

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

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



April 2021

50p



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

REGULAR SERVICES

COVID-19: Please be aware of current restrictions as you read this edition.
Both churches have secure protocols in place.

Sunday			
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	All	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5th	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Currently by Zoom, otherwise venue tba
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
<p>Other services as announced.</p> <p>Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>Morning Prayer is said each day at 9.30 a.m.</p> <p>Evening Prayer is said each day at 5.00 p.m.</p>			

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.



Both churches have Fairtrade status

Dear Friends

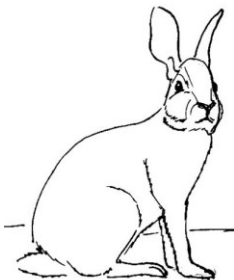
Easter is without doubt the most important season in the Church year and Easter Sunday is the most special day of the year. The resurrection of Jesus Christ - the Son of God – changed the world in an unprecedented way. The timing and traditions of Easter are interesting to note.

The timing of Easter is linked to the Passover festival which celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. This feast lasts for 7 days from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. According to Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), who used the Hebrew lunar calendar for his research, the resurrection is likely to have occurred on Sunday 5 April 33AD. Modern scholars continue to believe that this date could be accurate.

Yet our dates for the celebration of Easter vary according to the moon.

Officially, Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring equinox. But the precise calculations are very complicated and involve something called an “ecclesiastical full moon” which is not the same as the moon in the sky.

The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and will not happen again until 2285. The latest is 25 April which happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.



The name “Easter” comes from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in “Eostur-Monath”. Eostre’s sacred animal was a hare – hence the link with the Easter bunny!

Easter eggs are also a symbol of fertility and rebirth. They can portray the empty tomb of Jesus. Alternatively, since eggs were historically forbidden in Lent, we can easily see how decorating and eating them became a practical way of celebrating the season – particularly when coated in chocolate!

Whatever the meanings or traditions associated with Easter, the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Our greeting of “Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia” is a time-honoured proclamation of this wonderful truth.

May the risen Christ lead and guide you as we seek to follow him in our lives.

With every blessing,

Dave

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The deadline for APCMs is 31 May – however we are awaiting guidance from the Diocese on the logistical challenges.

**Please check our weekly sheets,
websites and social media for announcements**

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

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

THIS YEAR’S ARCHDEACONS’ VISITATIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE. Exact dates are as yet unknown.

Although events were extremely curtailed in 2020, if you run a group that did meet, or has anything to report, please could you submit to the relevant secretaries well in advance of the meetings. (11 April for St. John with St. Mark. At Christ Church there are no plans to produce the usual booklet of reports.)

BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

Apr 4	Easter Day Isaiah 25: 6-9	Acts 10: 34-43	Mark 16: 1-8
Apr 11	2nd of Easter Acts 4: 32-35	1 John 1: 1-2:2	John 20: 19-31
Apr 18	3rd of Easter Acts 3: 12-19	1 John 3: 1-7	Luke 24: 36b-48
Apr 25	4th of Easter Acts 4: 5-12	1 John 3: 16-24	John 10: 11-18
May 2	5th of Easter Acts 8: 26-40	1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 1-8



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

Apr 4	The Congregation
Apr 11	In memory of Sarah Melling and Jack Illsley
Apr 18	Mr & Mrs A Spencer
Apr 25	Vacant

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 get in touch also.

From the Vicarage

* It has been good to be back in church following the reopening of both buildings on Mothering Sunday. Thanks to all for your patience during the frustrating two months when public worship was paused. I appreciate that for various reasons some people are still not able to be present in church and that is understandable. This year we will be able to hold our Holy Week & Easter services, unlike in 2020.

We will continue to be aware of the need to be Covid secure and mindful of any future government advice. As the lockdown rules are eased in accordance with the roadmap, I hope we can arrange more social activities – as well as being able to sing in church!

The monthly Sunday @ 7 services will continue online as did the Lent Groups. Thanks to Ian Banks for being the host for Zoom purposes.

* The Parish Office is open every Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall. This can be for enquiries about baptisms or weddings or any other matter.

* DailyHope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone. This is especially beneficial for those who do not have access to the variety of worship resources available on the internet. The number is 0800 804 8044.

* Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer is said on a daily basis. The short service of Evening Prayer is usually held in St.John with St.Mark's at 5.00pm from Monday to Thursday. Anyone is welcome to join me.

* From Easter Sunday we will be restarting the 9.00am Holy Communion Service at Christ Church. The liturgy used will be from the Book of Common Prayer.

*An Easter Eve service for the Bury Deanery is being held at Bury Parish Church on Saturday 3 April, beginning at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

*The new Deanery structure will come into operation in June and the full time Area Deans have now been appointed. The Revd. Canon Dr Rachel Mann, currently Area Dean of Withington and Vicar of St Nicholas Burnage, has been appointed to the post in Bury & Rossendale. Please pray for Rachel as she prepares to move to this area. Our present Area Dean, The Revd. Simon Cook has been appointed to the full time position in Bolton.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our 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.

* 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

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD AT THE CREMATORIUM:

March 2	Harry Porter
March 4	Marjory Chester

FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

March 15	Beatrice Frost
----------	----------------

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

Call to Worship for Easter Morning

For those who first went out
into the early dawn, when the sky was grey,
taking spices to the tomb,
there was terror, and surprise.

For us, resisting the impulse to sleep in
as part of a long weekend,
and being over-familiar with the Easter story,
there is the risk of complacency.

So let us open ourselves
to the astounding possibility
that life can break out
at any moment!

Let us challenge the thought
that we have planned the future
so efficiently that
there will be no surprises!

Let us face the fact
that the walls of this church,
and the life of our institution
cannot entirely contain Jesus Christ!

Let us celebrate
the irrepressible power of God
breaking out with life
where we least expect it!

Ann Siddall, <http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/>

EASTER ACROSTIC

An acrostic is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word or message.

E Early
A After
S Sunrise
T Tomb
E Empty
R Risen



*Can you create another acrostic
that we can use in a future magazine issue?
(Ed: maybe for Ascension or Pentecost?)
"The Empty Tomb" artwork is by Margery Spencer)*

ASCENSION DAY

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

**Thursday 13 May
at 7.30pm**

Services at both
St. John with St. Mark & Christ Church

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

A Prayer of Commitment on Easter Morning

Living God,
long ago, faithful women
proclaimed the good news
of Jesus' resurrection,
and the world was changed forever.

Teach us to keep faith with them,
that our witness may be as bold,
our love as deep,
and our faith as true.
Amen

Written by Kris, <http://revgalblogpals.org/>

"You are witnesses"
(inspired by Luke 24:45-48)

We are witnesses,
to the love God has poured into us.
We are witnesses of God's love,
sharing it with each person we meet.
We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,
little children like us,
sisters and brothers in God's family.
Amen

Thom Shuman <https://www.liturgylink.net/>



A Prayer for St George's Day (April 23)

Almighty God,
We have been taught by the legend of St George
to fight against dragons and to rescue the helpless.
Deliver us, by the truth of the gospel,
from that great dragon who leads the whole world astray.
Free us from our slavery to sin and death
And grant that your light may dawn again on this nation of England.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

John Richardson

The Good Shepherd

(inspired by Psalm 23, John 10)

Loving Shepherd,
you know our names;
you care for us.
When we face darkness and death,
walk beside us.
When we hunger for your love,
fill us with your presence.
When we are fearful,
feed us at your table.
May we dwell in the house
of goodness and mercy
all the days of our lives.
Amen.



Mary Petrina Boyd, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021

9-15 May

Christian Aid Week is seven days of fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty.

Christian Aid is a charity which works with 700 local organisations around 50 countries in the world. It helps poor communities and enables them to deal with hardships, from climate change and the possible threat of natural disasters. Alongside this, Christian Aid also helps with the education, sanitation, health and reconciliation of certain communities.

During the week, supporters are asked to give their time, money and voices to help bring lasting change to some of the world's poorest communities.

The money raised helps fund Christian Aid's vital work to transform the lives of people around the world.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN AID WEBSITE: *Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we STOP this climate crisis. Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought. Together we STOP this climate crisis.*

We are planning to hold a Christian Aid fundraising event after the summer when hopefully restrictions will have been lifted. Further details in later issues of this magazine.



Sunday @ Seven

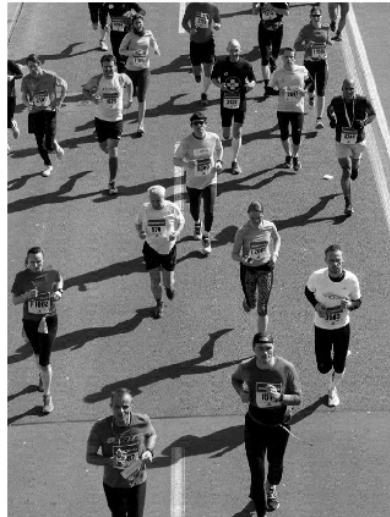


We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer)

April 25th at 7pm

Running the race

Whether you are Zooming or Rooming - however we are able to meet. From the comfort of your own sofa with a lap-top, Ipad or hardcopy service sheet; make or pour yourself a relaxing drink and come and join us as we look at how to keep up the pace in God's marathon.



We come together , 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.



We shall be continuing to open the porch doors at Christ Church on Monday mornings (10-11am) to accept donations of foodstuffs until the end of April. Hopefully, from then onward our service times will have returned to their normal rhythm and donations can be left in church as before.

A big thank you to you all for your continuing support.

Barbara & Nigel Silvester



16 March 2021

FACEBOOK FLASH

Thank you to all our supporters whose donations have helped local people

– **7,642** boxes over the past year



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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.

Churches Together in Bury

This group meets every two months, with a prayer group which meets fortnightly. Currently, all meetings are on Zoom. The group represents most of the Christian Churches in Bury and meetings are open to all. Sadly, at present the United Benefice is somewhat under-represented so if you would like to know more please have a word with me.



At our recent meeting we launched our new Facebook page – please have a look and 'like' it. The more likes it has the easier it will be for people to find. The aim is not to use it to 'preach' but to share news of events in our churches

which will be of interest to others. If you are organizing such an event, do please send a post.

We had a speaker from the Kitchen Table project which aims to share ideas to inspire faith in our children. 50% of children from Christian homes keep their faith as adults. I have only had a quick look but the resources available on the website seem to be well worth investigating kitchentable.org.uk or visit their Facebook page.



Also raised as a potential project with which we could be involved was Two's Company. This is a telephone befriending programme being run by churches across the UK. "Loneliness is a killer" and keeping in touch regularly can be so important. Two's Company can be set up quickly, easily and safely and each project requires a coordinator, freephone telephone number, and volunteers.



Training is provided by video conference call to coordinators, and then cascaded to volunteers on a local level.

We shall discuss this further at our next meeting which is at 7.30 pm on May 18 via Zoom. Please ask me for a link if you would like to test the waters (so easy to do while online).

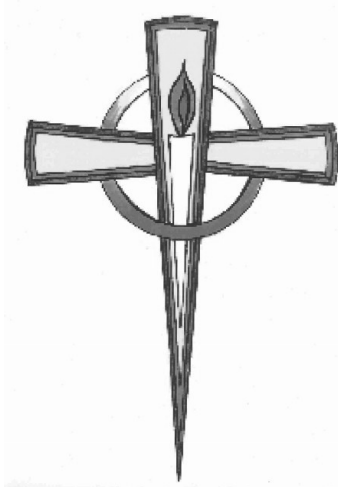
Barbara Taylor

Millennium hanging

This month seems an apt one in which to focus on the cross which appears at the top of the hanging. The design by Hazel Bamford was originally for the new festal altar frontal and Easter is of course one of the occasions that is used.

The panel on the hanging is a painting on silk, by Hazel.

This cross over the years has become something of a logo for Christ Church, used on letterhead and similar items. It is well worth reading again Hazel's description from 1988 of her design, looking at its symbolism, which reflects the basis of our belief and purpose.



The church is symbolised by the cross which broadens from the base - the church growing.

The parish is symbolised by the continuous circle - the church surrounded by its parish, the church growing in the life of the community.

The candle symbolises the church as the life and guiding light of the community.

Colours range from old gold to bright pure gold on an ivory background. The candle is in ivory and the flame in red and orange to symbolise the richness of life.

Editor: Are there any particular panels for which you would like to know the story behind? If so, please let us know so we can include them in a future edition.

Alleluia!

There have been a number of discussions recently, across the country and in the Diocese, of the ways in which we begin to meet again after over a year apart. Do please let any member of the committee know how you feel we should resume meetings and any suggestions for the content.

We have been well served during this past year by the staff at Mary Sumner House and by our own team here in Manchester, and my thanks to Tricia who has ensured that those with E-Mail receive any information sent out. If you do have access to E-Mail (maybe via a family member or friend who would be willing to print things for you) please let Tricia know the address.

Don't miss **Thursday Prayers**, available on YouTube from noon on 7 April. Not surprisingly, this month the theme is the Joy of Easter. If you are unable to watch but would like the sheet which accompanies this short service please let me know.

The **Wave of Prayer** focuses on Manchester and its links, from April 23-25. We won't be able to hold our usual service but I understand there are plans for a diocesan YouTube service for us. We will share the link as soon as it is available.

Spring Council will be held on Saturday 24 April via Zoom. Please ask for details if you would like to join this most informative and enjoyable day. Remember too that you can join a Zoom meeting by telephone if you do not have internet access.

There are several visiting speakers planned which are sure to be of interest. Here too we shall learn of a couple of new initiatives – one for each and every one of us, the other mainly for those who enjoy sewing or knitting.

Wishing you joy and hope this Easter

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader

FOR YOUR DIARY

April

See back page for Easter Services

Sun 11

Second of Easter

9.00 am Holy Communion BCP (CC)

10.30 am Service of the Word (CC)
Parish Communion (SJM)

Sun 18

Third of Easter

9.00 am Holy Communion BCP (CC)

10.30 am Parish Communion (in both churches)

Sun 25

Fourth of Easter

9.00 am Holy Communion BCP (CC)

10.30 am Morning Prayer (CC)
Parish Communion (SJM)

7.00 pm Sunday @ Seven (Zoom)

Please note that there is no 2pm service of Holy Communion at Christ Church on Maundy Thursday.

JOINT SERVICE

on 5th Sunday of each month

Next joint service will be on 30 May

TRINITY SUNDAY

at 10.30am

AT CHRIST CHURCH

Personal details have been removed in our online edition for data protection purposes.

Please contact us through our websites or social media accounts and we will ensure your message reaches the correct person.

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

Lots more info on our websites: 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

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday 28 March

10.30am **Worship Services with distribution of palms**

Monday 29 March

7.00pm **Holy Communion (JMB)**

Tuesday 30 March

7.00pm **Holy Communion (JMB)**

Wednesday 31 March

10.00am **Holy Communion (JMB)**

Maundy Thursday 1 April

7.30pm **Parish Communion (both churches)**

Good Friday 2 April

9.00am **Morning Service (CCW)**

2.00pm **Last Hour at the Cross (JMB)**

Saturday 3 April

7.30pm **Easter Eve Service for all (Bury Parish Church)**

Easter Day 4 April

9.00 am **Holy Communion BCP (CC)**

10.30 AM **Parish Communion (both churches)**

