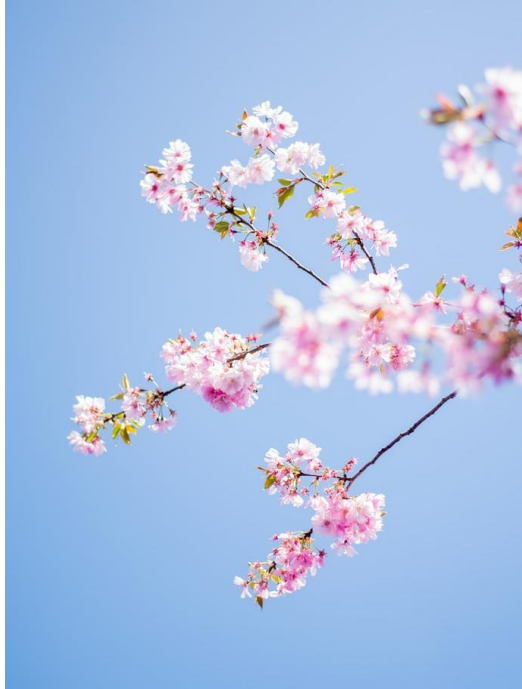


**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury**

**The Church of England on Walmersley Road**



**May 2022**

**50p**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD**

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY

# BRASS BAND CONCERT

by Whitworth Vale & Healey Brass Band

in the Church

MAY 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 7.30pm

**Tickets: £8** (incl. refreshments)

Available in Church,  
from **Impressions Hair Design**  
(Walmersley Old Road)  
or online using the QR code

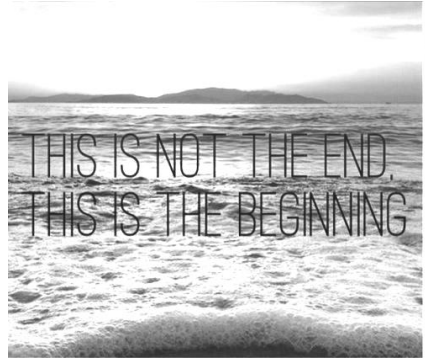


## ***AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DAVID***

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All four gospels conclude fairly quickly after Easter. It's a natural place to stop for books whose primary purpose is to tell the story of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus. And yet an unintended consequence of finishing where they do is to give the impression that Easter is somehow a conclusion - a joyful note on which to end the fast of Lent; a happy ending tacked on to the tragedy of Holy Week.

Yet Easter is much less an ending than a beginning. It's the dawn of a world in which death has been defeated; the start of an era where love is proven stronger than the worst that evil can do; the issuing of an invitation, to people of all races and cultures, to live lives transformed by knowing that Jesus lives.



In the northern hemisphere, we celebrate Easter at the very time of year when new leaves and fresh blossom are covering so many trees, when flowers are once more abundant in parks and gardens, when countless newborn creatures are first opening their eyes to their surroundings.

The cycle of the year in itself should help spur us on to discover new ways to be a transforming Christian presence, both as individuals and churches, in our communities. This year particularly, we can congregate and meet in far less limited circumstances than in either of the two previous Easters.

So, let us make the most of this joyful season, not as an end to what is past, but as the beginning of what is yet to come.

Happy Easter!

+David

*The cover image is by Ollie Hoolachan on Unsplash*

## ***How do we get him out again?***

---

I didn't go to a church school and the only time that I, or any of my friends, wished we did was on Ascension Day. Church school pupils got the day off - and we didn't! I think that's gone by the wayside now and we don't seem to celebrate it much here in the UK. In some countries it's still a public holiday though. Odd, isn't it, that we make such a fuss about the arrival of Jesus but barely a murmur about his departure?

"So, we got Jesus in there. How do we get him back out again?" It must have been a dilemma for God and his angelic extraction team as they figured out how to reunite Father and Son.

Elijah had an Uber chariot to get him away, though he lost his favourite cloak in the process and the driver swore he couldn't find it. Maybe Elijah had gone through the app with Jesus during the transfiguration?

Perhaps Shakespeare had the right idea in 'A Winter's Tale'. One of the characters says: "I am gone for ever" - followed by that famous stage direction of: 'Exit, pursued by a bear'. I suspect the Acts of the Apostles would have been read much more widely if Luke had included that in his text.

Maybe Jesus should ride off into the sunset, like at the end of a Saturday matinee. Though it would need to be on a donkey rather than on a horse called Champion or Silver.

Perhaps those of a similar age to me envisage Jesus being beamed up, like in Star Trek? After all, the T in James T Kirk stood for Tiberius, the Emperor of Rome at the time of the ministry and execution of Jesus. So, there's a certain pleasing symmetry to that idea.

And down the ages, artists have got creative in conveying the departure of Jesus. But many of those paintings use as much, if not more, canvas and paint on the disciples as they do on Jesus. Because the ascension is as much about them and us as it is about him.

Some think of him going up in a rather splendid holy lift. For others it's more of a Mary Poppins moment or invisible wires taking him up like Peter Pan at the theatre.

Do the apostles just get to see the soles of his feet? Do those feet still show signs of being pierced? Or in the forty days have they healed?

I particularly love some of the medieval pictures where the bottom half of Jesus seems to be dangling from the base of a cloud – but instead of leaving his cloak he leaves his footprints. He’s gone - but the signs of his having been here are still imprinted in the earth.

Of course, Jesus had to leave. The apostles still didn’t get it. If Jesus was the Messiah, they thought part of the job description was to liberate the people from oppression. If he’d stayed, they would have just followed him round, expectant that every action would bring down the Roman Empire - to bring in a new world order; to introduce that new Kingdom that he kept talking about.

And Jesus’ response is that: “it’s not for you to know the time when this will happen. But my going means that you will get power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Power to do all that I can do. So, it’ll be for you, not me, to bring in the new Kingdom.”

Because Jesus didn’t come to be the centre of attention. He came to transform us through love. To heal us and redeem us. To make us look out and not in.

In the Ascension story in Acts 1, two men suddenly appear asking the apostles: “What are you doing staring up there?” It’s rather like the line in *To Kill a Mockingbird*: “There are just some kind of people who’re so busy worrying about the next world that they’ve never learned to live in this one”.

Ascension is a strange time. We mention it in the creed most weeks. But, unlike Christmas and Easter, there’s no bank holiday here. No cards or presents exchanged. But it’s that vital part in the church year when we’re told by God to get on with it. “I’ll give you the tools and I’ll give you the back-up. Now go and bring the Kingdom of God to this place.”

Because that’s what we were put here to do, that’s what we’ve been empowered to do.

And that may mean feeding the hungry or clothing those who need it. It may mean fighting for justice and equality. Or it may just mean looking at each other rather than up to the sky. Getting to know and care for each other. As it says in Hosea: “What I want is love, not sacrifice.”

Ian

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

**St.John with St.Mark:** Sunday 1 May 12 noon  
**Christ Church :** Monday 16 May 7.30 pm

### **COME ALONG & INFLUENCE THE WAY YOUR CHURCH OPERATES**

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*

**ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION**  
**Wednesday 8 June**  
**7.30pm**  
**All Saints, Stand**

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## **CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICES**



St.John with St.Mark  
10.30am  
**15 May 2022**  
**18 September 2022**

Christ Church  
10.30am  
**22 May 2022**  
**25 September 2022**

*All café church services are held in the church halls*



Christian Aid Week falls this year on May 15-21. It is an annual event which involves fundraising, prayer and action against global poverty.

This year Churches Together in Bury is holding collections in the town centre on Saturday, 21 May with displays, refreshments and a quiet space at Bury United Reformed Church on Parsons Lane. Please support them if you are able.

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## **ASCENSION DAY**

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

### **Thursday 26 May**

7.30pm

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

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

*(We'll be thinking more about the Ascension at the Open Group on May 11<sup>th</sup> – it would be great if you could join us.)*

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## **Flowers in church**

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).



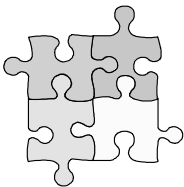
## **BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY**

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May 1	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter</b> Acts 9: 1-20	Revelation 5:11-end	John 21: 1-19
May 8	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b> Acts 9: 36-43	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10: 22-30
May 15	<b>5<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b> Acts 11: 1-18	Revelation 21: 1-6	John 13: 31-35
May 22	<b>6<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b> Acts 16: 9-15	Revelation 21: 10, 22-22:5	John 14: 23-29
May 29	<b>7<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b> Acts 16: 16-34	Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17: 20-26
Jun 5	<b>Pentecost</b> Acts 2: 1-21	Romans 8:14-17	John 14: 8-17

## ***Jigsaws***

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Do you have any completed jigsaw puzzles?

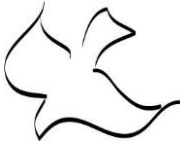
Joan Pearson is aiming to collect as many as possible for sale at future fairs at St. John with St. Mark. They do not have to be brand new; second hand ones are

fine, as long as complete.

If you can help, please contact Joan or drop off at Church.

Thank You





**BAPTISMS**

Apr 3            Poppy Margaret Sellers

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

**CHURCH FUNERAL SERVICE**

Apr 6            Joan Birch

**INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE CHURCHYARD**

Apr 9            David Butterworth

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

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**Sunday @ Seven**

informal worship (song/reflection/prayer)

May 29<sup>th</sup> at Christ Church Hall

**Pentecost Praise**



In person or via Zoom

If you want to know more, please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks.

## *In Memoriam: JOAN BIRCH*

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Joan was born at Bury General Hospital. The eldest of three children, with a brother and sister who both passed away before her. They lived in the Prettywood area of Heywood and then Heap Bridge. Joan lived in that area until a move to Eldon Street, Chesham over 40 years ago when she began to attend St.Mark and then St.John with St.Mark Church. Her two sons continue to live in Heap Bridge & Heywood.

Joan trained as a dressmaker and a seamstress and for a number of years had stalls on the markets at Bury, Heywood, Rawtenstall and Harpurhey. Those skills lasted throughout her life as she continued to sew and make clothes for the family and others. She was an expert knitter and crocheter. Just before going into hospital three weeks before she died, she completed a blanket that was sent to Ukraine.

Despite being quite a private person Joan had a hidden ministry – of devout faithfulness to her Heavenly Father. If there was a church event, Joan would be there. If a job in church needed doing – Joan would consider it. She has washed the linen; cleaned the church; played the keyboard for services; had a stall at the Church Fairs and joined in the Communion services at Burrswood House amongst many other church commitments.

Joan was so thorough that when she knew she wouldn't be around for much longer, arrangements were made for other people to take over these tasks.

Joan's clear and simple faith meant that she knew that God loved her and she trusted in Him for all things. Even when informed of the diagnosis of terminal illness, her faith stood strong.

Joan died at North Manchester General Hospital on 24 March 2022. At her funeral service in St.John with St.Mark Church many members of her family and the church community gathered to celebrate her life.

The Vicar quoted the words of his predecessor Ian Stamp who had told him, "The church needs a lot more people like Joan".

We give thanks to God for Joan Birch  
and her life of Christian witness and service.  
May She Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

### **St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 29th March 2022**

- Safeguarding - All helpers for the Pantomime were DBS checked.
- Fit and Proper Person declarations. - all received for current PCC.
- Pantomime - was well received. This had been delayed from January due to Covid amongst the cast. Debbie appreciated all the help given. She will do a debrief with the team and start planning for next year.
- Ukraine - There was a collection for Ukraine taken after each of the Panto performances and the total given was matched anonymously by a member of our congregation. Total given £1000.
- Our Hall - the Vicar pointed out that on 12th March it had been 50 years since it was first dedicated for use.
- Faculty for removing pews at back of church - is continuing its various stages on-line.
- Parish Share - we have received a thank you from the Area Dean, the Deanery Treasurer and Budget Secretary for paying our 2021 Parish Share in full. For 2022 the Diocese have asked us for 2% more than last year but based this on 2019 attendance. The draft APCM report was received from June and Ian. This summarises our main activities last year and this year and links them to the accounts where applicable. It was accepted for inclusion at the APCM which will meet on Sunday 1st May.
- Utility Bills - are already rising. The bill for the church gas alone was £530 for March. Please use heat and light sparingly and turn them both off if you are the last to leave church or hall.
- Planned Giving - so far this year we are averaging £100 less a week than we were last year due to the passing of some of our givers or people going into care. If you're not already in the planned giving scheme, then please join and help to maintain our ministry and mission.
- Mission Community - is up and running with Julian Heaton as its leader. A focal leader for our Parish will need appointing in due course. The Vicar reported that the Community had already proved useful in helping to fill a slot at one of our Eucharistic services.
- Magazine - Bury Council had decided not to continue with its printing services so we have looked for a new printer. Thanks expressed to Christine, who has done it for us for so many years.

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## From the Vicarage

- \* Thanks as always to those who decorated both churches so beautifully for our Easter Day celebrations. After the starkness of the Lenten season – and especially the emptiness of Good Friday – it is always a joy to step inside church to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter morning.
- \* Thanks also to the Working Party who meet regularly at Christ Church on a Thursday morning and do any number of tasks in the churchyard. Particular appreciation for the work on the lychgate. Take a closer look if you haven't noticed the changes in recent weeks.
- \* The conflict in Ukraine continues to dominate our thoughts and at the time of writing there seems to be no improvement in the situation there. The Church of England website regularly updates a series of prayers and details of other means of support. There is a toolkit to find ways to pray, give and act at <http://cofe.io/UkraineCrisis>. The Polish Centre in Bury continue to provide humanitarian and medical help on regular visits to Eastern Europe. They can be contacted at their headquarters on Back East Street, BL9 0RU and on 0161 764 5939.
- \* It was announced last month that the Revd. Elizabeth Binns has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of All Saints' Stand. The date of her induction has yet to be arranged. Details will be announced on the weekly Bulletins / News Sheets. Elizabeth will continue to minister at our midweek Communion services in the Benefice.
- \* Christ Church now has the facility for contactless payments. The card reading machine is situated at the back of church. If you wish to use this, please contact one of the church officers at Christ Church.
- \* We are still awaiting the decision of Bury Council's Planning Department following the signing of the contract between Christ Church PCC and Morris Homes to build houses on the church field.

Comments have been requested from members of the public and the outcome will be announced as soon as a decision is made.

\* Churches Together in Bury represent most of the Christian Churches in the town. The group meets every two months, with a prayer group which meets fortnightly. They have now begun to meet in person again. Anyone is able to attend these meetings. Details are in the Bulletin / News Sheet in the relevant weeks.

\* The Men of the Benefice (MOB) meet on the last Monday of each month. We gather at the Towler Inn from 8pm.

\* 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.

\* 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. Thanks to those who support those in need.

\*The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister 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.

\* 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 get in touch also.

\* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)

**Easter tide**

The victory of Christ heralds the end  
of all that holds us from God –  
the end of despair, the end of sin,  
the end of separation.

The triumph of Christ heralds the start  
of all that draws us to God –  
the start of hope, the start of goodness,  
the start of relationship.

Hallelujah, Lord Jesus.  
Your victory resounds throughout eternity,  
proclaiming to all, "It is finished!"

The door is flung wide,  
the way is revealed,  
and we go forth to meet our God.                      Amen.

*Praying in every season © Mothers' Union*

**Marriage Week** 10-16 May

Love means to love that which is unlovable,  
or it is no virtue at all;  
forgiving means to pardon the unpardonable,  
or it is no virtue at all;  
faith means believing the unbelievable,  
or it is no virtue at all.  
And to hope means hoping when things are hopeless.  
or it is no virtue at all.

*G.K.Chesterton*

Lord help us to love, to pardon, to believe and hope.



In **Christian Aid** Week, taken from a prayer written by Bishop Geoff Davies, South Africa's "Green Bishop":

Father, we mourn our separation from you, each other, ourselves and all creation. We pray that our words, our pilgrimage and our actions may be a witness to world leaders, encouraging and inspiring them to make radical commitments. Commitments that will restore the earth and lead to justice for communities confronted by the climate crisis. And may they lead us onto a new path for a sustainable future where we live in harmony with all life. Open our senses to all we encounter and be with us that we may walk in safety. Awaken us to our true nature, to live in peace with you, each other and all creation. By restoring harmony and balance we too will be restored to wholeness.  
Amen.

*ChristianAid.org.uk*

### **A Prayer for peace**

If there is to be peace in the world,  
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,  
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,  
There must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,  
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,  
There must be peace in the heart.

*Lao-Tse - 6th Century BCE*

## *God is our refuge and strength*

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For the last couple of months, the churchyard team have been working on the lychgate at Christ Church. We have refurbished it beginning with sugar-soaping, to remove the dirt and grime which have accumulated over the last century, then re-oiling the oak frame. We retrieved the gates

from the church cellar where they have been for the past 20 years, repaired them and rehung them with new bolts and lock. The final act was to paint the lettering over the top of the lychgate in gold as its crowning glory. So, we hope it will last another 100 years.

We have also been tending the graveyard and memorial gardens, and getting up grass and sods from the church hall yard. You might say that we are friends of the dead, just happy to work and laugh together, chat, have a moan and drink tea.

We meet every Thursday morning 10 am till 12 noon, weather permitting, and we would be delighted if you wished to join us in maintaining our heritage.

Geoff Hamilton

**T**ogether **E**veryone **A**ccomplishes **M**ore



## *Bunnynapped*

Christ Church Guides finished off the term with an indoor residential weekend with an investigation theme to complete one of their interest badges.

The guides entered Christ Church Investigation Academy on Friday evening and commenced their training to become agents. When they gathered for breakfast on Saturday they found that Bobbin the Bunny had disappeared overnight. This led to more training on gathering evidence, fingerprinting, casting footprints, handwriting analysis and ink chromatography. Once all the evidence had been gathered the Guides interrogated the leaders – some were more trustworthy than others it seems! They went to bed still unsure of the guilty party.

Sunday breakfast revealed the return of Bobbin. He had forgotten to bring the Easter eggs with him so had popped to Tesco but had to travel under the cover of darkness!

This year the Guides have completed lots of activities each week to gain their Live Smart skills builder and, along with the Investigating badge, led to them all gaining their Skills for the Future theme award badge and certificate.

Summer term will involve lots of activities outdoors, a cinema under the stars sleepover and a joint camp with the Brownies. If you are aware of any girls age 10-14 who wish to join in then they are most welcome!  
*(See back page for photos)*



The Guide Camp weekend away was very exciting with the theme of mysteries and detecting! We earned 3 new badges over the course of the weekend. There were lots of fun activities to do like finding fingerprints and moulding footprints. My favourite part of Guide Camp was getting to know the other girls in the unit better...

Overall, it was an amazing experience and I'm really glad I went!

Eva

On Mothering Sunday Dave admitted three new members, whilst all members present renewed their commitment to Mothers' Union. The service was led by members, with others reading, leading intercessions, playing the organ. A warm welcome from us all to June Duckworth, Carole Leach and Mags Slater.

During Lent we held two very different but engaging meetings to focus our minds on the season. Our thanks to Barbara and Nigel Silvester who encouraged us to look differently at a number of household and personal items (Who expected to see Nigel pushing an unplugged vacuum around the church hall?); and to Ian Banks with whom we explored a number of paintings (plus one mosaic) to illustrate the themes of the Sundays of Lent, together with Palm Sunday and the Last Supper.

On 4 May we welcome Ruth Spencer to talk about her experience as a potential contestant on the Great British Bake Off. As always, everyone is welcome (and we hear there may be tasty offerings).

Spring Council will be held in 90 Deansgate on Saturday, 7 May at which every member is welcome. Further details from me.

Thursday Prayers on YouTube will be live from noon on 12 May. These monthly services usually last 15-20 minutes and began during the pandemic when it was no longer possible to gather in the chapel in Manchester.

At Christmas, instead of a Secret Santa, it was suggested we bring items for the Attic Project to distribute. Some members asked to know more about the work of this local charity so if you are interested too please come along on 18 May, when our speaker will be Michelle Delaney-Fargher. You are invited to bring an item for the food parcels they deliver to those in need locally.

We thank Tricia Stokes, who has agreed to take on the role of Deanery Leader for the new Deanery of Bury and Rossendale, so carrying on the tradition of our branch members holding office in the deanery, diocese, province and worldwide. This will be a demanding role at this time of change in diocesan structures and the drawing together of three deaneries into a cohesive whole. We assure Tricia of our support and prayers.

Bob Taylor, Branch Leader

## ***Men of the Benefice***

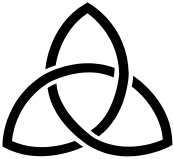
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The MOB had a month off in March for Lent. At the time of writing this, we were expecting to meet again on Monday 25th April. We will fill you in as to what went on in the next edition. The May meeting should be at The Towler Inn on Monday 30th at 8.00pm.

A Summer walk has been planned for the coming weeks, so please check back in the magazine and weekly sheets for more details of date and location.

David Robinson



## ***The Open Group***

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I am pleased to say that we are back this month! After over two years, the Open Group will resume on Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm. Ian Banks has agreed to lead this meeting, reflecting on Ascension Day. We have sadly lost some members and we understand that others will now find it difficult to attend, but we need to have a go and see how we get on. If you have never been before then you are all welcome, and we end our meetings with a brew and chat. I will need to have a look at June as the second Wednesday (8th) now coincides with the Archdeacon's Visitation, however the following dates have currently been confirmed:

13th July – Julian Hartley – "From PC to FD to I"

10th August – Nigel Silvester – "Lifeboats & Lighthouses"

14th September – Reverend Dave Thompson

All these dates are Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room at St. John with St. Mark Church Hall.

David Robinson

## *Christ, Ukraine, and radical compassion*

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**The solidarity shown to Ukrainians has been inspiring. The church must lead the way in taking that compassion further.**

Veena O'Sullivan, 17 Mar 2022  
*from Tearfund.org*



In war, horror is made manifest. It takes a physical shape: a bombed out hospital; a family running for their lives; a discarded teddy bear, its owner nowhere to be found. Yet horror is not the only reality. As darkness falls from the sky and haunts the streets, love and light pour in to meet it.

A row of prams left at a train station by Polish mothers. Anti-war protesters braving imprisonment on the streets of Moscow. Hundreds of thousands of people across Europe opening their homes to refugees. War reveals the worst of humanity, but also sometimes the best.

The barbaric, criminal invasion of Ukraine has resulted in one of the largest spontaneous outpourings of compassion since the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. Nearly £200 million has been raised for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal to date. (*As we go to press this figure has reached £300 million.*) In churches, homes and businesses around the land, the same refrain can be heard: 'What can we do to help?'

### **THE POSTURE OF COMPASSION**

There is a narrative that the modern world has been overtaken by individualism. We are, supposedly, increasingly self-obsessed. Perhaps there is truth in that. But it is not the whole truth.

**'What the response to the conflict in Ukraine has revealed is that, when given the opportunity, the natural posture of people is compassion.'**

We have seen this before – throughout the pandemic, with the Syria conflict, the Rohingya crisis, and with natural disasters such as the Nepal earthquakes, or Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.

Running through the bedrock of our society is a vein of Christian values. To be a Christian – to be at our most deeply human – is to open our arms as wide as Christ did on the cross. Because as well as being selfless, Jesus’ love was boundless.

### **INCLUDING AND EMBRACING**

The church must fiercely counter any narrative that separates the world into ‘us’ and ‘them’. Because it is in Christianity that we find the alternative: radical compassion and solidarity. Divine love doesn’t just tear down walls, it builds bridges in places you wouldn’t expect.

The core of Jesus’ ministry was reaching out to the marginalised and oppressed. Jesus sought out those who had previously been excluded, and included them; those who had been rejected, and embraced them; those who had been left out, and let them in.

That is the call of the church – our call. So how do we live it out at a time such as this? The compassionate and generous response to the conflict in Ukraine is a start. But we can go further: reaching out to those who have been excluded, those who have been rejected, those who have been left out. This is what Tearfund exists for.

While the eyes of the world have been fixed on Ukraine, other horrors have been taking place. With attention elsewhere, there is a risk that the cries of millions of marginalised and oppressed people are going unheard.

### **THE FORGOTTEN CRISES**

Across the Horn of Africa – a region comprising Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda – a hunger crisis of colossal proportions has been building for months. Three rainy seasons in a



row have failed, with below-average rainfall forecast for a fourth. This on top of the devastation caused by the locust swarms of 2019-2021,

as well as violence such as that in Ethiopia. More than 13 million people are waking up severely hungry every day. Alarming, cuts to the UK aid budget, combined with attention being turned to Ukraine, means that this crisis could miss out on life-saving funding.

Similar disasters are taking place in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen. We must not forget them. We must practice the radical compassion of our Christian faith and call attention and respond to these forgotten crises.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed or powerless in the face of such vast suffering. Yet we are not facing it alone. When we join together as the church, partnering with God's work of redemption and restoration, there is enormous power. We see this all the time at Tearfund – it is why we partner with networks of local churches. As the church unites in order to reach out, lives around the world are transformed.

Poverty is not God's plan. You are. We are. Radical compassion is. We won't stop trying to live out that compassion in our work, and we invite you to join us.

**Help ensure no-one is forgotten** by donating here

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/forgotten-crises-appeal>



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## ***Dnipro Kids Appeal***

Although during the pandemic it has not been possible to take collections, many people have still brought bags of small change to leave in the basket at the back of church.

Those coppers really mount up and can make a huge difference.

It was unanimously agreed that the accumulated sum of £90 be sent from Christ Church to the Dnipro Kids Appeal.

This is an Edinburgh based charity initially set up by Hibs fans following a UEFA cup match in 2005 and recently featured in the news when they were able to evacuate 52 children from orphanages in Ukraine to Callendar, near Stirling. They will first stay in a rural hostel while they acclimatise, then move to Edinburgh, living in the smaller household groups they had at home until it is safe for them to return to Ukraine.

THANK YOU for helping to make a difference at such a traumatic time.

### JOINT SERVICE

for the congregations of  
St.John with St.Mark and Christ Church  
to Celebrate the  
**Queen's Platinum Jubilee**



Sunday 5 June

10.30am

at St.John with St.Mark

**ALSO** we have an invitation to celebrate  
at Bury Parish Church  
at 6.30pm

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### ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CE SCHOOL

This June marks 50 years since the opening of our school building.

A **celebration service** is being held  
on Thursday 9 June  
in Church at 10.00am

Guest Speaker: **The Right Revd. Mark Davies,**  
Bishop of Middleton & Chair of Diocesan Board of Education

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*St.John with St.Mark School, Athlone Avenue, Bury. BL9 5EE*

*Tel: 0161 764 5330*

*[www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk](http://www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk)*



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### Parade Service

Sunday, 26 June

10.30 am

St John with St Mark

## **REGULAR SERVICES**

<b>Sunday</b>			
8.30am	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Venue tba
<b>Wednesday</b>			
10.00 a.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
<b>Thursday</b>			
12.30 p.m.		The Gathering	Zoom
2.00 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Communion	Christ Church
7.30 p.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
Other services as announced.			
Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.			
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





## ***PARISH PEOPLE***

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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: <https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk>  
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Check out Facebook	@christchurchwalmersley @stjohnstmark
Twitter	@cofewalmersley
Instagram	cofewalmersley
and YouTube	CofE Walmersley

## FOR YOUR MAY DIARY

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Sun 1		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Wed 4	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sat 7	7.30pm	Band Concert (CC)
Sun 8		<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Wed 11	7.30pm	Open Group – Barritt Room
Sun 15		<b>5<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b>
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
		Parish Communion (CC)
Wed 18	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 19	12noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 22		<b>6<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Café Church (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Thu 26		<b>Ascension Day</b>
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (both churches)
Sat 28	TBA	Spring Fundraiser (SJM Hall)
Sun 29		<b>7<sup>th</sup> of Easter</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (Christ Church Hall and Zoom)
Mon 30	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (The Towler)

# Spring Fundraiser

At St. John with St. Mark Church Hall

In aid of Church funds

Saturday 28th May

Time to be confirmed in due course

We expect a small number of stalls  
and some refreshments.

However this will all depend on what volunteers  
we can muster as to how much we can do.

If you are interested in helping in anyway,  
then please speak to the wardens.



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## 3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCH

Come and join us on the third Thursday of every month for a light lunch. A chance to enjoy a chat in the company of friends.



Lunch is served 12 noon - 1pm.  
Christ Church Walmersley Hall  
School Lane, BL9 5JU

**As always there is no charge** – though, if

you can, a donation toward costs would be appreciated.  
Any profit will go to charity or church funds.



***It would be great to see you !***

Upcoming Dates 2022: 19th May; 16th June; 21st July; 18th August.

# 25th Bury Guides



## CCIA Agents

See page 17