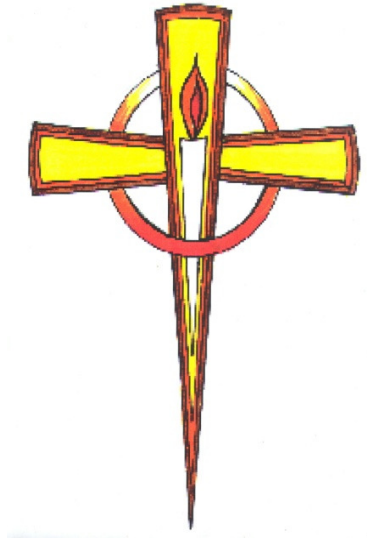


Christ Church Walmersley

in the Benefice of Walmersley Road



Magazine

Spreading the Word

April 2011

Thought for the Month

Some of you will know that one of my dogs died recently; Thomas was getting on for 16, a good age by any standards but dog years are all too brief. Now, I realise that on the scale of the human tragedy affecting our world at the moment the loss of one small dog might be insignificant to most people but I would like you to spend just a few minutes reading about Thomas' life.

15 years ago my Dad and I kept seeing a little brown dog here, there and everywhere. He always appeared to be such a happy little soul and whenever we saw him people were responding to his friendly nature. After a couple of weeks I saw one of the other dog walkers with this dog in tow but as soon as he saw me, the dog followed me into the house – and there he stayed. "We will keep him for a weekend" I told my dad.

I did, of course, report the new arrival to the police and the dog warden; as a dog lover I knew how heartbroken I would be if my dog were lost but the phone (thankfully) never rang. Thomas – he chose the name himself – settled in immediately. He got on right away with my poodles Nigel and Katie and seemed to recognise the special bond those two had so waited for their invitation to join their pack.

Thomas rapidly became my dad's special dog and made a huge difference to dad who was by then affected by Parkinson's and showing early signs of dementia. Thomas somehow knew how to cheer dad up and would walk sedately on the lead with him or spend hours sitting on his knee – quite something for a dog who loved to run and run. Later Thomas was even allowed to visit dad in hospital where he spent time visiting other patients as well. Just about the last thing my dad said was "How is my dog"?

Thomas really was the most loving and loyal dog – just about every person he met liked him. With other dogs he could be a little nervous but he always seemed to make friends with the dogs that everyone else avoided. The thing that I most noticed about him, as did many people, was his trusting nature; he looked at me and I knew he trusted me absolutely and he enforced that with absolute love.

Life as a Christian can be challenging and we all have so much to learn. Of course we have sermons and scriptures, the great and the good, theologians and even the odd minister to help us but perhaps like Jesus himself we could also look to humbler sources for inspiration. A small brown dog with 'Queen Anne legs' and a willing heart taught me lessons on love, loyalty, friendship and trust. If I had the love and trust Thomas had who knows what I could do. Lessons on life, lessons on love come from many sources and we should never be too proud to learn from anyone or anything.

Yours in Christ
Elizabeth



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.

Church will be open from 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon on Saturday April 16th for anyone who would like to share in this Experience.



SERVICES AND READINGS FOR APRIL

April 3rd Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; John 19: 25-27

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; John 19: 25-27

April 10th Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service
Ezekiel 37: 1-14

April 17th Palm Sunday

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Psalms 118: 1-2,19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Psalms 118: 1-2,19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11

April 21st Maundy Thursday

7.30 p.m. 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

April 22nd Good Friday

10.30 a.m. Reflective Service

April 24th Easter Day

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 28: 1-10

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 28: 1-10

ARE YOU ON DUTY?

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

READINGS

April 3 rd	Mothers' Union
April 10 th	Guides
April 17 th	David Peters
April 21 st	Bob Taylor
April 24 th	Bill Noble

INTERCESSIONS

Mothers' Union
Junior Church
Barbara Silvester
Alan Spencer
Joe McDermott

SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

April 3 rd	Roy Warburton	Shelagh Beetson	Sybil Fryer
April 10 th	Bill Noble	Alan Standring	David Thew
April 17 th	Geoff Hamilton	Ian Riddick	Chris Standring
April 24 th	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters

LAY ASSISTANTS

April 3 rd	Jean Slater	Margery Spencer
April 17 th	Nigel Silvester	Trish Stokes
April 21 st	Jennifer Wood	Cath Hilton
April 24 th	Barbara Silvester	Margery Spencer

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



Financial Report

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 have now been prepared and checked by our Independent Examiner.

They show that the church recorded a deficit on its main account of £533. This is the second year running that this has occurred. So we had to go into our reserves again to pay bills. This situation of not paying our way cannot go on unchecked – the reserves, such as they are, will run out!

Our main source of income – planned giving – remains static. Other sources of income also showed little movement; some income fell, notably church hall lettings which was over £2000 less than the previous year. We did receive an amount of £500 from the estate of the late Joyce Jeffreys. Low interest rates again restricted our income from the monies we have on bank deposit.

Payments made show little change on the previous year apart from spending on property upkeep and parish share, although there is a 'new' item in the payments column, that of vicar's expenses – the interregnum is over!

We have spent less on our property this last year. The biggest items were the repairs to the church windows (£1878) which was partly covered by insurance; repairs and servicing of the church heating system (£2296); and refurbishment of the church hall ladies toilet (£2328) which was largely funded by generous donations from congregation members.

Unfortunately we again failed to meet our parish share payment to the diocese. We were asked for £38984 and were only able to pay £25000 because funds were simply not available. The shortfall has been added to our outstanding liability which now totals £205004.

The church expenses for the year ended 31st December 2010, excluding parish share, work out at £663 per week. Add in the parish share we were asked for and the weekly expenses amounted to £1413. Our income for the year, excluding extraordinary income, worked out at £1112 per week.

For this new year, 2011, if we assume church expenses stay much the same – if only! Our new contract for gas supplies (the best offer around at the time) is 60% higher than our previous contract!- and adding in the amount asked for in parish share (£27751) our expenses will work out at around £1197 per week. With a little prayerful consideration by all (and a 10% increase in our giving level!) I am sure we could actually meet our financial obligations in 2011.

Full copies of the accounts will be available at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on April 13th.

Nigel Silvester
PCC Treasurer



All
Partakers in
Christ's
Mission

Is that how we see ourselves?

The Annual meeting is for us **all**

- an opportunity to report on the past year,
- to hear plans for the future,
- to share in hopes and dreams,
- to express our own concerns.

Hope to see you there – Wednesday, 13 April at 7.30 p.m. in Church

Our Annual General Meeting on March 2nd proved to be positive and productive. Our branch is flourishing and we are in a strong position both in terms of membership and finance. This year we have gained four new members and it was delightful to be able to formally welcome back Pat Mongey onto the Committee. We had a very busy 2010, contributing a substantial amount to the MU charities. The two glass jugs which we gave to Church in commemoration of our 100 years have now been engraved. Please ask if you would like to see them.

Our second March meeting was led by Barbara Silvester on the theme "People on the fringe of Jesus' pain" which was a thought-provoking look at six people closely associated with the crucifixion.

There will be a Lady Day Service on Friday 25th March at 10 a.m. Please support the 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal. In the current troubled times there is much work to be done by our Charity.

Forthcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| April 6 th | An opportunity to look at the work of the Mothers' Union and the 2011 theme 'Faithful Relationship' led by Cath Hilton. |
| April 16 th | Spring Council – Do try to make it – I will have 3 spaces in my car |
| April 20 th | Holy Week – No meeting |
| May 4 th | Deanery AGM at Bury Parish Church |

May 18th

"These are a Few of my Favourite Things."

Inspired by the idea of the history of the world in 100 objects.

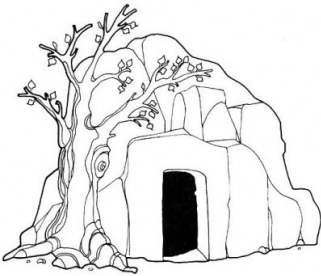
Members are invited to bring a favourite item
and speak for a few minutes.

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 resurrection story from Saint Matthew's gospel.

King James Version

In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.



And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

The Message Bible



After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.

"Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples.

Seder Meal

This will take place at St. John with St. Mark on Wednesday April 20th at 7.30.p.m.

Lenten Groups

These are held on Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at 150 Walmersley Road and Thursday at 2 p.m. at 41 Lowes Road

Prayer Mat

During the coming weeks we will be having our Annual Parochial Church Meeting when we will appoint officers for the future who will direct the way in which the church will move and later we will be celebrating Easter.

As an alternative to our usual four weekly prayers we are including one prayer which we feel is appropriate at this time.

Lead us on our journey

Lord, our God,
you have called us to be a people
on the move;
travelling light,
dying to live,
ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

You have called us to be a people
with a purpose,
travelling without a map,
travelling to where we are led,
sustained by your Spirit,
committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.

You have called us to be your people,
to be the church.
But we are a church with problems;
too strong for the weak,
too staid for the young,
too respectable for the poor,
too divided for mission,

too obsessed with our own lives to think of the lives of others,
too unsure of your message to speak to the world.

Move us on our journey
from where we are to where you want us to go.
Open our eyes on the way
to the people of different cultures, continents and countries,
who can bring colour to our lives.

Take us on our journey
from where we are to where you want us to be;
so that we become a community
where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,
all are valued and no one is had to feel inadequate,
all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,
all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

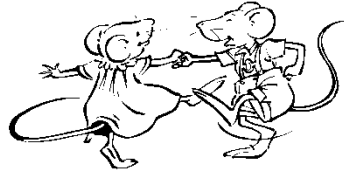
Lead us on our journey
from who we are to who you want us to be;
So that patience is built into us,
kindness is assumed in us,
gentleness is part of us,
compassion flows from us,
truth is second nature to us,
and the commitment of love is part of us.

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter
the journey towards death and resurrection.
Let us journey in the peace and the power of the Spirit.



Ruth Harvey
From the book Ashes to Eggs

Children's Corner



Mothering Sunday



This is the day we give thanks for our mothers and for all those who care for us.

M is the many times you have cuddled me
U is for your undying love for me
M is for all our moments together.

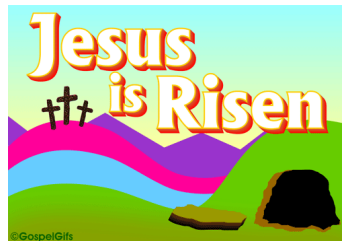
Mum, I am so glad that I have you.

Easter Day

This is the day we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead.

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Angels rolled the stone away
From the tomb in which he lay!

Let all the children come and sing
"Glory, glory to the King,
Christ the lord of everything!"



An Easter Puzzle

Can you match the numbers and letters?

I		A	—		—	—	E						
7		20	10		6	17	1						
—	—	—	U	—	—	E	—	—	—	O	—		
5	1	9	23	5	5	1	8	6	7	12	19		
A	—	—		—	—	—		—	—	—	E		
20	19	22		6	17	1		25	7	24	1		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
20				1				7					
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
	12						23						

An Easter Anagram

- aeeeghmnst _____
- scsor _____
- aeliv _____
- accefiirs _____
- sbbaarba _____
- ccfiruy _____



Jottings

They Took Him Down

Words for meditation as we approach Good Friday on April 22nd.

Then we give thanks and celebrate His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

They took Him down, His poor dead body,
and prepared Him for burial.

They took Him down, His poor pale body
drained of life, ashen, and stained with its own blood

His healing hands, now pierced and still;
serving hands, that broke five loaves to feed five thousand;
holy hands, often folded in fervent prayer;
now pierced and still.

His poor torn feet, now bloodied and cold;
feet that walked weary miles
to bring good news to broken hearts;
feet once washed in penitent's tears;
poor torn feet now bloodied and cold.

His kingly head, made for a crown,
now crowned – with thorns.

His poor kingly head, crowned with thorns.
His gentle breast, now pierced by spear thrust, quiet and still;
His poor loving breast.

His piercing eyes, now dark and blind;
eyes of compassion, warming the soul;
fiery eyes, burning at sin;
tender eyes, beckoning sinners;
His piercing eyes, now dark and blind.

His matchless voice, fountain of the Father's thoughts,
stopped – and stilled – to speak no more.
Wisdom and comfort, Spirit and life;
His matchless voice, stilled, to speak no more.

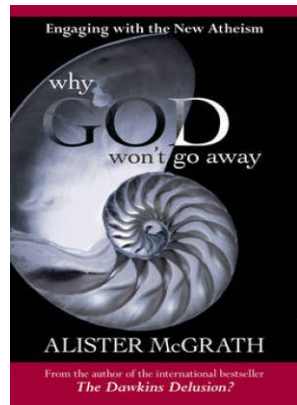
They took Him down, His poor dead body,
and prepared Him for burial.



Book Review

Why God won't go away **Engaging with the New Atheism** by Alister McGrath

Author of "The Dawkins Delusion" in reply to Richard Dawkins "The God Delusion" this book has just been published and is already a best seller. Alister McGrath continues his debate with the New Atheists.



If you have an item for **JoTTings** or a Christian Book recommendation for *Book Review*, please contact Jean Slater

My Brownie Pack Holiday

On Friday 11th March I went on my first Brownie Pack Holiday with Emily, Ellie, Lori-Ann and Tegan from Christ Church Brownies and lots of others from St John's. We stayed for 2 nights at Springfield Park, Rochdale.



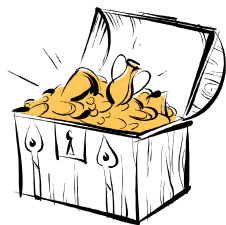
On Friday night I was so nervous I didn't want my mum to leave but I soon made some new friends. The leaders were called Claire, Joan, Mary, Laura and Anna. Claire was the cook and Joan helped. Laura, Anna and Mary helped with the activities. First we had to make our own beds; I was on the top bunk.



On Saturday morning we had breakfast, cleaned up the dishes and then we did craft activities. Four of us went to the kitchen to make chocolate lollies. We had spaghetti bolognese for dinner then we went on a treasure hunt outside. We had to find pictures of pirates.

We had a party on Saturday night. We ate wraps and played musical statues, chairs and bumps.

On Sunday morning we made pirate hats, parrots and treasure chests and then spent our money at the shop. Then it was home time, I was sad to leave all my new friends but happy to see my family. I really enjoyed it and would love to go on another.



By Georgia Mary Tyrer

Brains of Walmersley 2011

We were delighted to welcome some 16 new faces to the Quiz Night held in the Church Hall in March. They settled down easily into the informal atmosphere that always prevails and at the end of the evening many said how much they had enjoyed themselves and that they hoped to come next time.



The first quiz of the year was all about gaining the prestigious title of "Brains of Walmersley 2011," so there were quite a few teams determined to help their neighbours by supplying them with the wrong answers. However at the end of evening, only 5 points separated the top eight teams, with the eventual winners Ian and Ann Stamp together with Alan and Margery Spencer having just half a point over two teams of runner-up. What a night!

With such a close result being shared between Christ Church and St. John with St. Mark the "bragging rights" are somewhat restricted, at least until the next quiz in the summer.

Many thanks to all who came to support the Tennis Club's effort; £200 was added to church funds and we all had a good time doing it.

Stan Parkinson



Currently six adults and four young people are preparing to take a big step on their Christian journey – preparing for Confirmation.

At St Thomas' Church, Rochdale Road at 6 p.m. on Sunday 15 May the Bishop will lay his hands on them.

Please support them with your prayers during this period of preparation and on the day itself.

'Little Voice' Stamps

Our collective response to the appeal for used stamps, both old and new, British and foreign, has been magnificent!



After collecting and sorting all the stamps which were kindly placed in the tin at the back of church, a huge boxful was despatched in February. After only two days I received a phone call from Suffolk to tell me that the box had arrived and asked to pass on to you all the grateful thanks of the organiser and chief sorter. Due to the nationwide nature of the appeal to aid and provide a home for street children in Ethiopia, £2,600 has already been raised by selling stamps to collectors, and that's without our CCW contribution.

Please keep collecting and removing any stamps from your post (leaving one cm. or half an inch of envelope around them) and search out any old stamps you may have tucked away in a drawer or album.

Many thanks again,

David Peters

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 call Lesley Taylor

See you soon

British Legion Appeal

After watching an item on the BBC North West News recently, I decided to support an appeal to provide basic essentials for our soldiers in the trouble spots of the world, especially in Afghanistan.

If anyone else would like to contribute to this appeal, any non perishable personal items, like soap, toothpaste, stick deodorant (not aerosols), toothbrushes, flannels etc.....and food items in tins, packets or sachets are acceptable and gratefully received.

I propose to put a box at the back of church to collect donated items, and will deliver them to the centre in Standish, near Wigan, which is responsible for packaging up all gifts. These are then despatched to named soldiers from our NW towns.



Whilst many of us are not in support of the war in Afghanistan, I do feel strongly for the soldiers out there, and would like to help them in some small way.

With thanks,
Margaret Peters



When:	1 April 2011
Where:	Lower Room, Church Hall
Time:	2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

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

What's on in Walmersley

April

- Sat 2 Craft Evening
- Wed 6 Mothers' Union – Faithful Relationship
- 11-15 Experience Easter for Schools
- Sat 16 Experience Easter – church open 10 a.m. - 12 noon
- Wed 13 Annual Parochial Church Meeting
7.30 p.m. in church
- Sat 16 Mothers' Union Spring Council
- Wed 20 Seder Meal
- Sat 23 Passion for Bolton – Town Hall Square, Bolton
- Thu 28 Churches Together – Bury East: A G M
in St John with St Mark Church Hall

May

- Wed 4 Mothers' Union Deanery AGM – St Mary Bury
- Sun 15 Confirmation 6 p.m. at St Thomas'
- Tue 24 Archdeacon's Visitation at CCW

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

And the question is

Who are the "Brains of Walmersley 2011"?



and they *were* pleased, really!