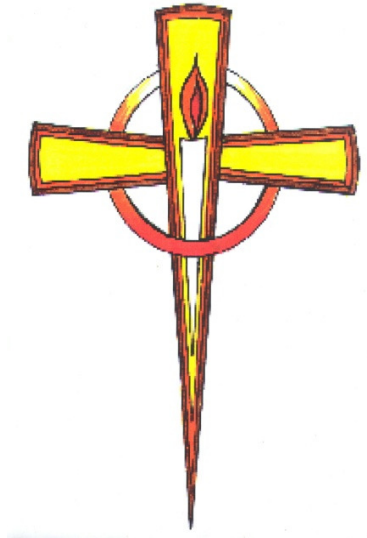


# Christ Church Walmersley

in the Benefice of Walmersley Road



Magazine

*Spreading the Word*

March 2011

## Thought for the Month

Dear Friends

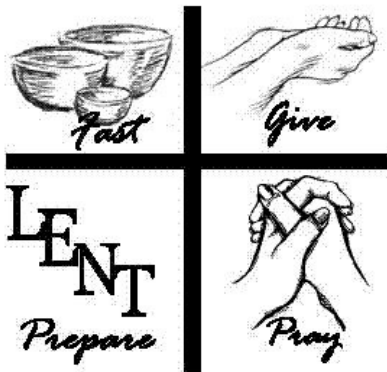
What does Lent mean to you? No biscuits? Giving up chocolate? Resisting cream cakes for a few weeks, a few less pints of good real ale? Why give something up? Why do without? What is it for? What has it got to do with Lent anyway?

Easter is, of course, the high point of the Christian year; a time to celebrate the victory of our Lord Jesus over sin and death, demonstrated by his Resurrection. As the church became established it was common for converts to be baptised at Easter, so that physical act of baptism was an even stronger symbol of a spiritual truth:

*"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection."*  
(Romans chapter 6 verses 3-5 NIV)

The period leading up to baptism was a period of repentance and instruction; a time when those who had formerly worshipped pagan gods could make a very definite break with the past. The final stage was a fast of two or three days (a bit more than giving up chocolate!).

From about 325 AD, it began to be common for people to fast for forty days, following the model of Jesus. Fasting then was rigidly observed, and meant only one meal a day, with meat and fish totally forbidden. The forty days were regarded as being continuous, but because Sundays could never be fast days, the forty days had to be extended a further four days, so the start of Lent came to be a Wednesday - Ash Wednesday.



Fasting was not done for its own sake. Its purpose was (and is) two-fold - as a penitential discipline, and to weaken dependence on physical things in order to strengthen spiritual life. Jesus took it for granted that his followers would fast at times: Fasting is not the only thing associated with the period of Lent. Study and prayer are also important, and we will be

having our usual ecumenical study groups during the season, look out for details.

Another important discipline is almsgiving. The word 'alms' comes from the Greek word for mercy. From the very earliest times, Christians recognised that the right response to the Lord's own self-giving was generous giving on our part. In fact, the 'collection' taken during church services is just shorthand for 'the collection of alms'.

What you give up is largely between you and God but we can make some suggestions for what you might take up. Perhaps you might spend a little more time in your daily prayer or some extra reading. The study groups might be a help in keeping you on track. It is a good time to be a little more regular in worship. There are also those extra events during Lent like the Experience Easter Sessions at Christ Church or the Stations of the Cross at St John with St Mark and St Josephs. Maybe you could decide to increase your gift of money to the Church; perhaps gift aid it, if you don't already. Or you could increase your gift of time or talents by taking on a new job or responsibility and the Annual Parochial Church meeting will present you will a number of possibilities.

Lent should be different so make it so by investing just a little more in your life of faith.

Have a good Lent

/an

## SERVICES AND READINGS FOR MARCH



- Mar 6<sup>th</sup>            **Sunday next before Lent**
- 9.00 a.m.        Holy Communion (BCP)  
2 Peter 1: 16-21; Matthew 17: 1-9
- 10.30 a.m.       Holy Communion (CW)  
2 Peter 1: 16-21; Matthew 17: 1-9
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup>            **Ash Wednesday**
- 7.30 p.m.        Holy Communion  
2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6:10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
- Mar 13<sup>th</sup>          **First Sunday of Lent**
- 9.00 a.m.        Holy Communion (BCP)  
Romans 5: 12-19; Matthew 4: 1-11
- 10.30 a.m.       Family and Parade Service  
Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7
- Mar 20<sup>th</sup>          **Second Sunday of Lent**
- 9.00 a.m.        Holy Communion (BCP)  
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17
- 10.30 a.m.       Holy Communion (CW)  
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17; John 3: 1-17
- Mar 27<sup>th</sup>          **Third Sunday of Lent**
- 9.00 a.m.        Holy Communion (BCP)  
Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42
- 10.30 a.m.       Morning Prayer (CW)  
Romans 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42

# ARE YOU ON DUTY?

If you are unavailable, please arrange to exchange with someone else.

## READINGS

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Fewtrell
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Brownies
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Riddick
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Slater

## INTERCESSIONS

Barbara Taylor
Cubs
Joe McDermott
Bob Taylor

## SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Noble	Alan Standring	David Thew
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Geoff Hamilton	Ian Riddick	Chris Standring
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Alan Spencer

## LAY ASSISTANTS

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Margery Spencer	Cath Hilton
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Silvester	Nigel Silvester
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Tricia Stokes	

If these dates are inconvenient please arrange to exchange with someone.

Do you feel you could contribute to worship  
by reading the lessons or leading intercessions?

If so, please contact Margery Spencer.

Support will be given.



## *How many loaves have you?*



Friday,  
**4 March**  
at **2 p.m.**

**Bury United Reformed Church,**  
Parsons Lane

A service written by the people of **CHILE** for this annual Day of Prayer

The service is written by a different country each year and that country then becomes the focus of the world's prayers on the day itself, which begins as dawn breaks over the islands of Tonga in the Pacific and continues across each continent until the last services of this special day are held back in the Pacific, on the islands of Samoa, circling the world in prayer for 36 hours.



Can you match these loaves to the countries from which they come?

naan bread  
ciabatta

bagel

croissant  
tortillas  
bara brith

Italy  
America



Wales

France  
Chile  
India

# From the OLD to the New

During this year we shall be quoting parts of the Bible in the King James' Version and putting beside them a modern translation. This month we have chosen the temptation of Jesus from Saint Luke's gospel.

## King James' Version

And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing : and when they were ended , he afterward hungered . And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him , saying , It is written , That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.



## Contemporary English Version

When Jesus returned from the Jordan River, the power of the Holy Spirit was with him, and the Spirit led him into the desert. For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry. The devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Son, tell this stone to turn into bread." Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, 'No one can live only on food.'

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. The devil said, "I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. Just worship me, and you can have it all."

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on top of the temple. The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say: 'God will tell his angels to take care of you. They will catch you in their arms, and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.'"



Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'Don't try to test the Lord your God!' After the devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.

*SORRY! - Owing to lack of space there is no "Who's Who" this month.*



# Prayer Mat

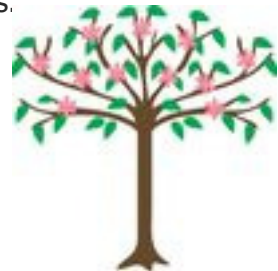
## Week One

Father, this week we pray for the chronically sick. We ask you to give them the strength to bear their suffering stoically. We ask you to be merciful to them and reduce their pain. We pray ceaselessly for healing and that you will hear our prayers. We pray that they will be give help and understanding by their loved ones and carers and that their carers will be given the strength to cope. O Lord, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto thee, Amen.

## Week Two

As the days lengthen,  
and the earth spends longer in the light of day,  
May we spend longer  
in the light of your presence, O Lord.  
May the seeds of your Word  
which have been long buried within us, grow  
Like everything around us,  
into love for you and love for other people,  
A visible declaration of your lordship in our lives.  
Grant, Lord, that there may be  
a springtime in our lives this Lent.

*Anthology of Public Prayers.*



### **Week Three**

O Lord, during this time of Lent, may we reflect upon your time in the wilderness, your resilience and fortitude in the face of temptation and may we resist all temptation in our lives.



Lord, give us the grace that you had to say "no" to ourselves and to our wants; for our wants ignore other people's needs from us. Help us to be like you, Lord. Amen.

### **Week Four**

Lord Jesus Christ, we are glad that the Bible story tells us a little about your family life and introduces us to Mary, your mother.

She was thrilled and happy when she knew she was to be a mother.

She went through pain and discomfort so that you could be born.

She was pleased when people were glad to meet you.

She was worried when you were lost, and she went to look for you.

She was concerned when she thought you were working too hard.

She stayed by you when everyone else was against you.

She shared your pain and suffering when she shared your triumph.

Because in the love of our own mothers we also have received this same care, we give God thanks and praise.

*Prayers for the Church Community*



How many miles high is Mount Everest? How many pitfalls can one quiz compiler fall into? (I also managed to mix up my Romans and Greeks.) I refer to our Quiz Night in February! It was a stroke of luck that I wasn't available for that meeting!

Apologies to all the intrepid quizzers who had to make their own corrections to my answers. I have no excuse and must remember to check answers rather than blindly accept everything that I read on the internet! Nevertheless, there were positive comments about the evening and I hope no one will be put off the next time we try a quiz.

On a much more serious note, we were very privileged to host the Bishop of Nord Kivu on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Muhindo Ise-somo was installed as Bishop of Nord Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo in December. He spoke to an assembled group of approximately 50 and we were truly inspired by the selflessness of his amazing Christian actions in his home country which is torn apart by civil war. He apologised for his poor English. (It is his *fifth* language!) It was not necessary as he put forward his message clearly and with humour.

His theme – One Body, Many Parts – brought home to us how much suffering there is in other parts of the Christian world and we should be fully aware of their need for our prayers. His vigorous demonstration of his faith in the face of extreme violence made us feel that our worries about the state of the Anglican Church in England seem insignificant. He has made one of his aims to train chaplains to work with the army, having travelled to many areas evangelising amongst the troops.

We enjoyed a marvellous selection of home-made cakes with members who had travelled from as far as Moss Side and Astley, Wigan. Many thanks to all those who donated the wonderful fare; to those who set up the Hall and those who helped in any way.

At the close of the evening, Barbara Taylor was able to present the Bishop with a number of Mothers' Union badges to take back to Nord Kivu members and a memento for himself of a pair of cufflinks. Incidentally, he had heard a great deal about the Mother's Union in the Diocese of Manchester and, when he knew he was visiting England, had made a particular request to visit Manchester! I don't think he was disappointed!

### Looking Ahead



### **Make a Mother's Day!**

Get your Ethical gifts through Mothers' Union.  
Look out for leaflets at the back of church.

March 25<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at 10 a.m.  
to mark the Feast of the Annunciation

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Faithful Relationships – Mothers' Union Theme for 2011  
N.B. No meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> (Holy Week)

Catherine Hilton

Bury Council's member for Children and Young People has decided to consult on revisions to the 'home to school' transport policy.

If implemented this would affect children admitted to faith secondary schools from September 2011 onwards.

Whilst this is unlikely to affect our own young people You may wish to respond to this consultation and details are available at the back of church or at [www.bury.gov.uk/denominational\\_transport](http://www.bury.gov.uk/denominational_transport)



# Children's Corner



## Sudoku

	4	5	8	2				
8								
	1	2			5			4
1	6		9			4		
		4						
5	3						1	6
			4			8		3
			5	8			2	9
			1		9			5

The first item on **Christian Aid's**  
**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**  
 children's calendar for Lent 2011  
 (download at [www.ChristianAid.org.uk](http://www.ChristianAid.org.uk)  
 or pick up a copy at the back of church



9 March

On average, each person in Britain and Ireland eats 3kg of chocolate every year. Lots of chocolate is made from Fairtrade cocoa beans, meaning farmers and workers in poor parts of the world get paid a fair price for the cocoa they produce.

**Can you find Fairtrade chocolate at the shop? Buy a bar!  
 Write the name of it here.**

**Did you enjoy it?**

**Give it a mark out of ten for yumminess.**

**/10**

# TURNING HOPE INTO ACTION

**Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty  
– and we believe that vision can become a reality**

Christ Church has supported Christian Aid for many years, during Lent and at Harvest, alternatively with Tearfund. Each May, members have played an important role in the House to House collection around the parish.

At present we have no-one to co-ordinate this or to promote the work of the charity in this community. Visit <http://www.christianaid.org.uk> to find out more about its work.

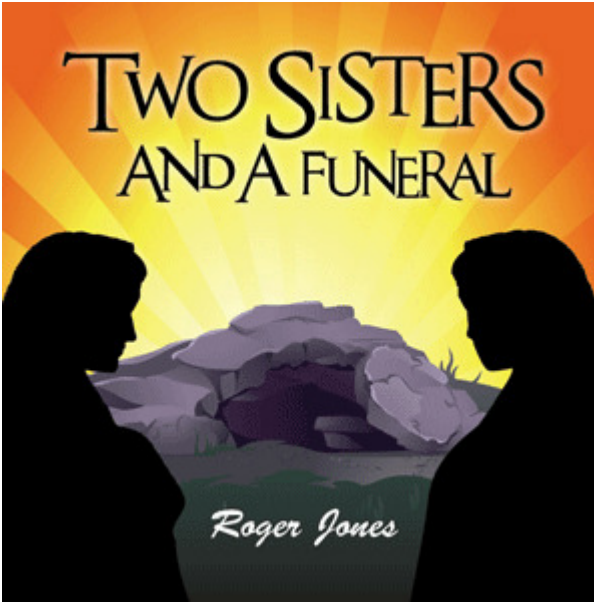
If this is something close to your heart, please speak to any member of the clergy or PCC to find out what is involved.



On 26 March Rosemary Taylor is taking part in a sponsored 40 metre free abseil at Manchester Velodrome, in aid of Christian Aid.

Sponsor forms are available from the back of church – please do all you can to raise lots of sponsorship for this event from among your friends and family. Donations can also be made at <http://www.justgiving.com/RosemaryHTaylor>

Another way to contribute this month, and to give food for thought, is to use the COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS calendar available on the website or at the back of church.



Jesus is a welcome guest and friend at the home of Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus in the village of Bethany. So when Lazarus falls gravely ill, the sisters send a message to Jesus: "*Lord, the one you love is sick.*" But by the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has already been in the tomb for four days.

Two Sisters and a Funeral tells the exciting story of a family transformed first of all by seeing their brother Lazarus raised from the tomb, and then the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world.

This brand new **Roger Jones** musical is to be conducted by the composer, with soloists and the United Christian Singers

on **Saturday, 5 March at 7 p.m.**

**Bamford Chapel**, Norden Road, Rochdale, OL11 5PQ

Come and sing or come, sit back and enjoy – the choice is yours.

Rehearsals start 2 p.m. if you wish to take part, with 'pot luck' tea.

Ensure your place by contacting Walter Brisk 01706 630 926 or [wbrisk@talktalk.net](mailto:wbrisk@talktalk.net) Further details in church.

There is no charge, either to sing or listen!!

## **Comment Box/Suggestion Scheme**

NHS Bury is committed to involving patients and public in the delivery of high quality healthcare. To support this, NHS Bury has established a comment box/suggestion scheme, with boxes and feedback cards installed in all primary care centres and health centres across the borough. This valuable feedback mechanism is an opportunity for patients to share their views and suggestions about the services they use, enabling us to improve services as a result.

All comments/suggestions raised via the scheme are dealt with by NHS Bury's Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). The PALS Team then feed comments back to the relevant department so that service improvements can be implemented. Any comment can be made anonymously. Alternatively, patients can complete their contact details and PALS will get back to them.

Enquiries and issues received via the comment box/suggestion scheme can and have led to a number of improvements for patients. Here are some examples of how the scheme has worked in practice:

- You said: vending machines at the Moorgate Primary Care Centre were too expensive.  
We liaised with the vending machine supplier to negotiate better pricing.
- You said: Wheelchair users found it difficult to speak to the receptionist at a local Primary Care Centre due to the height of the reception desk.  
We advised receptionists to use the lower section of the desk when speaking to wheelchair users.
- You said: It was difficult for parents to keep young children entertained while waiting at Bury Urgent Treatment Centre.  
We set up a children's book box and toy area in the waiting room.

If you have any queries regarding the scheme, please contact the PALS Team on freephone 0800 328 3166 (Monday - Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm), email [enquiries@bury.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@bury.nhs.uk) or write to PALS at NHS Bury, 1st Floor, 21 Silver Street, Bury, BL9 0EN





## *Lettings*

On Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Don, Paul, Elizabeth and Janet went to the chapel at the Bishop's Lodge for the licensing to our new joint benefice. Bishop Chris used the following prayer at that service.

From fear of travelling your unknown ways,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From fear of failure,

**Good Lord deliver us.**

From fear of losing respect,

**Good Lord deliver us.**

From fear of making decisions,

**Good Lord deliver us.**

From fear of losing control,

**Good Lord deliver us.**

From hardness of heart,

**Good Lord deliver us.**

For the gift of friends and family,  
and all who sustain us by their love and loyalty,

**Thanks be to God.**

For life and health and strength,

**Thanks be to God.**

For the privilege of ministry,

**Thanks be to God.**

For the means of grace and the hope of glory,

**Thanks be to God.**



## Book Review

No review this month but a note to say that there are a number of books on the table at the back of church if you wish to borrow them to read and then return for other people to enjoy.

If you have an interesting article you would like included in *Lettings* or a Christian book recommendation for *Book Review*, please contact Jean Slater

# BONANZA of Books and Bric a Brac

The Church Hall Committee would like to thank all those who supported this event in any way whatsoever. Despite the fact that it was a damp and miserable day, we achieved all our objectives. We raised over £320 for church funds, we disposed of the books and bric-a-brac that had been cluttering up the stage for far too long, and workers and visitors alike enjoyed themselves. This was particularly true of those who tucked into one of Val and Joe's mouth-watering bacon butties; with the only complaints coming from the few who, like me, were unable to get to the kitchen before they sold out.

You will be pleased to know that a further two days were spent taking the best of the residue to a selections of charity shops in Ramsbottom and Bury, with what was left being collected by Tracey's for recycling and/or disposal.

Once again, many thanks for your support.  
Stan Parkinson





When: 3 March 2011  
Where: Lower Room, Church Hall  
Time: 2 p.m. – 3 pm.

Everyone is welcome, so do come and join this informal meeting for fellowship, worship and time for tea and a chat. Transport can be arranged for you if necessary.

If you require any more information, please contact Revd. Don Altham

## CRAFT EVENING

Saturday, April 2  
7 – 9 p.m.  
Church Hall

Come and join the fun and learn a new craft.  
We will be working with 'Japanese Woshi Paper' to make lovely accessories, e.g. mirror compact.

Ticket £8 includes 1 kit, full instructions and refreshments.  
Just bring scissors and enthusiasm.



For tickets contact Lesley Taylor or Sybil Fryer.

See you soon

## REMINDER!

# Brains of Walmersley 2011

The annual quiz to decide who holds this coveted title will be held in the church hall on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of March at 7.30 p.m.

Admission is still £2 per person (no 2011 VAT increases here) with all proceeds going to church funds. We look forward to welcoming you.

Stan Parkinson



We've ordered the eggs, now it's time to get to the real meaning of Easter. Once again we are bringing to Walmersley the dynamic Experience Easter project.

Classes from Springside, St John's with St Mark's and Summerseat Schools will be visiting this church during their last week of term for an interactive exploration of the last week of Jesus life, and again we will be open for everyone on Saturday am.

### **We need your help to succeed.**

If you can spare a few hours during the week 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April (or before hand) and would like to be included then please come along to a meeting on Tue. 1<sup>st</sup> March in the **Church** at 7.30pm to find out how you can help the children and local community find out the real meaning of Easter.

Please let Nigel or Barbara Silvester know if you are interested but can't make the meeting. Thanks.

## What's on in Walmersley

### March

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Tue 1  | Planning for Experience Easter                        |
| Wed 2  | Mothers' Union: Annual General Meeting                |
| Thu 3  | First Thursday Prayers                                |
| Fri 4  | World Day of Prayer, United Reformed Church at 2 p.m. |
| Sat 5  | Book Sale at St John with St Mark's Hall              |
| Sat 5  | "Brains of Walmersley" Quiz Evening 7.30.p.m.         |
| Sat 5  | Two Sisters and a Funeral – Bamford Chapel            |
| Wed 9  | Ash Wednesday   |
| Mon 14 | PCC   |
| Wed 16 | Mothers' Union  |
| Fri 25 | Feast of the Annunciation Holy Communion at 10 a.m.   |
| Tue 29 | Bishop's Certificate course                           |

### April

- |        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| Sat 2  | Craft Evening                   |
| Wed 13 | Annual Parochial Church Meeting |
| 11-16  | Experience Easter               |

### **PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR DIARY**

In 2011 Whitsunday or Pentecost falls on the second Sunday of June, which is the date on which we now hold our SUMMER PRAISE.

June 12 will be Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.

June 19 will be Summer Praise

# Visit of Bishop Ise-somo

