

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

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



February 2021

50p



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

REGULAR SERVICES

The decision has been taken to pause our regular public acts of worship during the latest lockdown. These will begin again when possible and we will continue to follow Government guidelines and observe the appropriate protocols. Meanwhile please check our websites and social media and we will also keep you updated through the regular weekly bulletin. Please be aware of current restrictions as you read this edition.

Sunday			
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th 5 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Service of the Word Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	All	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Currently by Zoom
Wednesday			
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion		St John w St Mark
Thursday			
12.30 p.m.	The Gathering		Zoom
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



The Day of Ashes

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why “Ash” Wednesday? The reason has to do with the process of restoring our relationship with God and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

When the Israelites sinned and wished to put things right with God, their repentance involved a real sense of sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance process, they covered their heads with ashes. This was an outward sign of their heart-felt acknowledgement of sin. In Genesis Chapter 18 verse 27, Abraham accepts that he needs to speak to the Lord, “....I who am but dust and ashes.”

This practice was taken up by the very early Christian Church with believers having ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent as a sign of their penitence and mourning for the sins they had committed. This occasion became known as the “day of the ashes” and in time “Ash Wednesday.”



Whether we are holding services on a Sunday or not – which will be dependent on the lockdown situation – there will be Communion services in church on Ash Wednesday (February 17).

The beginning of Lent invites us to resist the pressure of the passing moment; to acknowledge those parts of our life which have become stale and to open ourselves again to the gift that Christ longs to bestow upon us – newness of life.

(photo by Ahna Ziegler on Unsplash)

This is all combined in the words of the Ash Wednesday collect, which we are encouraged to say daily during the whole season:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,

may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

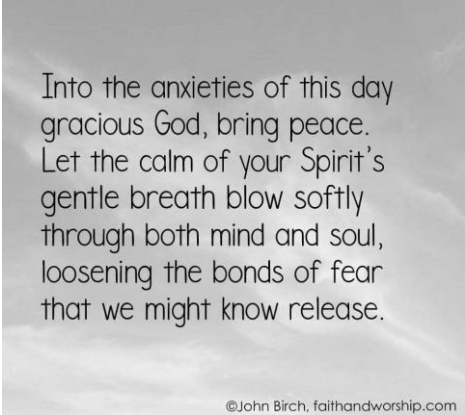
May God guide you and bless you during the season of Lent.

With best wishes,

Stay Safe,

Dave

** Cover photos courtesy of The Journey Production House **



Into the anxieties of this day
gracious God, bring peace.
Let the calm of your Spirit's
gentle breath blow softly
through both mind and soul,
loosening the bonds of fear
that we might know release.

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FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD AT THE CREMATORIUM:

Dec 7 David Rigby
Dec 15 Jessie Dewhurst

FUNERAL SERVICES IN CHURCH:

Dec 3 Michael Newell
Dec 10 Alan Roberts

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



Flowers in church

With services suspended there are no flowers in church but, as there are normally none during Lent, only one donation is affected. On February 7 flowers would have been placed in church in memory of Mr and Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme.

Freely, freely

Please share this free phone line with anyone who may find it helpful. It is especially beneficial for those who do not have access to the multitude of resources available on the internet.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

Nunc Dimittis

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32



On February 2 (or the Sunday nearest) we remember the fortieth day after Jesus was born, when Mary and Joseph took him to the Temple in Jerusalem to 'present him' before God. Luke 2:22-40 relates how, after Mary and Joseph had done all that was necessary under the Law of Moses, two faithful people, Simeon and Anna, gave testimony as to who this child really was. Simeon's words make 'light' a predominant theme for our worship at Candlemas.



BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 7	2nd before Lent Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31	Colossians 1: 15-20	John 1: 1-14
Feb 14	Next before Lent 2 Kings 2: 1-12	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9
Feb 21	1st of Lent Genesis 9: 8-17	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
Feb 28	2nd of Lent Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16	Romans 4: 13-25	Mark 8: 31-38
Mar 7	3rd of Lent Exodus 20: 1-17	1 Corinthians 1: 18-25	John 2: 13-22

ASH WEDNESDAY



Services to mark the beginning of Lent
as we remember the 40 days
Jesus spent in the wilderness
in preparation for his public ministry.
A day of penitence to cleanse the soul
at the beginning of this important season.

17 February

*Christ Church at 2.00 p.m.
St. John with St. Mark at 7.30 p.m.*

PLEASE NOTE:

*THESE SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE EVEN IF OUR SUNDAY SERVICES
HAVE BEEN PAUSED OWING TO THE LOCKDOWN*

From the Vicarage

* In the middle of January, mindful of the Government's "Stay at Home" advice, the Ministry Team and both Parochial Church Councils decided to pause public worship during the current lockdown period. The Government are due to review this in February and we hope to be able to resume services once the current restrictions are eased.

Whatever the lockdown situation is, however, we will be holding services on Ash Wednesday (see notice on page 7).

All our meetings remain suspended in person, with some continuing online. I want to record my thanks to Nigel, Barbara, Ian & Cath for their leading of our monthly online Sunday @ 7 services. This has become a highlight for so many people.

Hopefully, the roll out of the vaccine will mean that we can resume public worship and all other church activities as soon as it is deemed safe. I hope that unlike last year, we will have a full and active Holy Week & Easter celebration.

Please continue to pray for all involved in our health service at present and for all who are struggling with life in lockdown.

* It was good to be able to welcome Bishop David to St. John with St. Mark for our celebration of 250 years of St. John's Church in December. Our list of planned events was obviously seriously curtailed last year but the joint service was nevertheless a special event.

Many thanks to David Robinson and Margaret Duckworth for their work on staging the display of memorabilia and to all those who contributed items for it.

* Thanks to everyone who enabled our Christmas worship to go ahead. As always our churches were beautifully decorated and much work was put in by many people.

* 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 Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Ministers meet 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. We recently received this message from them:

As we enter 2021 let us hope the year will be that much better for all of us.

We thank you for your ongoing support, it is really appreciated.

There is a list of most needed items on page 23

We are also supporting the Attic Project – a local charitable foundation located in the heart of Bury, dedicated to helping those in need – and Caritas, based at St.Joseph's Presbytery on Peter Street.

Thanks to all who support this ministry.

* 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

* 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 join the flower arranging rota, please also get in touch also.

* 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

IN MEMORIAM: Jess Dewhirst

Jess Dewhirst was born in Middlesbrough and spent the first 75 years of her life in the Teeside area.

She worked at the Gas Department, where she met her husband Cliff. They married and brought up two children – Peter & Carol. Returning to work, Jess used her cooking skills on the school dinner service. She was also a Craft Assistant at Kirby College. She worshipped weekly at St.Barnabas Church, Linthorpe.

Following the death of her husband, she moved to Walmersley twenty years ago to live with Carol on Vicarage Close, just behind the Old Vicarage on Springside Road. She began to attend Christ Church and quickly became an active member, joining Mothers' Union and helping out at various social events.

Jess loved the outdoors especially walking in the Lake District. She enjoyed dances, music and going to the theatre or the cinema. In her youth she was a great swimmer.

Jess loved the company of other people. She was a regular at the Craft Group and at the Knit & Natter group that meets at St.John with St.Mark Church hall. She was keen to natter as well as to knit!

Two years ago, as ill health took its toll, Jess moved into Brookdale Nursing Home on Chesham Crescent where she passed away on Advent Sunday 2020.

Her funeral took place at Radcliffe Crematorium on Tuesday 15 December. Her niece Elizabeth – a retired clergywoman in the Diocese of Lichfield - took part in the service.

We give thanks to God for Jessie Dewhirst
and for her life of Christian witness.

May She Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.



Sunday @ Seven

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

February 28th at 7pm

*“Time for
a closer look”*

**Whether you are Zooming
or Rooming - however we
are able to meet.**

**From the comfort of your
own sofa with lap-top,
I-pad or hardcopy; make
yourself a tea/coffee
(may be cake/biscuits?)
and come and join us on a
Lenten reflection.**



Currently some fifty people come together with us, in one format or another, on the last Sunday of each month. If you would like to give it a go, or want to know more, please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks.

Celebration of 250 Years of a Parish

Despite our many events to mark the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of St. John's Parish in 2020 being cancelled, we did manage to salvage something of the occasion



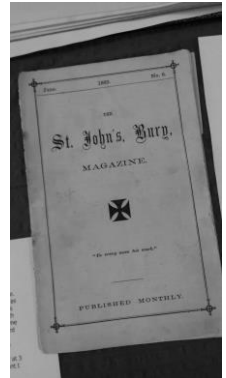
with a lovely service on Sunday 6th December. It was touch and go whether this service would actually take place as we had just ended the November lockdown a few days before, so this was quite appropriately our first service back in Church for over four weeks.



Bishop David had originally intended on joining us in June, but we were pleased to be able to welcome him to this rescheduled service, which was joint with Christ Church Walmersley. A good number of people came to the service, which was heartwarming to see, after such a tumultuous year.

The long planned display of memorabilia, which we had been collecting since late 2019, was finally put together. Thank you to Margaret Duckworth for her support with this and for coming up with the idea in the first place.

We understand the circumstances could have been better and we had to ensure social distancing and safety measures were in place, but we hope as many people as possible were able to see the display either on the day or the weeks after. The intention was for this to remain in place until late January, however in



light of the current lockdown and the Church building now closed, we will review this.

Thank you to everybody who contributed items for the display. I do have a list of what individuals gave me and I will endeavour to ensure that these are given back to the correct people at the appropriate opportunity.



Bishop David spent some time looking at the display before the service and was particularly drawn to the Whit Walks photos from 1968 and how they had a sense of community and mission about them. Also the pictures of various social events that had taken place down the years and how these had been greatly missed during 2020. Indeed, it was expected that we would



normally have participated in a buffet celebration after the service, but circumstances meant that could not happen this time.

Everybody who attended the service also received a free pen to mark the occasion and it was also lovely to welcome David Andrew back to the service for the first time since the services resumed in Summer.

On a footnote, it was also great to be in Church at Christmas time and the 40+ people who attended the Christmas Eve service at 7.30pm was proof that this Christmas was still a celebration. We had the organ playing for the first time since March and although we could not sing the Carols it was still welcoming to hear the music.



David Robinson

Quiet Moments in February

Candlemas *(2 February)*

Blessed are you Lord our God.

We give you thanks and praise for the creation of light that gives life to the world.

We rejoice in Christ our Lord who brings light to our darkness.

We praise you for the light of the Spirit, who inspires and guides us.

We give you thanks for the presentation of Christ in the Temple, for the vision of Simeon,

for the faith of Anna,

for the steadfastness of Joseph,

and for the courage of Mary,

as she was told she would suffer with her Son.

Above all, we thank you that in Christ we triumph over darkness and death.

Blessed are you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen



Welcoming the Light, David Adam

"the greatest of these is love" *(St Valentine, 14 February)*

Heavenly Father, thank you for the wonderful gift of love you have given to mankind and each of us. Thank you for blessing us every day with your love. Without your love for us we couldn't be who we are. We need your love every day. It is like food for our souls.

Please continue to let us feel your love in our lives. Lord, we give ourselves over to you to perfect in us this gift of love. We want to share it with others. Lord, please teach us to love and make our hearts like yours. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

prayray.com

Blessing the Dust – A Blessing for Ash Wednesday (17 February)

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt,
as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind
and be scattered to the four corners

or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial –
did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked
by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing
that lives within the ancient ashes,
that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow.

And let us be marked not for shame.

Let us be marked not for false humility
or for thinking we are less than we are

but for claiming what God can do

within the dust, within the dirt,

within the stuff of which the world is made

and the stars that blaze in our bones

and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.



Jan Richardson from Circle of Grace

We have a choice

Fairtrade Fortnight begins 22 February

God of all, you know the desperation of living with hunger.

You have felt the pain of living with thirst.

You see the devastation of people dying.

Come among us, powerful God,

bring change within us. Amen

Rachel Halsall, Mothers' Union

After I had written for December's magazine there was a request from our diocesan president, Christine. Owing to the pandemic, Mothers' Union in Manchester had been unable to support the usual activities associated with families at Christmas, and she asked if anyone was aware of any project which could be supported from our Just Up Your Street fund.

We contacted the Attic Project and they had just received a request from Burrswood Care Home. As a result we went and purchased 101 small Christmas gifts, 76 for ladies and 25 for gentlemen, and joined organisers when Santa made a visit to deliver these and some treats - showing the residents that they had not been forgotten. See the back page for some photos, and we thank all who have contributed to the JUYS fund and therefore indirectly made a small difference to the lives of 101 elderly residents here in our community.

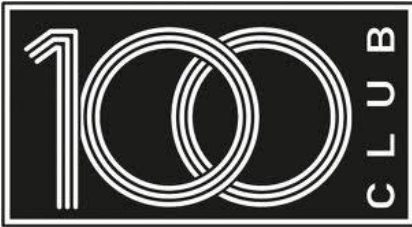
If you have access to the internet there is a lot of material being produced, not just centrally but by many dioceses. Blackburn MU produced a lovely service (to be found on YouTube) for Epiphany, with Bishop Philip an inspirational speaker.

Also on YouTube you will find Manchester's monthly Thursday Prayers at noon each second Thursday. If you use Facebook why not follow the midday prayers streamed Monday to Saturday by staff and members. Midday prayers can also be heard on the Daily Hope free phone line (options 4, then 8).

We look forward to when we can meet again, praying for all affected by the current pandemic.

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader

St. John with St. Mark 100 Club



Back in March 2020 we decided to suspend the 100 Club when we were unable to meet together as a Church.

At the end of the year we thought it best to catch-up and draw the 'missing' 6 months worth of numbers retrospectively to cover to the renewal date in September.

Therefore on 20 December a draw took place and the following winners had their numbers drawn out:

MARCH '20 ~ 1st – Eileen Smith & 2nd – David Robinson

APRIL '20 ~ 1st – Stuart Ashworth & 2nd – Ray Smith

MAY '20 ~ 1st – Betty Roe & 2nd – Roy Nuttall

JUNE '20 ~ 1st – Audrey Sadler & 2nd – Archie Wardle

JULY '20 ~ 1st – Joan Robinson & 2nd – Joan Birch

AUGUST '20 ~ 1st – Phyllis Holt & 2nd – Val Dawson

The winners received a cash donation, £15.00 for first prize and £10.00 for second prize. Congratulations to all who won and thank you to everyone who participated in the 100 Club during the last 12 months.

Choose the world you want

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2021

February 22 – March 7



Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual promotional campaign, organised and funded by the Fairtrade Foundation to increase awareness of Fairtrade products.

This year, the Fairtrade Foundation is hosting a virtual online festival bringing together schools, universities, businesses, supporters, campaigners and farmers from across the world to choose the world they want this Fairtrade Fortnight. There will also be opportunities for teachers to attend a range of virtual CPD sessions. More details online.

FROM THE FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT WEBSITE:

*"The climate crisis is happening now.
For Fairtrade producers, this is one of their biggest challenges. Low prices for their crops mean that they are struggling to fight back. Fairtrade gives them higher incomes so they can meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges of climate change."*

Fairtrade goods are available in all supermarkets and various other shops. The list of fairly traded goods include items such as bananas, honey, coffee, cocoa, oranges, cotton, dried and fresh fruit and vegetables, juices, nuts and oil seeds, rice, spices, sugar, tea and wine.

Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love.

**PLEASE HELP PROMOTE FAIRTRADE
BY PURCHASING FAIRTRADE GOODS AND
FINDING OUT ABOUT FAIRTRADE ISSUES.**

The Egg that shares the Easter story

The Real Easter Egg was first launched eleven years ago. Since that date more than one million items have been sold with over £300,000 being raised for charitable causes.

FROM THE REAL EASTER EGG WEBSITE:

“The 2021 Original Real Easter Egg includes a new 24 page Easter story activity book with a £200 prize competition. It features a rainbow design to remind us of the importance of working together, in amazing and inspiring ways, for the common good.

There is also a super thick Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa – Palm Oil & plastic free. (*Don't miss the plain and white chocolate options too*)

This year the free 24 page Easter story-activity book has had a whole new design. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities.

Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The book contains a prize competition worth £200.”

The Real Easter Egg is available in two ways:

- * by buying directly from The Meaningful Chocolate Company
- * from independent retailers, such as Traidcraft, Eden co.uk, Redemptorist Publications, Embrace the Middle East, Christian bookshops and various cathedrals.

NOTE: supermarkets are severely restricting stocks of Easter eggs this year with far fewer brands on the shelves so if you usually buy yours with your weekly shop please look at these alternatives.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company is based in Lymm, Cheshire. They produce the Fairtrade Easter Egg and the real Advent Calendar.

PLEASE SUPPORT THEM

Millennium Hanging



Following our request in December's magazine, we thank those who have responded with their stories. We now have a copy of the booklet circulated at the time, with insights into the reasons behind the various panels.

This we hope can once again be available in church for anyone wishing to read it and from time to time, when space permits, maybe some can be shared in this magazine.

Hazel and Barbara

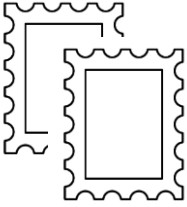
The Millennium Hanging

The idea of making a wall-hanging came to me when I was attending a family wedding in Nantwich Parish Church, a lovely red sandstone building known as the Cathedral of South Cheshire. My intention was not to make one as big as the one in that Church, as it covers almost the whole of the West wall, but to be made on a similar basis.

I was very pleased when over 20 people attended the inaugural meeting and many said they would 'do a piece'. The number has steadily grown and I am glad that there are so many diverse subjects to complete the whole picture.

Betty Winterbottom

The individual pieces in the hanging have been chosen by the contributors and each person has written their own description of the piece and reasons for their choice. The final hanging was assembled and the names of the contributors embroidered by Betty Winterbottom.



Little Voice

Our continued 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 have been kindly placed in the tin at the back of church, they are sent off to the organiser and chief sorter.

Little Voice aids and provides a home for street children in Ethiopia, by selling stamps to collectors.

Please keep collecting and removing any stamps from your post (leaving about 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 even old stamp albums.

Many thanks again,

David Peters

JIGSAWS FOR SALE



Thank you to everybody who has purchased jigsaws from me over the last few months. A good amount of money has been raised for Church funds.

I will be continuing to sell them from the safe and secure garage where they are stored, however any money will now be given to the Alzheimers Society until such a time as we can resume Church Fairs.

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)

February

- Sun 7 **2nd before Lent**
- Sun 14 **Next before Lent**
- Wed 17 **Ash Wednesday**
 2.00pm Holy Communion (CC)
 7.30pm Holy Communion (SJM)
- Sun 21 **1st of Lent**
- Sun 28 **2nd of Lent**
 7.00pm Sunday @ Seven (Zoom)

Check the weekly bulletins. social media and websites for updates.

Our Winter Wishlist

Items that we currently need for our food parcels

- Beans and sausage
- Ravioli
- Hot dogs
- Tinned spaghetti
- Meatballs
- Rice
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned custard
- Tins of meat
- Tins of tuna
- Pasta & sauce packets
- Tea bags (packs of 40)
- Rice Pudding
- UHT Milk Semi skimmed
- Packets of instant noodles
- Tins corn
- Packets of savoury rice
- Biscuits
- Tinned Meals (Spag Bol, Stew etc)



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

