

**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury  
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



*The Holy Spirit  
led Jesus  
into the desert,  
so that the devil  
could test him  
Matt 4: 1 (CEV)*

**March 2019**

**50P**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD**

## ***REGULAR SERVICES***

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### **Sunday**

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark (Barritt Room)
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Family and Parade 3 <sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion 4 <sup>th</sup> Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Morning Prayer	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> United Service	Alternately CC/SJM

### **Monday**

7.30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road
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### **Tuesday**

7.30pm	Christian Meditation	St John w St Mark
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### **Wednesday**

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

2.00 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Other services as announced  
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church  
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



## *Preparing for Easter*

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Dear Friends

The date of Easter is determined by the phases of the moon. Easter Day is always the Sunday following the paschal full moon date - 20 March. Thus Easter can begin any date between March 21 to April 25.

This year, Easter is regarded as "late", falling as it does on 21 April. Lent therefore begins on Wednesday 6 March – forty days before Easter, excluding Sundays.

Ash Wednesday is so called because of the tradition in the ancient world of "sitting in sackcloth and ashes" as a sign of sorrow and repentance. According to the book of Jonah when the prophet preached to the people of Nineveh that they should turn from their wicked ways, the population responded by donning sackcloth and ashes.



On Ash Wednesday churches use ash – often gathered from the burning of the previous year's palm crosses – to make the sign of the cross on people's foreheads. The words "*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ*" are used in the liturgy.

An important principle in the Lent season is that of repentance. For Christians this means not merely saying sorry for our sins but turning away from our wrongdoing and moving in a different direction.

This Lenten prayer sums up the essence of this important part of the Church Year.

*Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart; that so desiring, we may see and find you; and so finding, may love you; and so loving, may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

May God guide and bless us as we seek to have a holy Lent in preparation for a joyful celebration of Easter.

Dave

## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH***

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Mar 3 **Next before Lent**

Exodus 34:29-35                      2 Corinthians 3:12 -4:2                      Luke 9:28-43

Mar 6 **Ash Wednesday**

Isaiah 58:1-12                      2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10                      John 8:1-11

Mar10 **First Sunday of Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11                      Romans 10:8b – 13                      Luke 4:1-13

Mar 17 **Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12,17,18                      Philippians 3:17- 4:1                      Luke 13:31-35

Mar 24 **Third Sunday of Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9                      1 Corinthians 10:1-13                      Luke 13:1-9

Mar 31 **Fourth Sunday of Lent    Mothering Sunday**

Exodus 2:1-10                      2 Corinthians 1.3-7                      Luke 2.33-35

April 7 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21                      Philippians 3:4b-14                      John 12:1-8

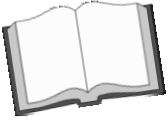
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## ***FLOWERS IN CHURCH***

No flowers in Lent

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 Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

\*\* Cover photo by Ian Dooley on Unsplash\*\*



## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **Baptisms**

January 20                      Alana-Leigh Spann  
February 3                      Freddie Peter Harvey

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

### **Church Funerals**

Feb 4                              Jim Melling  
Feb 7                              Alan Standring

### **Interment of ashes in the garden of remembrance**

Jan 27                            Sandra Whitelegg  
Jan 27                            Raymond Pearson

### **Interment of ashes in the churchyard**

Feb 17                            Jim Melling

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

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## ***In Memory of Alan George Standring***

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Thank you for all the cards and kind words we have received.  
Alan would have surely been moved by the tremendous turnout by  
family and friends for his celebration of life.

Christine, Alan, Mark and Isabel

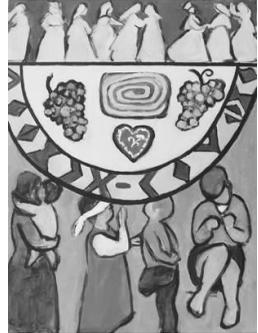
**World Day of Prayer**

*"Come everything is Ready"*

1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm  
at Bury Baptist Church, Manchester Road

Prepared this year by the churches of Slovenia.

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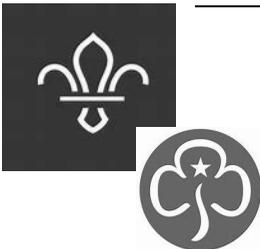
**ASH WEDNESDAY**

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.

**6 March**

*St. John with St. Mark at 10.00am & 7.30pm.  
Christ Church at 7.30pm*



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**PARADE SERVICES**

*at both ST. JOHN with ST. MARK &  
CHRIST CHURCH*

*THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT*

10 March  
at 10.30am

## **NEXT CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICES**

at Christ Church  
Sunday 17 March  
10.30am

**led by Archdeacon Jean**  
**"COMMUNION BY NUMBERS"**



and

at St.John with St.Mark  
Sunday 24 March  
10.30am WITH HOLY COMMUNION

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## **LICENSING**

**of The Reverend Paul Sanderson**

will take place at St Stephen Bury  
on Wednesday 27 March at 7pm

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## **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

SUNDAY 31 MARCH

***BENEFICE SERVICE***

at Christ Church 10.30 am

led by members of Mothers' Union

**Nurturing Hope in a Hurting World**



*DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS OR YOU WILL MISS THIS!!*



## **SUNDAY @ SEVEN**

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Have you joined us yet at 7 o'clock on the last Sunday of the month? If not, what's putting you off?

Do you think it's too cold and dark to be going out after tea? Don't let that stop you. We have warm welcome, including hot drinks and cake!

Is it a 'proper' church service? Yes, it's Christian worship with music, scripture, prayers, thought provoking reflections, etc. It's just less formal than a Sunday morning.

Don't tell us ...you're usually watching CountryFile and Antiques Roadshow! Well, have a change; treat yourself to an outing. You could find the record button and watch it all later. You'll be back home to see most of the antiques anyway.

I won't know anybody.... Of course you will! Most of the regulars are members from both our benefice churches – and the one or two new faces are really smiley and friendly.

Anyway it's not for me..... How do you know? Come and give it a try. Nobody knew if they liked Marmite or chocolate till they tried it!

So, can we looking forward to seeing you...??

**The next S@S is 7pm on March 31st  
in the Barritt Room at SJM Hall.**

Come on.....You know you want to be there.....!!!

*“ Approaching Easter ”*



## ***IN MEMORIAM: Alan Standring***

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Alan George Standring was born in Bury on 12 May 1939. The family lived on Brook Street in the Freetown area from where Alan attended St. Mark's School.

For the past 49 years Alan & Christine have lived in the family home on Trent Drive. He was a very significant figure in the community known as the Rivers Estate and in the parish of Walmersley.

Alan had a generous nature and in the words of Christine, "he would do anything for anybody." That generosity even extended to providing some Bury black puddings to the Vicar who married him & Christine at St. George's Church Stockport in 1970. From that time on family was Alan's priority and he was a loving husband, father & grandfather.

Alan was a happy, smiling man, with a good sense of humour who was both positive and practical. That positivity was vital when in recent years ill health made life so very difficult. That practical nature was vital when he became Church Warden of Christ Church in 1996. He was the Vicar described as a hands-on warden. Welcoming to everyone who entered the building – especially young people – and someone who would turn his hand to most things.

He also served as sidesman and vergger.

At his funeral, Margery Spencer mentioned that the reason we were able to sit in church warm and dry was in no small part to Alan's persistence in making sure the new roof was built to a good standard.

Alan had a wide range of interests notably woodcarving and the Spotland Road woodcarving group in Rochdale cancelled their meeting on the day of his funeral so that they can attend the service.

In recent years Alan's ill-health meant that he was significantly restricted in his mobility and he was lovingly cared for by Christine.

He regularly received Holy Communion in his home.

Alan died at Bury Hospice on Sunday 27 January.

We give thanks to God for the life of Alan Standring.

May He Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

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## From the Vicarage

- \* We have received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army church and community centre for the children's gifts we donated from our Christingle services at the beginning of Advent.
- \* Our Lent Groups begin this month. There will be two meetings each week – Thursday afternoons (starting 7 March) at Christ Church Hall beginning at 2.00pm and Monday evenings (starting 11 March) at 150 Walmersley Road beginning at 7.30pm. We will be studying passages from the Bible and everyone is welcome.
- \* Please let a member of the ministry team know if anyone is ill and requires a home or hospital visit. At the heart of our ministry to the parish is pastoral care. This is not the exclusive concern of the clergy but part of each Christian's duty to love one another.
- \* Thanks as ever to those who contribute to our regular copper collections. These are always well received by the charities that we donate to and we welcome new suggestions of organisations to support.
- \* There will be no meeting of the MOB – Men of the Benefice – this month. Our next gathering will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 27 April. Further details in the church News Sheet / Bulletin.
- \* 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.
- \* Both of our Church Halls are available for a whole range of activities for use by church and community groups. Please however check with the bookings officers (June Banks for St. John with St. Mark and Jennifer Wood for Christ Church) if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged.

- \* The BBC television programme Songs of Praise is being filmed on Friday 8 March at the Victoria Hall in Bolton 6.30pm – 9.30pm. If you would like to apply for free tickets please ring 0161 873 7073.
- \* Both the churches in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road are now on Facebook! Search for both Christ Church, Walmersley and St.John with St.Mark, Bury and “like” and “follow” to receive messages from the site. We now also have a twitter feed – the twitter handle is @cofewalmersley.
- \* Paul Sanderson’s Licensing service to begin his role as Priest-in-Charge at St.Stephen’s Elton has been arranged for Wednesday 27 March at 7.00pm. If you would like to contribute to a suitable gift for him, please donate via the church wardens.
- \* Porch Boxes are always in need of food items to meet their current demand. A box is available at the back of church. Thanks to those who regularly support this worthy cause. Anyone in need of food should in the first instance contact Bury Community Support Fund at Bury Town Hall or Whittaker Street in Radcliffe on 0161 253 7030. Please do not take out food without checking with Porch first.
- \* 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

## ***ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION***

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2019 sees the preparation of new church electoral rolls,  
which means that everyone must re-apply.  
This takes place only once in every six years.

New electoral roll forms will be available this month.

If you have been a regular worshipper at for at least 6 months, please consider filling in a form to join the electoral roll.

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

## QUIET MOMENTS IN MARCH

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### Week One

#### Give us this Day our Daily Bread

In a world where we are so involved with our own lives, help us Father to see those in need and share the bread you give us.

As you invite us to come and dine with you, may we also extend the invitation to others without hesitation, fear or discrimination.

May your light and love shine through all of us as we dine with you.

Gladys Kusiwaa

*Taken from the World Day of Prayer Service*



### Week Two

#### Short prayers for use in Lent



Lord as we enter Lent, help us to draw near you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. Amen.

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us to reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts. Amen.

Jesus you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. Amen.

Lord, let Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion on the needs of the world. Amen

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**Week Three**  
**A prayer for the beginning of the day**

I commit this day  
into your hands.  
Loving hands,  
caring hands,  
guiding hands,  
healing hands,  
guarding hands,  
forgiving hands  
Into your hands  
I commit this day. Amen



Read more at: [http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_times\\_of\\_quietness.htm#ixzz5exW8NSjB](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_times_of_quietness.htm#ixzz5exW8NSjB)

**Week Four**  
**Mothers in the Bible**

Lord God we pray for mothers everywhere.

Like Samuel's mother, may they have wisdom to know how to protect their children and keep them from harm.

Like Naomi, may they be able to turn hard situations into good.

Like Lois and Eunice, may they be ready to share the love of Christ with their children.

In all that they give to others may they have the joy of knowing that they too are children, held in the love and care of God.

Amen

*Catherine Kyte*

We were pleased to have David Andrew give his second talk on "Two Greats" – this time the subject was John Wesley. A summary of his talk can be found elsewhere in the magazine and we are grateful to Geoff Stokes for this.

Our first meeting date in March would fall on Ash Wednesday, so we meet for the service in church at 7.30pm. Our speaker on the 20<sup>th</sup> will be Pam Cowie, Reader Emeritus, who has recently joined the Benefice team and will talk about her Christian journey. All are welcome.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March in Manchester Cathedral at 5.30pm Christine Sharp will be commissioned as Manchester Diocesan President, along with the elected Trustees, by the Bishop of Manchester. It would be good to see as many members as possible at this service. If you are unable to attend then please remember them all in your prayers as they lead and take Mothers' Union forward in the diocese during the next 3 years.

Bob Taylor  
Branch Leader



For a second year, the students of St Mellitus theological college have worked with Mothers' Union to write a liturgy for Mothering Sunday.

This Sunday is not for everyone a time of rejoicing, so the theme of this service acknowledges this – **Nurturing Hope in a Changing World**. Part of the Welcome says:

"We have come together to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God's help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world, where we have failed to nurture each other. "

Please come and be a part of our united family, as in Christ we receive compassion and mercy, through bread and wine.



## **SATURDAY WALKING GROUP**

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Due to the irregular February weather pattern, we opted to do a local route on 2nd February, which was the 'Two Breweries Stagger'. There was also another reason for choosing this, and that is because Paul had marked his 60th birthday the week before, so it seemed a perfect opportunity for the group to celebrate with Paul.

The walk was at the end of the coldest week of the Winter so far with much lying snow still around and a few icy patches. However the day itself was lovely and sunny. We met at St. John with St. Mark Hall at 10.30am and made our way up to Christ Church Walmersley for 11.00am. From here we made our way along Rowlands Road, past Falshaw's Farm and then into Summerseat when we crossed the Waterside Bridge.

A slight ascent to the track that leads into Nuttall Park. It was along here that we encountered the heaviest of the snow, which was still thick and crunchy. We walked through Nuttall Park to arrive in Ramsbottom centre and the first of our 'Brewery Stops' The Irwell Works Brewery.

After refreshment, or hot coffee here, we continued along a rather slippery Bolton Road West to the Hare & Hounds, which was our lunch stop. Not officially a brewery however it still serves beer, which is good enough!

After an enjoyable lunch we made our way along the local track route back in towards Summerseat, where we exited on Robin Road and then continued past the garden centre through the Burrs. It was noted how the recent snowfall had made a sometimes drab season into a more picturesque scene with snow covered trees and woods.

We continued through the whole of the Burrs, some of us going our separate ways at various points, alongside the River Irwell & country park waterfall before heading back onto Woodhill Road, which we walked along for a short distance before crossing back along the path towards Castlecroft Road and the second of our 'Brewery Stops', The Clarence.

Overall, we covered around 10 miles and despite the sometimes tricky conditions underfoot, the weather remained lovely and we enjoyed another super day out.

Best foot forward, David Robinson



## ***THE OPEN GROUP***

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The Open Group will begin their 2019 programme of events on Wednesday 13th March and Reverend Dave will lead us in a Desert Island Discs evening. We would therefore like you, if possible, to come along to the meeting with a CD of your favourite or chosen piece of music and then spend a few minutes explaining the reasons for your choice. Don't worry if you have not got a CD as we should be able to find it on a Laptop or phone. All are welcome to this meeting in the Barritt Room at 7.30pm followed by refreshments.

Other speakers for this year include Jack Sutton to talk about his recent visit to Brazil, Nigel Silvester to discuss the Scilly Isles, local man Jim Metcalf with an illustrated talk about the work of 'Community Action Nepal' and mountain climbing, along with regular contributors Ian Banks & Paul Sanderson.

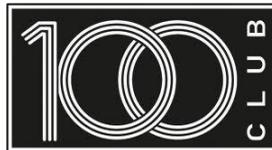
A full programme of events for the year has now been produced and a paper copy is available from David Robinson. All are welcome to our meetings.

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### **JANUARY 2019 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Joan Robinson

2nd Prize ~ David Robinson



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

(And despite how it may look,  
there was no fix intended this month!!)

## ***MEN OF THE BENEFICE (MOB)***

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Our MOB got together in our new(ish) venue of The Towler on Walmersley Road on Monday 28th January to set a plan of events for the year. This included some new ideas and some old favourites.

We hope to enjoy a men's breakfast at a local eatery with unlimited coffee towards the end of April, plan to arrange an outing to Moorhouse's Brewery in May, stage an evening walk on the Longest Day in June, and also our regulars including guest speakers and meals out. There is likely to also be the opportunity for traditional chat and get-together in The Towler.

Please keep an eye in future magazines and weekly sheets for information about such events, to which anybody is welcome. If you have any suggestions then please get in touch with Vicar Dave or one of the regular members.

David Robinson

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### **Jackie Yates and our Pantomime**

Since our last pantomime in 2018, we have lost a valued friend. Jackie had been involved with the performances at St. John with St. Mark for over 35 years, starting with her children being in it, to doing continuity, make up and in her later years, she could be found doing the tuck shop. Jackie had helped and supported the pantomime for many years and she will be greatly missed.

In memory of Jackie, at the end of each of our four performances of Cinderella this year, we had a loose change collection, for Bury Hospice, where Jackie spent her last few days. We are pleased to announce that the collection raised a fantastic **£105** for the Hospice.

Thanks to all who contributed.

## ***PANTOMIME, 16th TO 19th 2019***

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This year I was in attendance for each night of our Pantomime performed by the young people, the first time this has probably happened since.... Well since I was last on the stage some 25 years ago. I was asked by Debbie to look after the programmes and raffle for the four show nights.

The Pantomime was much earlier this year due to our lighting and sound technician Tony Stamp not

being available in February, so it was curtain up even before the Church nativity set had been taken down. This made the efforts of our cast and production crew even more significant this time, which must have been pretty hectic for them. However I am pleased to say this did not stop our stars from putting on a fantastic show for the four nights. The first night was an additional one this year as part of the 'Giving Back to the Community' scheme following the funding win last year. It may have made everyone more exhausted than usual, but you could not have noticed, with the enthusiasm evident on the stage, behind it and in front of it. There were some lively songs, poignant moments, dazzling costumes and plenty of humour all thrown in together.

There was a bit of drama on the opening night however when one of our 'Ugly Sisters' Darren arrived having completely lost his voice. This resulted in four nights of mime and the 'guest voice' of choreographer Debbie. It did not take long for Debbie to grow into the part though and what could have been a potential disaster had actually worked out really well by the time we got further into the week's performances.

From a front of house perspective it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet so many different people from different aspects of the community. We also had some entertaining moments from our 'Man with the Microphone' Tony.

It was sad though that one of our pantomime favourites Jackie Yates was not with us this year for the first time and you can read our tribute on the previous page.

Thanks to all involved; cast & choruses, stage crew, costume and make up designers, tuck shop & kitchen helpers and to Debbie for a great show.

David Robinson

## *Looking beyond our boundaries*

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### **"Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the Christian and Muslim faiths"**

was the topic for our discussion in January. Father Francis Wadsworth of St Joseph's and St Marie's shared his understanding of Mary in the Christian Faith with additional words by our Vicar, the Revd Dave Thompson.

Eight members of our Benefice attended and were surprised at the respect and reverence given to Mary in the Muslim Faith. Saqib Shah told us that Mary, the mother of Jesus is the only woman mentioned in the Quran. Chapter 19 of the Quran is named after her and the name Mary, or Maryam, is mentioned in 12 chapters, (34 times in all).

The talks were followed by lively discussion groups before supper was served.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 p.m. in The Barritt room at St John's and St Mark's Hall, Parkinson Street.

Gillian Smith

### **Fasting in our Faiths – Muslim, Christian and Jewish**



Talks & discussion  
followed by supper at 8.45 p.m.

(Suggested donation  
towards the cost of supper: £2 )

Contact Gillian Smith

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This month's quote:

**The biggest communication problem is that we don't listen to understand, we listen to reply.**

Anon

## *John Wesley*

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This talk, to our Mothers' Union group, was the second in a series by David Andrew on important figures in the Protestant Church. The first, in October 2018, was on Martin Luther. This evening we heard about John Wesley and how he founded the Methodist movement.

John was born in Epworth in Lincolnshire, one of nineteen children of Samuel Wesley and his wife Susanna. Ten of the children survived to adulthood. John's brother Charles is also noteworthy, having written thousands of hymns, of which 156 appear in the Methodist Hymn Book. About 38 survive in the Anglican hymn books, including "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "Love divine, all loves excelling".

Samuel was a priest in Epworth but had debts and spent time in prison, leaving a debt of £100 on his death. The children had a rigorous education, with six hours of lessons per day. They were taught the Lord's Prayer and made to say it morning and evening. They learnt the alphabet on the first day and Greek language by the age of ten! Both John and Charles had a public school education; John at Charterhouse School and Charles at Westminster School. Both then went to Christ Church College, Oxford.

When Samuel became ill, they walked 150 miles from Oxford to Epworth, then walked back to Oxford. Typically they walked 25 miles a day. John became a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford and went to work in Epworth. Later he went as a missionary to Georgia, in British America. This was not totally successful and he returned to England after 2 or 3 years.

In the Church of England of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the majority of clergy had little inclination to improve the spiritual welfare of the congregation. Communion was infrequent and performed carelessly. The clergy lived almost entirely amongst the upper classes. John Wesley worked to try to improve the status of Christianity. Methodist meetings were held in the open air around the country. In February 1742 a new meeting room in Bristol needed debts to be defrayed. It was suggested that each person would pay one penny a week. He arranged collection of clothes for the poor. He tackled the unemployment of the day by setting up what we would call a cottage industry. Why was he so successful? His message was life-giving for the poor, and encouraged upward mobility. Lives were changed because of his message and people genuinely felt that their lives were touched by the power of God.

It was emphasised that no Methodist teaching was intended to usurp the Church of England, and no meetings were arranged which would clash with the Anglican services. Methodist societies sprang up in the Midlands, Yorkshire and Newcastle. He became very popular and a circle of friends ensured that each meeting was well-prepared.

John's 22 Questions of Accountability seem as relevant now as then.

Geoff Stokes

### **John Wesley's Twenty-two Accountability Questions**

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?
6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying prayer? *(Get help from a minister or trusted Christian friend if you aren't – there are many ways to pray)*
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I go to bed on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not like other people? *(See Luke 18: 9-14)*
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

## **PRAYER DIARY**

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*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.  
THEY FORM PART OF THE PRAYERS AT EVENING PRAYER  
AT 5.00pm AT ST.JOHN WITH ST.MARK FROM MONDAY - THURSDAY*

- 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 considering 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:** Links with other church communities across the world.  
Mothers' Union  
Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning
- THURSDAY:** The Sunday School /Junior Church and  
all our work with young people.  
Those preparing to be married in church.  
Our baptism ministry.
- FRIDAY:** Links with our local communities.  
The PCCS and their committees  
Those who provide and arrange church flowers  
Those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY:** The Vicar, Curate and the Assistant Priest. The retired clergy  
The Licensed Readers & ALM.  
Ecumenical Links within the benefice.

## **EVENTS FOR MARCH**

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ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH INVITE YOU TO



### **A BUFFET DINNER DANCE**

AN EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC & DANCING  
WITH DELICIOUS BUFFET  
AND GUESTS, LITE MUSIC GROUP

IN ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL  
ON FRIDAY 8th MARCH ~ 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH  
(Rosemarie Ashworth or June Banks)

£7.50 EACH

ALL WELCOME

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK SCOUT GROUP



### **WINTER WARMER LUNCH**

AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE  
IN THE CHURCH HALL,  
17th MARCH (approx 12noon – 12.15)

Menu & tickets available from Rosemarie Ashworth in due  
course;

For now please add the date to your diary

ALL WELCOME

## ***EVENTS FOR MARCH continued***

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### **Third Thursday Light Lunch**

at CCW Hall  
12 noon/1.30pm

The next lunch will be on **Thursday March 21st**

As always there will be no set charge – if you are able, please give a donation but if you can't just come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

YOU will be most welcome!! There really is such a thing as a 'free lunch'!!

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## ***LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL (and BEYOND)***

### **SEDER MEAL in HOLY WEEK**

Wednesday 17 April

#### **An adaptation of the Passover**

for the United Benefice of Walmersley Road

St.John with St.Mark Hall

£7.50

Nearer the time there will be a sheet at the back of the churches to sign up if you would like to attend



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THE PRIORY HIGHBANK CENTRE

### **EASTER SERVICE**

WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL at 2.30pm

*ALL ARE WELCOME*

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

St.John with St.Mark:	Sunday 28 April	12noon
Christ Church:	Monday 29 April	7.30pm

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

There will be a revision of the Electoral Roll this year  
(see page 11)

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### **ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION**

Thursday 23 May 7.30pm  
at St John with St Mark

Wardens and Sidespersons are asked to attend.  
PCC members are invited to make their commitment  
and everyone is welcome at this service.



### ***FORMBY RETREAT 2019***

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The annual retreat to the St. Joseph's Prayer Centre in Formby will take place from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th May inclusive. The centre is situated in beautiful grounds surrounded by the National Trust pine forest and red squirrel reserve.



This is a time to enjoy good company, fresh air and reflection. Anyone interested please contact Ian Banks. People can do the full three days or come for single days if they wish. Price is £68 per 24 hour stay with meals or £24 if just coming for the day and having lunch.

## **WHAT'S ON IN MARCH**

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Fri 1	2.00pm	World day of Prayer (Bury Baptist Church)
Sun 3		<b>Next Before Lent</b> Services as usual
Tue 5	7.30pm	Joint PCC (Barritt Room, SJM)
Wed 6		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	10.00am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (CC and SJM)
Fri 8	7.30pm	Buffet Dance (SJM)
Sun 10		<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Parade Services
	5.30pm	Mothers Union Commissioning (Cathedral)
Wed 13	7.30pm	Open Group (SJM)
Sun 17		<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Cafe Church (CC)
	12noon	Winter Warmer Lunch (SJM)
Wed 20	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 21	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
Sun 24		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Cafe Church, including Holy Communion (SJM)
Tue 26	7.30pm	Muslim/Christian/Jewish Forum (Barritt Room)
Wed 27	7.00pm	Licensing of Revd Paul Sanderson (St Stephen)
Sun 31		<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Early Services as usual
	10.30am	Joint Service (CC)
	7.00pm	Sunday @Seven (SJM)

# REHEARSING SCRIPTURE

For our Lent Bible Studies this year we will be following a new approach to looking at Scripture. This will be based on work done by Anna Carter Florence, in her book 'Rehearsing Scripture', which really encourages us to encounter and experience Bible passages together.

**Christ Church Hall,  
Thursdays from 7th March, 2.00pm  
150 Walmersley Road,  
Mondays from 11th March, 7.30pm**

We are taking six very familiar passages and hoping to get fresh insights and connections that we've perhaps never appreciated before:

**Noah, Ezekiel and the dry bones, The Annunciation of Mary,  
Adam & Eve, Esther, Moses and the burning bush**

So, if you don't normally come along, then please give it a try. We'll be learning together so expect some fun along the way as we get to grips with it!

