



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

**in the United Benefice
of Walmersley Road**

St Matthew the Apostle
(Feast day - September 21st)
from a painting by Darko Topalski

September 2020

50P

REGULAR SERVICES

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

Social distancing guidelines and hygiene protocols are in place and masks, or a suitable face covering, should be worn unless you are exempt.

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

Sunday

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

Wednesday

10.00 a.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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Thursday

2.00 p.m.	1 st	Holy Communion	Christ Church
7.30 p.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Other services as announced

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

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

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



We live in extraordinary times. Something we can neither see nor hear is having an impact on our lives like nothing we have experienced before. Our beliefs, our faith, our trust, all that we hold dear is being tested like never before.

And amongst all the extraordinary ways our lives have been impacted, for me there are two things which stand out –

Firstly, we have been urged to exclude social interaction with other people. We have shut ourselves in our homes; if we do venture out we give other people a wide berth; we glare at anyone who comes too close. We are being very cautious. All this goes against our natural behaviour which is to be sociable and relate to each other. It is no wonder that many of us have learnt and come to rely on new ways of keeping in contact. We have kept in touch with family and friends using Facebook, Facetime, Zoom. This new technology has also given us new contacts, new friends. It has been a great way to reach out. I'm sure, now we know of it, we will want to continue to use it even when personal contact is allowed.



Secondly, we have come to realise that, as well as family and friends, there are some people whom we cannot do without. They are people we wouldn't give a thought to in 'normal' times. They are the taken-for-granted people. There's the N.H.S. of course, but really I'm thinking of the army of people who provide the basic services we cannot do without – the bin men, cleaners, carers, utility suppliers, transport drivers, etc.

Often they are the ones we demand the most from but who get paid the least. Remember how we clapped them on Thursday evenings? Hopefully we will maintain that appreciation for the future.

I recently came across a wonderful poem written by Benjamin Zephaniah. It's called People Need People. I would love to write it out for you but I don't want to infringe any copyright regulations. If you are able, do look it up. Here's the opening lines just to give you a flavour –

People need people,
To walk to
To talk to
To cry and rely on,
People will always need people.

Jesus was, and is, very much a people person; a man of the people one might say. Big on social interaction and being out amongst people. He appreciated people. He did, though, have particular affiliation with those at the lower end of society - the marginalised, the needy, the forgotten, the taken-for-granted.

Jesus was on earth in difficult times. His presence with us made it into extraordinary times. He spoke and led by example. Let us together follow that example, not just in these difficult times now but going forward in our own extraordinary lives. We need each other. People need people!

With God's blessing. Keep in touch!

Nigel.

Note from the Editors:

Unfortunately, last week Christine who prints our magazine each month, had an accident rendering her immobile for the foreseeable future. We sent her our love and prayers and hope that she is soon able to hop around.

Meanwhile our apologies for the delay and grateful thank to those who have helped to print this copy in house and we trust that you will accept that the content is just as good, even if the print quality is less so.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Aug 23 Laura Paget Brittany Paget Stephanie Collett-Paget,
 Deane Sergeant Lily Jayne Collett

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

CHURCH FUNERAL

Aug 24 David Morley

FUNERAL SERVICE HELD AT THE CEMETERY

July 21 Margaret Porter

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD AT THE CREMATORIUM

Aug 18 Beryl O'Brien

Aug 20 Ken Hopkinson

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Aug 23 Joyce Ellis

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



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

Sep 6 Mr J Clegg
Sep 13 Mrs Murray, in memory of her parents
Sep 20 In memory of Phyllis Magnall
Sep 27 Mrs J Wood

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

If you wish to explore the idea of joining the flower arranging rota, please get in touch also.



BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sep 6 **13th after Trinity**

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20

Sep 13 **14th after Trinity**

Genesis 50: 15-21

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

Sep 20 **15th after Trinity**

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

Sep 27 **16th after Trinity**

Exodus 17: 1-7

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32

Oct 4 **17th after Trinity**

Isaiah 5: 1 –7

Philippians 3: 4b-14

Matthew 21: 33-46

At present we are using only one reading before the Gospel. The reader will be informed in advance which passage is being used.

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Our APCMs had to be postponed in April owing to the pandemic. The deadline of 31 May was extended to 31 October with officers continuing in post until meetings can be rearranged.

We are now considering the options available so that APCMs may be held within guidelines.

Details will be posted in our churches, on weekly news sheets, websites and social media, and in October's magazine.

These meetings are important, as is your vote, so please make every effort to be 'present'. Thank You



THE CREATION SEASON

In our liturgy this month we will be reflecting on the theme of Creation.

Each year between September 1 to October 4, the church worldwide observes the Creation season.

This worldwide celebration of prayer and action seeks to protect our common home using our role as Christians to be caretakers of God's creation.

The Creation season website states:

"This year, the theme for the season is "Jubilee for the Earth". We invite you to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living"

In a year when the worldwide coronavirus pandemic has affected every part of God's world, the need to celebrate and protect the earth is vitally important.

Collect for the Creation Season:

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea and the rhythms of the seasons. We thank you for the riches of your creation. May we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



THE OPEN GROUP

The next scheduled meeting of the Open Group was Wednesday 9th September. I expect this is unlikely to go ahead as there are regular members who are just coming out of shielding and I also need to confirm arrangements with the Barritt Room first.

It may be that we wait until next year before safely resuming. However if any members wish to discuss, then please speak to David Robinson.

From the Vicarage

* The current arrangements for our Sunday services will continue for the foreseeable future. I am sure you realise that the situation is very fluid. Services at 10.00am at Christ Church and 11.00am at St. John with St. Mark are different from those we have experienced previously but this is a necessary part of the worldwide pandemic. Our midweek services are unchanged.

It has been good to welcome back those who have been shielding. From early August the Government announced that face coverings were mandatory for those attending public worship unless you have an exemption.

There are no restrictions on numbers attending worship providing that social distancing is observed. However, for baptisms, weddings and funerals numbers are restricted to 30.

Worship via the internet continues to be available and special thanks to those who regularly host the monthly Sunday@7 service and our friends at Seedfield Methodist Church for their weekly Sunday morning online services.

* At the funeral of Pauline Andrew at St. John with St. Mark in June, a collection was organised for the British Deaf Association. A total of £120 was sent and they have sent a letter thanking us saying that "such generous and valued support makes a real difference in the help we provide for Deaf people and Deaf communities throughout the UK". Thanks to all who contributed.

* Thanks also to those who have supported the Manchester Diocese's appeal to help those in our link Diocese of Lahore suffering from the effects of the coronavirus epidemic. This was featured in last month's magazine and more information can be found on the diocesan website. Please contact me if you wish to make a donation.

* The celebrations for the 250th anniversary of St.John's Church have had to be severely curtailed due to the Covid 19 situation. However it is hoped that a special service with the Bishop of Manchester can be held on Sunday 6 December. This will be a joint service for the congregations of both churches, beginning at 10.30am. Please put this date in your diary.

* The Bishop of Bolton has shared an uplifting reflection on the recent restrictions placed in Greater Manchester called "Do not lose heart". This can be seen via youtube or at www.manchester.anglican.org

* I continue to say Morning Prayer at 9.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on a daily basis. It is good to know that others are saying prayers at the same time as we join together in prayer.

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

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

* Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches.

* 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.

* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk

PRAYER DIARY

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS

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



During lockdown this free phone line was launched, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. By mid July the C of E website showed the line had received 173,000 calls from over 37,000 people – calls topped more than two million minutes.

The service – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – was set up as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people’s homes, especially those unable to join online church services.

Archbishop Justin said: *"Daily Hope has been a lifeline for tens of thousands of people in the last few months. We've heard stories of people using it who are regular church attenders and those who aren't. That's a testimony to the vital importance of Daily Hope.*

I have been praying for those who have used the phone line, and written to us, that God would bring them comfort, not just at this time but in the weeks and months which follow.

The Church will continue to look to serve older people, and those who can't easily get out to a church building.

I look forward to seeing how Daily Hope can go from strength to strength as lockdown restrictions are eased."

While measures begin to ease and church buildings begin to reopen, it's important that we remember the millions of people who may be vulnerable due to their health or their age, and who may be reluctant to return to their place of worship.

Callers to the line are welcomed with a short new greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections, the meaning of hymns, and advice on COVID-19.

New material to the service continues to be updated, including mental health reflections voiced by Pam Rhodes as well as prayers from Mothers' Union.

So please share this number with those you know - 0800 804 8044

Back to school

In early September we think of our schools as a new term begins. For most, this will be an unusual and different experience as everyone embraces new safety guidance.

We pray for headteachers, teachers, teaching assistants, ancillary staff and governors asking that you will be with them as they seek to nurture and encourage the children in their care.

Father God
Be with them today and every day;
Fill their hearts with joy;
Fill their minds with learning;
Fill their classrooms with peace;
Fill their lessons with fun;
Fill their friendships with kindness;
Fill their school with love.



UNESCO's **International Literacy** day falls on September 8th, raising awareness globally of the issues surrounding adult and child literacy

Teacher, children need an education to have the full and abundant life You came to give them. Your Word demonstrates how You touch people's hearts to spur them to action for their own benefit. Bless people living in poverty by providing ways to learn to read and to apply this new skill to help lift their families out of poverty — for this generation and generations to come.

*"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life."
—Proverbs 4:13 (NIV)*

from Worldvision.org

A prayer for perseverance

Lord,

When my prayers do not seem to be answered, keep me praying.
When I knock at the door and do not hear an answer, keep me listening.

When I seek for things that are inappropriate, show me what is necessary.



Keep me asking for that which is good;
Keep me seeking for that which is true;
Keep me knocking until my faith is sure.

International Day of Peace

The UN General Assembly has declared 21st September as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace.



This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

O Lord, open our eyes to your presence.

Lord, open our minds to your grace;

open our lips to your praise;

open our hearts to your love;

open our lives to your healing and be found among us.

Amen

*Dorothy Wilkins, MU member in Croydon
published by Mothers' Union in the collection "Dear Lord..."*



Sunday @ Seven

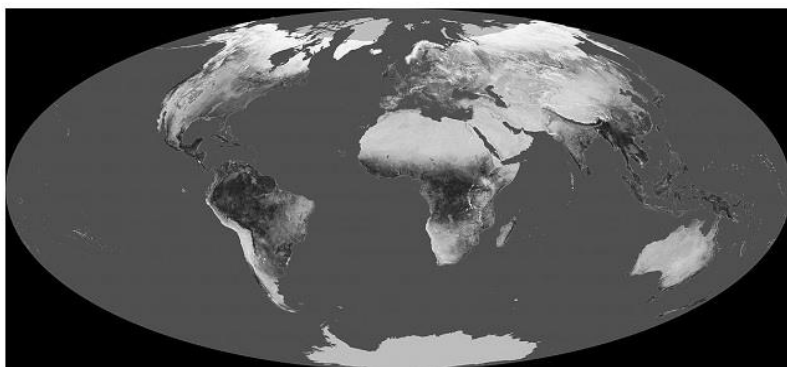


We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer)

September 27th at 7pm

“All that He had made”

**Can't be sure where but we do know when!
Do join us wherever we meet – even from
the comfort of your own sofa – make
yourself a tea/coffee – perhaps even treat
yourself to cake/biscuits!**



Details, nearer the time, on social media, websites and weekly sheets, depending whether it is decided to continue on Zoom for this month, or to meet in a socially distanced way.



with our communities, our nation, our world

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

at Christ Church & St.John with St.Mark

Sunday 11 October

THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN CELEBRATE
HARVEST 2020 WILL DEPEND ON THE
LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE AT THE TIME.

Further details in
the October magazine,
on weekly sheets, social media
and our websites



Despite us being unable, as a branch, to meet at present, the work of Mothers' Union goes on. There are several ways in which we can help to make a difference to people's lives.

- * If you knit, or crochet, or sew, please ask about the needs locally.
- * If you feel able to join in our worldwide wave of prayer each day then please ask for a copy, or dial Daily Hope (*see page 11*) and choose options 4 then 8. Alternatively, if you are on Facebook, check out the Mothers' Union page there, where members and staff daily lead midday prayer.
- * Members have been making face masks, available from mueshop.org for £5, £4 of which is returned to the diocese.
- * Although it seems far too early to mention the "C" word, some of you will be ready to order Christmas cards and there is a good selection – have a word with Hilary Riddick who is our representative and can order what you need.

The range is very reasonably priced but this year there is the addition of three extra designs, sold singly at £4.95. These allow you to send a gift-in-a-card with a biodegradable seeded paper greeting card. Included is a recycled envelope and planting instructions. These unique greetings cards can be planted in February or March to grow wild flowers essential for bees and butterflies. *100% of the profits go towards funding the life changing work of Mothers' Union with families around the globe.*

Whilst admittedly this year's calendars and diaries have not been well used, as life begins to return to normality, you are going to need 2021s – so check out the options.

And if you are not yet wandering around the shops, you'll find a selection of gifts at mueshop.org too.

During the pandemic everything came to a stand still and our lives changed as we adapted to lockdown and the new normal. Here at 9th Bury Scouts we continued throughout the pandemic with a mix of Zoom sessions and challenges each week providing support for each other when it was needed most.

The photo of the group at Buxton has been removed in our online edition for Safeguarding and Child Protection reasons

This helped us keep the group and their families connected during the pandemic, enabling families to: get outdoors, help their communities, look after each other, whilst we continued to have fun & gain #skillsforlife.

We have been busy with Scavenger hunts, photo/creative challenges, quiz nights, VE Day Celebrations, Astronaut space launch, gameshows, lots more and even an online escape room!

Our leaders have been working hard over the past few months preparing for restarting face to face scouting which hopefully won't be too long now. We are excited and can't wait to get back outdoors like our expedition to Buxton shown in the image.

Stay Safe

Matthew Smith

Stepping out into brave new world?

By the time you read this, all being well, we shall be edging closer to being back to some kind of 'normal' life. But we are told it will be a 'new normal'. The world has taken a hefty knock. But we are finding that the experience of our Covid lockdown has given us time to reflect and reassess ourselves in relation to the world around us; what's really important; what matters; how we do things.



Some two thousand years ago, followers of Jesus were also in a lockdown - a crucifixion lockdown. When Jesus was arrested, nailed to a cross and then sealed in a tomb, the followers locked themselves away, terrified that the authorities would be coming for them next. But soon they were faced with the Risen Jesus and, with the fulfilment of the promise

of the Holy Spirit, came a renewed and refreshed outlook and focus. They realised that whilst there was a heritage of knowing God's ways, Jesus had shown them new things, new ways of life, new hope. This was not the time to go back but a time to go forward. A time to build on the old by embracing the new. Things had changed!

So, how are we feeling as we come out of lockdown? Do we see this as a time of change or are we going to carry on as before?

One thing which many of us have come to be thankful for during lockdown is the use of digital technology. On-line worship services on You-Tube; joining together via Zoom; automated phone lines such as "Daily Hope"; WhatsApp prayer groups. Even TV had more coverage of worship than usual. All these have been invaluable for some of us over the past months when we could no longer meet in the church building.

And this digital technology has not only allowed us regular church-goers to keep in touch; it has drawn in many others who, as often happens in times of crisis, became inquisitive and felt a need for prayer, for spiritual sustenance. They felt a longing, a thirst, to know more. And where did they look? They were on their mobile phones, their I-pads and their lap-tops.

Many more went on-line than would actually come to church buildings on an average Sunday. The building was closed - so God went out and was using new opportunities to be known. And many saw and heard. It may well be that as we open our church doors again that those who virtually dipped their toes in the waters may decide to test out the personal gathering of God's people. We may see new faces coming to join us. Let's welcome with joy any new arrivals. Hopefully, they like us, will be enriched in the coming together as one body, to worship and grow in faith as God's people.

But I think we have learnt during the lockdown period that there is also a place for the virtual, digital, worship platform – especially for those who are housebound or cannot get to the church building at the times we choose to open. It's both – not one or the other. Offline and online together.



Bishop David has said that the church faces an exciting time of change and transition; we need to grasp opportunities. The diocesan strap line "Church for a different world" is very apt for where we find ourselves now.

For some this may seem a daunting prospect; for all of us it will be challenging as we seek the road ahead. It was the same for those followers of Jesus two thousand years ago, but they responded to Jesus' call to go out and tell the world about him, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We can do the same; but we can't do it if we stay within our church walls. Let's be brave and step outside.

With God's Blessings, Nigel.

*A return to normal
even if of a different kind*

mini me time

Mini Me Time provide child centred activities for 0-5s.

Please visit our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/minimetimeburyandramsbottom
or contact Amy on 07984329250 for more information

Classes run at Christ Church Walmersley on a Tuesday with face to face classes set to return on Tuesday 22nd September.

Classes running suitable from birth to 5 years including baby massage, baby yoga and a high energy music and movement session for walkers and preschoolers

5 week timetable **from 22nd September:-**

10 - 10.45 Mini Rockers (walkers to 5 years)

11 - 11.45 Mini Massage (suitable from birth)

12 - 12.45 Mini Yoga (suitable from 8 weeks)

Yoga
at Christ Church Walmersley
Church Hall
Monday's from 10.00am to 11.00am

Please ring Michelle
07816 053846





Slimming World is **OPEN**

At Christ Church
Walmersley Church Hall

Each Thursday evening
and Friday morning

Social distancing measures in place
Face masks must be worn

A warm welcome is waiting for you
Ring Sylvia
07989 674240

JIGSAWS FOR SALE

From the safe and secure garage where they are stored



All proceeds go to Church as usual

Also I am hoping that anybody who can will pass on to me any jigsaws they have finished with, providing they are complete.

Thank You

Joan Pearson (St. John with St. Mark)

JOINT SERVICE

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

**Led by
the Bishop of Bolton**

**25 October
10.30am**

CHRIST CHURCH

and A QUARTERMILLENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

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



A replacement service has been
rearranged for

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

With the **Bishop of Manchester.**

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

PARISH PEOPLE

Personal details 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.

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

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

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



BURY FAITH FORUM
INVITE YOU TO

THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN, JEWISH AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN BURY

WHERE AND WHEN WAS THE FIRST CHURCH
ESTABLISHED IN BURY?

HOW MANY TYPES OF CHRISTIAN, JEWISH
AND MUSLIM GROUPS DO WE HAVE IN
BURY TODAY?

WHICH IS THE NEWEST FAITH COMMUNITY
IN BURY?

MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020
8PM TO 9PM
HOSTED VIA ZOOM

FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO JOIN US ON THE
EVENING PLEASE EMAIL EITHER
A.SLATER@BURY.GOV.UK OR
WARREN.ELF@GMAIL.COM