009. Since 2010, he has been Vicar of St Michael-le-Belfrey — a resource church involved in church-planting. He was awarded a Doctorate in Ministry in church-planting by Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky, in the United States, last year. He is also an Honorary Chaplain to the King.

Dr Porter was introduced to the diocese of Manchester at St Philip's, Salford, on Wednesday morning. He said that he was "humbled and thrilled" by his appointment. He was also "excited to be the lead bishop in mission, growth, and church-planting, and looking forward to serving the people and Church of such a fantastic part of the north".

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, said: "He brings us immediate experience of parish life and particular gifts in enabling church-planting and church growth. He is deeply committed to God's mission here in the north."

The Archbishop of York, who has recently returned from a visit to the diocese, said: "He will bring his experience, passion, and expertise in parish development, church-planting, and mission, but also his prayerful humility and godliness. . . We will miss him in York."

Dr Porter will be consecrated in York Minster in June. He is married to Sam, who is a carer. They have five grown-up sons. Like his three eldest sons, who work in creative industries, Dr Porter "appreciates artistry, architecture and good design. He also loves a flat white coffee and bacon sandwich (with ketchup, not brown sauce)," and has been a Manchester United supporter since childhood.

This article appeared in the Church Times online on 15th March 2023

It was yet again a real joy to watch this year's production of our annual Pantomime, performed by the young people of St. John with St. Mark at the end of January. It was Babes in the Wood this time and was complemented with Pantomime favourites Robin Hood, Maid Marion and the occasionally dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham.

The work began as usual back in the early Autumn of 2022 with auditions, although we suspect Debbie had the script written several months before that. The hard work of regular Sunday rehearsals and then technical rehearsals clearly paid off, as once again we were treated to four hugely enjoyable shows. It was good to see that audience numbers remained high following the first full year since Covid restrictions ended.

The main cast were as usual supported by the choruses and the various songs they performed. There was a very effective performance of 'Things That Go Bump in the Night', which was made more enlightening thanks to the costumes and special lighting and sound effects from Tony and David Stamp. It's the finer details that always add that extra magic to our shows and you can see just how much effort is put into the costumes, props, make-up, scenery and special effects. So much of this work takes place on the quiet as well without any of us noticing.

It was an emotional night for some of our cast though, who have decided to move on so they can continue studies and therefore this was their last Pantomime, after over 10 years for some. We thank those people for the support they have given the show down the years and for keeping us entertained and wish them every success for the future.

Of course, thanks especially to Debbie for putting the show together and for the hard work over the last few months.

A message from Mavis Bithell, our former Panto choreographer

"It was good to get away from all the "doom and gloom" on the TV to attend the matinee performance on Saturday afternoon. I want to congratulate Debbie, along with Kirsten, all the production team, the cast and chorus for presenting us all with a happy and enjoyable show. I hope the tradition will continue for many years. I send my love and best wishes to all involved". Mavis x



#MoreThanSunday

The #MoreThanSunday course, which we have been studying as part of the Bury Mission Community, saw us discuss Shift Six on Saturday 18th March in the Barritt Room. The theme for this month's session was

'Commissioning and Collaboration'. This was focussed on the greater involvement of Lay people alongside the clergy and how we can recognise and celebrate the vocations of Church people.

The session opened with a look at a great commissioning story, the first chapter of the book of Joshua, when Joshua was installed as the leader of the Israelites. There was also a video clip of an individual who had recently changed a job role and the change in that person's life. Commissioning can also be a stage when you mark a change and potentially grieve for what has gone before.

We looked at various groups and individuals who are commissioned within the life of our Churches. These include wardens, sidespeople and PCC members at the Archdeacon's Visitation, Mothers' Union members and of course notable life events such as Baptism and Confirmation. Why do we commission people? Well, this can be for several reasons, including welcoming them to a new role and to recognise publicly the responsibility they will undertake. One or two people spotted the remarkable use of English, with the word commission containing the key word '**mission**'. So, how can we become more aware of the changes people in our Churches face and their next chapters being started? Various groups were mentioned, both social and faith based and different opportunities for prayer such as WhatsApp prayer groups, prayer chains or prayer trees. However, one of the key opportunities to become more aware of our people's needs is that time after worship services when we get together for tea and coffee.

We were finally asked to look at how we should support and commission more people in our context. It was felt we could use greater links with uniformed groups and maybe highlight special feast days and events in the calendar for commissioning purposes.

The seventh and final shift is on Saturday 22nd April in the Barritt Room at St. John with St. Mark at 10.00am (brews from 9.30am) and the theme is "Communication and Information", looking at how we share our news. There will then be a further action session in May. We meet in a hybrid environment with other Mission Communities joining us on Zoom.

Migrant Destitution Fund GM

Dear Friends,

I apologise for this begging letter but as a result of the message we have received from **the Migrant Destitution Fund**, we are urgently needing funding to continue to support our destitute asylum seeker friends who come to the Eagles Wing support group each week for help.

The Migrant Destitution Fund is a local Manchester group that has been giving our destitute friends £20 per week for many years.

Each month, here at Eagles Wing they have supported 7 members. (The British Red Cross also helps in the same way and currently supports a further 8 destitute members, but will only pay them for 3 months and then we need to look for other donations if the person is still destitute).

The MDF has now PAUSED the fund as they have run out of money.

So I wondered if you would be able to put out a request to your friends and Church members asking if they could take out an individual standing order and help us maybe with a £10 a month donation? That would be marvellous.

Alternatively, donations can be made at

<https://localgiving.org/charity/macc/project/migrantfundGM/>

Thanks for ALL you do for us and fingers crossed the MDF will soon re-open!

In these difficult times we are getting more and more requests from our Eagles Wing members for urgent financial support, and we do what we can with small one-off donations. The real difficulty comes when we KNOW that a person has no other form of income than our destitution funding. This is why the MDF has been such a life saver in the past.

With best wishes

Sue x (Arnall)



A mutual support group for asylum seekers, refugees and local people



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Prayer of Commitment

What a strange paradox; the King is coming, the people rejoice, singing 'Hosanna in the highest!' yet fail to understand that the King they welcome is the Servant King, the King who washes his disciples' feet, the King who came not with an army but a weapon so powerful that not even death could resist, the sacrificial love of God laid out upon a Cross.

Lord God, as we sing our 'Hosannas' today may we remember also that which you were riding toward; the suffering and rejection, pain and humiliation, the cruel Cross. And let us look forward to the joy of Easter Day when you rose from death to reign forever.

Help us, as we daily lay our lives before you, to live the resurrection life that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and King over our lives.

John Birch

Emmaus Blessing

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24.35)

Already a blessing in the walking
already a blessing on the road
already a blessing drawing near
already a blessing in the listening
already a blessing in the burning hearts
already a blessing in the almost evening
already a blessing in the staying
already a blessing at the table
already a blessing in the bread
already a blessing in the breaking
already a blessing finally known
already a blessing *give us eyes*
already a blessing *let us see*.



written by Jan L Richardson

Every day is Easter

When Thomas touched the wounds and set himself free,
it was Easter day.

When Peter's three "yes's" to Jesus finished his three denials,
it was Easter day.

When Mary, ready to embalm the dead, ran in fear from the empty tomb,
it was Easter day.

When the disciples looked from afar at a breakfast of fish on the beach,
it was Easter day.

When Emmaus became synonymous with the breaking of bread,
it was Easter day.

When Paul was blinded and recognised the voice niggling in his head,
it was Easter day

When the hungry are fed at the same table as the rich
it is Easter day

When weapons are beaten to ploughshares
and peace is a word to be shouted,
it is Easter day.

When the stranger is welcomed and the lonely are restored to relationship,
it is Easter day.

Roddy Hamilton

The Possibility Prayer

Yes. It can happen.

Yes. It can take place.

Yes. God can do it.

After all, the angel said "Do not be afraid."

After all, the tomb was found empty.

After all, the Spirit, "will pray for you."

After all, God wants peace and reconciliation

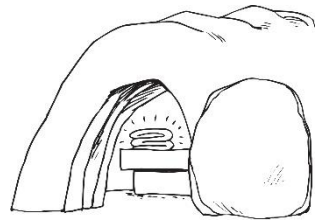
After all, God's name is "justice."

After all, God is "liberation."

Yes. It can happen.

Yes. It can take place.

Yes. God can do it.



<https://www.coc.org/>



**How will YOU
be celebrating?**

From www.royal.uk
there is a hope
that communities will
come together:

*to share food and fun together at **Coronation Big Lunches** on
Sunday 7th May 2023, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship
- a great way to get to know your community a little better*

*then **The Big Help Out** will be held on Monday, 8th May 2023
Its aim is to use volunteering to bring communities together
and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation Weekend.*

Here on Walmersley Road we plan to be involved
in both days and hope you will be too.

We are sharing our thoughts now,
so if you have plans for your immediate neighbourhood
perhaps we could link up and help each other.

E-mail coronation2023@outlook.com
with any suggestions.

Coronation Community Celebrations



Watch out for details of our
BUNTING WORKSHOP

in Christ Church Hall

as we prepare for Coronation weekend

You are welcome to bring your sewing machine, scissors, any red/white/blue material or just your enthusiasm

Come and share in a

Community Celebration

on Sunday 7 May from 2 pm



We have ordered balloons, flags, tablecloths, napkins, etc., there are ideas afloat for other decorations and live music (let us know if you could contribute)

so now it needs YOU, your friends and neighbours!

Book a table £10 and bring a **PICNIC**

Unlimited tea, coffee and cordial will be available

There will be a Cake Stall (contributions welcome)

If fine we shall use the field and yard, in addition to the church hall.

If you are on your own, please just book a place (£2) and we will make sure you have the company of others.

Please use coronation2023@outlook.com or 07746 784820

A good number of members enjoyed an afternoon of singing some favourite hymns and some less well known ones too. Geoff Stokes played, kept us in line and shared some information about some of the hymns and their writers.

Barbara and Nigel led an afternoon "Open for Lent" based on Tearfund's Lent devotional booklet. This was a quiet interlude in our busy lives with bible verses leading to periods of reflection, interspersed with music, song and prayer. Here is just one of the responsive prayers, based on Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching . . .

God, open our minds to the teaching of others.

. . . and to fellowship . . .

God, open our hearts to the friendship of others.

. . . to the breaking of bread . . .

God, open our tables for the provision of others.

. . . and to prayer . . .

God, open our souls to your beautiful voice. Amen

© Tearfund

There will be no meeting on 5 April as it falls in Holy Week.

Once the clocks move to Summer Time we shall return to evening meetings. On 19 April at 7.30pm we shall welcome Jean, **Archdeacon of Bolton and Salford**, and a fellow parishioner. Jean is leaving this post at the end of May so this will be the last opportunity for her to meet with us.

Join us at **Spring Council** on Saturday, 22 April from 11am to 3pm in St John's House, The Rock, Bury. Visit the shop and relax and chat over tea and coffee from 10am. Then learn what is going on in Mothers' Union, locally and further afield. This is a day well worth attending.

There is still time to get tickets for our **Annual Gathering**, "Transformation in Action" on Friday September 22nd at York Barbican.

Tickets are available from the main Mothers' Union website £23.50. There will be a keynote address by Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President, prayer and reflections with Bishop Emma, our Central Chaplain and inspiring member stories from here and overseas. This will be followed by **Evensong** at York Minster with the Archbishop of York. Have a word with me if you want more details.

Bob Taylor,
Branch Leader

Men of the Benefice

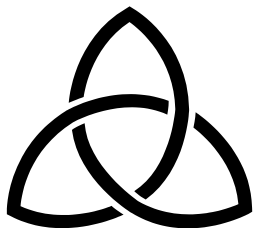


It was a rather crowded evening in The Towler on Monday 27th February when Colin agreed to host a quiz for us. Thankfully, we were able to squeeze into a corner for a traditional question-fest. We broke up into three teams and I should admit, that despite our friendship, there was a hint of competition between us. The quiz had been 'vetted' by Colin's family previously, who admitted it may be a bit taxing. However as with any quiz, what one person does not know, another person on your team probably will.

There was a good balance of subjects, including animals, inventions, places and local Bury history. It does help with the odd multiple choice question thrown in. I cannot remember which team actually won, but I'm pleased to say that our rivalry was over by the end of the evening. Thank you to Colin for putting the quiz together. It was clear a lot of effort had gone into it.

The MOB were expecting to meet on Monday 27th March for a talk by Larissa Heath on midwifery. This is at The Towler at 8.00pm. The last Monday of the month is 24th April and we will provide you with an update on this meeting through the weekly sheets.

David Robinson



The Open Group

The Open Group were expecting to meet for the first time in 2023 on Wednesday 22nd March. As it was in Lent and approaching Passiontide, the theme for the evening was based on Stations of the Cross, led by myself. Unfortunately, this was too late for an update in the April magazine. However, I will endeavour to keep you informed next time.

From April onwards, the plan is to hold a meeting on the second Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room. The date for the next will be 12th April. The theme and leader will be announced as soon as possible. I have had volunteers to cover some of our evenings in the spring and summer, so thanks to those people.

If you have never been before, then you are all welcome to give it a try. We always end with a brew / biscuit and natter afterwards.

David Robinson

Magazine

In January 2012 we produced the first joint magazine for the Benefice, price 50p. You will all realise that in the subsequent 11 years this price has not increased, although the cost (not surprisingly) has - significantly.

The cost now, depending on the number of pages, ranges from 92p to 99p per copy sold. Therefore, the PCCs have agreed that it is no longer feasible to subsidise it to this extent, although we do consider that this is one of the most effective ways we have of spreading the word.

We hope that you will be willing to pay £1 per copy going forward, just £10 if you pay for the year. Please do help us to maintain this way of reaching many families who consider Christ Church and St John with St Mark to be important to their family's life.

Bury Mission Community

The Bury Mission Community leader, Julian Heaton has provided us with an information update:

Easter Vigil ~ An Easter Eve service will take place at 6.30pm on 8 April at Bury Parish Church. Individuals from each Parish / Benefice within the Community will lead readings and reflections. It is a joyous way to begin Easter and there will be wine, cakes and an outdoor fire as part of the celebration.

Diocesan Transformation Officer ~ Joel Dowson is moving on. We thank Joel for his hard work in the Diocese and although sorry to see him leave, we wish him all the best. There is likely to be a gap before the post is filled.

Growing Faith Deanery Worker ~ This is our search for someone to support our work with young people particularly in our schools. Interviews have taken place but no one has been appointed to date.

Beating the Bounds ~ Reverend Paul Sanderson will lead two walks around the boundaries of the Mission Community, to take in each Church. The first walk will go from St. Peter's and finish at Christ Church Walmersley (via St. Thomas, St. Paul & St. John Bircle) whilst the second walk will go from St. John with St. Mark and finish at Bury Parish Church (via St. James, All Saints' Elton & St. Stephen). Each will be approx. 6 miles and there will be prayers at each Church. These will probably be on two Saturdays during late spring / early summer.

#MoreThanSunday ~ This is continuing within the Mission Community. More details are on page 12.

Other possible events ~ A September creation celebration involving parishes and schools and also an Epiphany event in January 2024.

Next meeting ~ Monday 17th April. Potential items for discussion include: our prayer life; an away day for dreaming dreams; exploring a social event(s) for cohesion.

Café Church

Sunday 16 April

10.30 am

St John with St Mark Church Hall

Everyone is welcome



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! Upcoming Dates: 20th April, 18th May

JOINT SERVICE

for the congregations of
St John with St Mark and Christ Church
Everyone is welcome

Sunday 30 April

at 10.30 am

at St John with St Mark

(and every 5th Sunday in alternating venues)





COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

SATURDAY 29th APRIL
from 10.00am until around 12noon

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL

REFRESHMENTS & CAKES
OTHER STALLS
LOADS OF BOOKS!!
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS
ALL WELCOME



May 14 – 20 is **Christian Aid Week**

Once again, Churches Together in Bury is organising a street collection.

Could you spare an hour to help – by collecting, serving refreshments, counting money – or maybe beforehand by baking?

Please have a word with our co-ordinator John Brennan

ASCENSION DAY

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

Services at St John with St Mark and Christ Church Walmersley
Thursday 18 May at 7.30pm

"So we in heart and mind may also ascend..."

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday			
8.30am	3 rd	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5th	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		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.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



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.

Enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at the Parish Office held at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

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

Check out Facebook @christchurchwalmersley
 @stjohnstmark

Twitter @cofewalmersley

Instagram cofewalmersley

and YouTube CofE Walmersley

FOR YOUR APRIL DIARY

Sun 2 **Palm Sunday**

- 9.00am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
- 10.30am Parish Communion (both)

Mon 3 2.00pm PCC (CC Hall)

See page 2 for details of Holy Week and Easter Services

Sun 9 **Easter Day**

- 9.00am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
- 10.30am Parish Communion (both churches)

Wed 12 7.30pm Open Group (Barritt Room)

Sun 16 **2nd of Easter**

- 8.30am Holy Communion (SJM)
- 9.00am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
- 10.30am Café Church (SJM Hall)
Parish Communion (CC)
- 12 noon APCM (SJM)

Mon 17 7.30pm Mission Community meeting (venue tba)

Wed 19 7.30pm Mothers' Union (CC Hall)

Thu 20 12 noon Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)

Sat 22 10.00am #MoreThanSunday (Barritt Room)

Sun 23 **3rd of Easter**

- 9.00am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
- 10.30am Morning Worship (CC)
Parish Communion (SJM)

Mon 24 7.30pm Deanery Synod (St Mary Rawtenstall)

8.00pm Men of the Benefice (Towler)

Sat 29 10.00am Coffee Morning & Book Fair (SJM)

Sun 30 **4th of Easter**

- 9.00am Holy Communion BCP (CC)
- 10.30am Joint Parish Communion (SJM)
- 7.00pm Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)



Sunday @ Seven



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

April 30th at 7pm

Up and about!



**Come and join with us for an hour of
relaxed worship and reflection.**

**We take a look at post-resurrection encounters
which the disciples had with Jesus.**

We will meet at Christ Church Hall.

Or you can join in via Zoom.

**Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks
for more details.**



Join us on Good Friday
for our Walk of
Witness, beginning at
the Bury URC church
at 12.00 noon.

Churches Together in
Bury