



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

**in the United Benefice of  
Walmersley Road**

***“He is risen”***

*(photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash)*

**April 2020**

**50P**

As we go to press, the advice regarding the Coronavirus outbreak is changing daily. In the meantime we continue to follow guidance from the Church of England (*see below*), the Diocese and the Government.

This means that for the foreseeable future there will be no services or meetings held in physical gatherings.

The Vicar continues to say Morning and Evening Prayer in church from Mondays to Thursdays. Morning Prayer will now be said at Christ Church at 9.30am with Evening Prayer at 5pm at St John with St Mark. Anyone is very welcome to join him, observing the suggested hygiene protocols. Both churches will be open 10am – 12noon on Sundays.

We shall use our websites, social media and, of course, word of mouth to keep everyone informed.

### ***Public worship suspended to help stem spread of coronavirus***

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17 March

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling for Church of England churches to put public worship on hold and become a “different sort of church” in the coming months to face the challenge of coronavirus.



In a joint letter, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice. But they said that far from having to “shut up shop”, the Church of England must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others. It comes after the Government announced unprecedented peacetime measures to try to control the spread of the virus, with restrictions on public gatherings, transport and working.

The Archbishops expressed the desire that church buildings may, where practical, remain open as places of prayer for the community, observing social distancing recommendations.

They also invited clergy to maintain the ancient pattern of daily prayer and, where possible, the eucharist – live streaming their worship if they have the resources to do so.

And they urged congregations to be in the forefront of providing practical care and support for the most poor and the most vulnerable during the crisis.

“Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead,” they wrote. “Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.

“Please do carry on supporting the local foodbank and buy extra provisions for it. Ensure the night shelters wherever possible are kept open. There are many very encouraging schemes happening right across our country in communities to focus on caring for the most vulnerable and do continue to play your part in those.

“Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land.”

They added: “This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly are a church for all, or just the church for ourselves. We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.”

The archbishops have joined other church leaders in calling for a day of prayer and action this Sunday, 22 March (Mothering Sunday), particularly remembering those who are sick or anxious and all involved in health and emergency services.

Further information on what the suspension of public worship will mean will be available on the Church of England website where there is a specific “coronavirus” page which will be regularly updated.

## ***Bought with the precious blood of Christ***

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I don't know about you, but I often think about our faith in songs and hymns; the music and words go round and round in my head. Sometimes I even sing out aloud- when there's nobody around of course!!

As we approach Easter there are many vying for a place on my hit list. 'We have a King who rides on a donkey' – too many years in Junior Church/Sunday School! 'Ride on Ride on Majesty' – my formative years in school and Sunday School. Both recollecting Palm Sunday.

However the one that won't go away at the moment is 'In Christ alone' especially the middle two verses. They encapsulate the whole of the Gospel – the good news of Jesus. Stuart Townend and Keith Getty got it right when they wrote the song "In Christ alone".

*words omitted on website for licence reasons*



These verses take us from the baby of the Christmas cards 'meek and mild' to the ignored, mocked and crucified man, with the darkness of all of our wrongdoings on his back. (None of us are perfect whatever we may think or portray).

When I was a child, I used to imagine God as a rather fearful old man with a great big book with all the naughty things I had done written in it and that I'd have to answer to him about them when I died.

The real significance of Good Friday didn't exist. It was just a very sad day when Jesus was crucified by horrid people. I grew up, added more stuff to the list, then in my late twenties I changed from a church goer to a committed Christian. As you might say – the pieces of the Jigsaw fell into place. The whole truth of Jesus taking our wrongdoings, being our scapegoat, and what it physically cost him was realised. There was a way to God and he had thrown the book away! It was through Jesus that we had our 'get out of jail' card. But he lost his life to do it!

Oh no he didn't!

He came back to life on the third day as the song so expressively puts it 'bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave he rose again!' no passive meandering in the garden, he was back with a purpose! And that purpose was to let everyone know that they have a second chance for a good life, living the Kingdom! The Kingdom that we are all invited to, the one where love rules supreme, heaven on earth!

In April, and this song, we have the two extremes of deep despair and great joy - Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning. Some people call me a 'Happy Clappy' Christian but I know how much it cost Jesus to get rid of my entries in the big book and I am eternally grateful to him.

It begs me to ask you all 'what song is it that Jesus has put into your life?'



Love and blessings at Easter

Barbara



Watch out for additional radio and television worship programmes during the virus outbreak and if you are able to go online please share the wealth of resources there with those who do not have access.



## **BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL**

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**Apr 5 Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 21: 1-11

**Apr 12 Easter Sunday**

Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 1-18

**Apr 19 2<sup>nd</sup> of Easter**

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

**Apr 26 3<sup>rd</sup> of Easter**

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

**May 3 4<sup>th</sup> of Easter**

Acts 2: 42-47

1 Peter 2: 19-25

John 10: 1-10

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## **CAFÉ CHURCH in 2020**



*Dependent on continued guidance*

**Christ Church** at 10.30am

*3 May (with Holy Communion)*

*9 August*

*22 November*

**St.John with St.Mark** at 10.30am

*19 July*

*18 October*

*6 December (with Holy Communion)*

*ALL CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICES ARE HELD IN THE CHURCH HALLS*

## ***Annual Parochial Church Meetings***

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Our APCMs scheduled for Monday 20 April and Sunday 26 April have been postponed until further notice.

The deadline of 31 May has been extended to 31 October and officers continue in post until meetings can be rearranged.

Please note that the Archdeacon's Visitation planned for 16 June is cancelled.

## ***Prayers for the Pandemic***

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Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

### **For all medical staff**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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## From the Vicarage

\* The announcement on St.Patrick's Day from the Archbishops of Canterbury & York that church services should be suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic means that much of our activities this month and beyond will be curtailed.

This means that there will be no Sunday or mid-week services, Lent Groups, Seder Meal or other public activities for the foreseeable future.

It is possible that events publicised in this magazine will be cancelled. Please keep in touch via our church websites or through the emails / phone calls that you may receive.

During this crisis I intend to continue saying Evening Prayer at 5.00pm in the chapel of St John with St Mark on a daily basis (excluding Friday). In addition, I will be saying Morning Prayer at Christ Church on the same days at 9.30am. Subject to the recommended hygiene protocols **YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ME.**

Pastoral Care will continue but must by necessity be subject to the suggested health and hygiene restrictions. This may mean more phone contact than personal visiting.

In a letter by our Diocesan Bishops they state that: "Over the coming weeks, the Church of England will be very much "open for business" but it will not be "business as usual". We will pray, and we will serve our communities, loving God and our neighbour, but we should not seek to gather in our customary numbers."

\* 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.

\* Any enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc should be made at the Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00.



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

\* Porch Boxes are always in need of food items to meet their current demand. A box is available at the back of both churches.

\* Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the Treasurers or Wardens.

\* After over 25 years of arranging flowers in Christ Church, Betty Winterbottom has decided to retire from this role. I would like to thank Betty on behalf of everyone at Christ Church for her sterling service. Hazel Bamford has agreed to take over this position for which I am very grateful. She can be contacted on 797 2136. 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 (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

\* 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.

\* 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](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)



*Today, take a few minutes to sit quietly  
and be thankful for all that you have.*

## ***NOTES FROM OUR COUNCILS***

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### **From a meeting of Christ Church PCC on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

1. The remedial electrical work on the church hall has still to be completed. The contractor is to be contacted to determine a date.
2. The December brass band concert was discussed and it was agreed that we would also invite the singer to return.
3. As a result of the Parish share meeting with the diocesan representatives, it was agreed by the PCC that the parish share for Christ Church for the next three years would be £27,000, £29,000 and £31,000.
4. The vicar had received revised information on the number of synod representatives based on the number of people on our electoral roll and our representation remains at 3.
5. A letter was received from the Bishop of Manchester regarding the Church and Coronavirus, dealing with matters of Pastoral practice and hygiene in church during the current situation.
6. The treasurer submitted draft financial accounts for 2019 and these were approved by the PCC for forwarding to the Examiner. These will be finally approved by the PCC after they have been examined prior to inclusion in the APCM report.
7. The celebration to mark ten years of the Walmersley Road Benefice will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.30am. The service will take place at Christ Church Walmersley and will be attended by the Bishop of Bolton. The Archdeacon and Seedfield Methodists have also been invited.
8. A discussion was held regarding the church noticeboards. The secretary was asked to contact the council regarding the required size of the boards and to follow up on planning permission requirements. A faculty would be required once the question of planning permission was settled.
9. A new hire agreement for the church hall is being reviewed and will be circulated to all hall users by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020.
10. The question of copyright licences was discussed by the PCC and all PCC members were made aware of our current licences and what we are not able to copy without infringing copyright.

The next PCC meeting will be after the APCM on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Ian Riddick, PCC secretary

## ***NOTES FROM OUR COUNCILS***

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### **St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 5th March 2020**

We have five CRB's outstanding for church people and activities.

There is a coffee morning & book fair on Saturday 4th April and the Seder meal will take place on Wednesday 8th April.

Website update – It would seem that Monday & Tuesday are the busiest days for people viewing the website. The presumption is because this is when we publish the sermons preached on the Sunday.

We are awaiting better weather before we can progress jobs outstanding from the Quinquennial inspection.

We are considering putting a lock on the power supply to the lift and Ian is also looking at service quotes.

Items are still coming in for the 250th Anniversary display. For the occasion we are going to use a logo designed by two children from our day school.

A sub-committee met twice to discuss the Café Church 'Church for a Different World' suggestions and a list of actions will be discussed at the ministry meeting on 6th April.

The new Church sound system was installed in February. Early opinions are that the sound is much clearer and louder.

We only have three spaces on Deanery Synod from this year. Whoever takes these places on will need to be prepared to travel further afield due to the Deanery reorganisation. It was noted that no Deanery Synod representative can now serve more than 2 terms, which all the existing reps have.

There is an ongoing situation with Covid-19. This was discussed at the meeting however circumstances are changing daily. It was agreed that we create a list of contact details for the congregation so we can get in touch with them at the last minute if services and events have to change.

Recent expenditures and incomes were noted. The coffee morning in February raised £300. Any comments or corrections to the PCC report need to be communicated to Ian & Jun before the APCM.

Debbie spoke about the Pantomime following a meeting with the Vicar and other helpers.

We need to look at the path alongside the Garden of Remembrance following the decision to move the Memorial area. This is now very mossy and some of the paving slabs need levelling. Anybody who uses the steps up into the loft is asked to ensure the steps are locked after use.

The APCM is on Sunday 26th April at 12noon. Anybody who has not yet submitted an annual organisation report is asked to complete these ASAP.

## ***Resources as we change the way we worship***

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With shutdowns and restricted movement taking place due to Covid-19 we are not going to be able to worship with one another in the way that we are normally used to. Although we will be looking to keep the church open for prayer, we know it won't be the same as our usual gathering together. So we have been looking for some resources you can access from home.

If you are able to access the internet there are very, very many options. So PLEASE help those who do not have this lifeline – perhaps by printing some items out for them.

### **Set aside a period each day, or several**

- \* you may find it helpful to have a specific place;
- \* maybe light a candle, to help you focus;
- \* perhaps use a holding cross if you have one;
- \* but above all be comfortable and at ease.



### **Just a suggestion**

- \* Ask God to help you remember he's there with you.
- \* Say the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, "Our Father"
- \* Give thanks for the day (if you feel able)
- \* Read a bible passage – slowly. Now read it again.
- \* What phrase or word stands out for you? Why?
- \* Choose one point which has registered with you and pray about it.
- \* Look toward tomorrow. What do you expect the day to hold?
- \* Ask God to help you remember he is with you.

**Services of daily prayer** are available on the Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>. There are services of Daily Prayer in both contemporary and traditional forms and for all times of day. Once you get to the page, click the 'More Options' link to filter by date, time of day and form of service. Also on the site you can read or hear a daily prayer. If you have a smartphone why not download and use the "Daily Prayer" app? It is free to download from the usual sources.

## **Creative Ways of Praying**

- \* You might find it helpful to listen to favourite hymns or worship songs, or other pieces of music that have a special meaning for you.
- \* Pictures can help prompt our prayers - for instance photos of loved ones, maps or pictures of our community or the wider world
- \* If the news is getting you down, try praying for the people and situations that are mentioned.
- \* Why not try doodling, painting, or drawing as you pray?

## **The BBC Radio 4 Daily Service & Sunday Service**

Most of us can access these but again, if you are able to go online you will find a number of previous services too.

## **A Sermon for every Sunday**

<https://asermonforeverysunday.com/>

This is a really great website where, as the name suggests, you can see and hear Sermons for every Sunday. These are delivered by a number of different preachers, some of them very well known. Usually a manuscript is available for reading too. Often you can access sermons on the same texts from earlier years as well, so you get a wide variety of approach and tone.

## **Our own sermon archive**

Check out <https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com/sermons/>

Here you will find some reflections and sermons from our own Ministry Team. Some you may have heard before, many probably not. At last count there were 68 sermons there, enough to keep you going for over a couple of months if you ration yourself to one a day!

Here we have simply aimed to share a few ideas. Please let us have your suggestions for next month's magazine (by 14 April please). Both websites have numerous links you may find helpful – and with grandchildren at home perhaps they could send you their ideas.

Be safe and look after yourselves.  
God bless.



### Palm Sunday

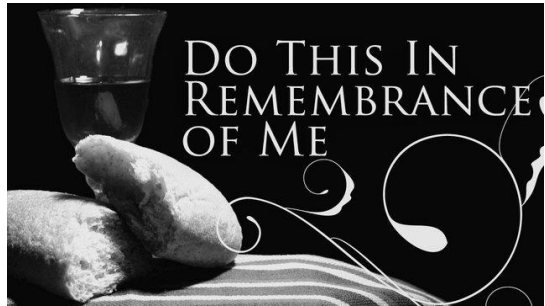


As the people spread their coats and palm branches on the ground to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem, so we welcome him into our lives today.

King of Glory, King of Peace, Servant King,  
reign in our hearts and lives this day and all days, that we might praise your holy name.

*©John Birch*

### The Last Supper



### Good Friday

Jesus, today we pause to remember your sacrificial love  
that shone light into the darkness,  
that bore life from such emptiness,  
that revealed hope out of devastation,  
that spoke truth through incrimination,  
that released freedom in spite of imprisonment  
and brought us forgiveness instead of punishment.

Thank you that we can now walk in the light of your life,  
in hope, truth, freedom and forgiveness,  
this day and everyday. Amen.

*www.lords-prayer-words.com*

## **Easter Day**

When our faith stands at the grave,  
grieving for a stone that's rolled away,  
forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding  
though the truth is there to see,  
forgive us.

When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further  
than an empty tomb today,  
forgive us.

Bring to mind the cry of Mary,  
'I have seen the Lord!'  
and grant us faith to believe!



*©John Birch*

### **You are making all things new.**

A new heaven  
A new earth  
A new way of thinking  
A new way of being.

### **You are making all things new.**

No more death  
No more mourning  
No more crying  
No more pain.

### **You are making all things new.**

Renew our minds  
to renew the world  
by living out your  
commandment of love.

### **You are making all things new.**

[www.christianaid.org.uk/](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/)

## *I am a Christian*

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When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost! That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak with human pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble — needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong  
I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success  
I'm admitting that I've failed and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't think I know it all  
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect  
My flaws are far too visible but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name

When I say, "I am a Christian," I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority — I only know I'm loved

*Carol Wimmer*

*Thank you Tricia for this reminder for us all.*



## ***Our MAP (Mission Action Plan)***

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In previous editions of the magazine we have run a series of articles focusing on our Mission Action Plan. You may have heard much about this topic, and over the last few months our PCC's have been devising a Mission Action Plan for where we see ourselves in 5 years time, helping us to form a growing, vibrant church, relevant to the communities of which we are a part. Some of these actions are specific to the individual Parishes, whereas others are being worked on as a joint Benefice.

We thought we would share in more detail the actions we set ourselves, with a description of the priority actions if we are to 'get there'. Each month we will focus on one particular subject and if you have **ANY** comments or suggestions then please share them with Clergy, Wardens or PCC members. **EVERYBODY** needs to be involved.

This month's theme focuses on more ecumenical activity:

- a) Share venues and leaders for Bible Study groups with Seedfield Methodist. Continue to invite members from other local churches including St Joseph's RC & Salvation Army.
- b) Continue to invite other local churches to the Seder meal
- c) Take place in pulpit swops with Seedfield
- d) Collaborate in Churches Together and other shared Ministry team meetings
- e) Support the work of other local Christian churches such as Four Lanes End Congregational
- f) Continue the single-day visits with St Joseph's to Formby Prayer Centre

### **HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

Next month's theme will focus on improving our effectiveness with internal & external communications.

## ***250th Anniversary Celebrations***

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As part of our celebrations to mark the 250th Anniversary of the Parish of St. John Bury it is hoped that we can put together a display of old photographs or other memorabilia; from this building here on Sunny Avenue, the previous building on The Rock or any other Church events which may have taken place away from the buildings.

We would like to have a place for all the groups, past and present, which have been part of our Church life. So if you have led or been a member of one of our groups then please share with us some history and have a look for photographs etc.

Please have a look around to see if you have anything we may be able to use and please speak to David Robinson or Margaret Duckworth at St. John with St. Mark or alternatively the Vicar or wardens. We may be able to take copies if you prefer.

**We aim to have the display in place during May.**

Thank You



St John's  
Chapel-of-Ease  
on the Rock

## ***Celebrating 250 Years of the Parish of St. John's***

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The parish of St. John's are celebrating 250 years since it was created in 1770. As well as our Celebration Weekend on 6/7 June, we are holding three special services during the year for everyone who has had a very significant occasion at St. John's Church.

These services are as follows:

### **RENEWING:**

Weddings / Service of Blessing or Thanksgiving

Sunday 19 July



### **RE-COMMITTING:**

Baptisms / Confirmations

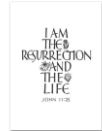
Sunday 27 September



### **REMEMBERING:**

Funerals / Interment of Ashes

Sunday 1 November



**All Services will begin at 3.00pm**

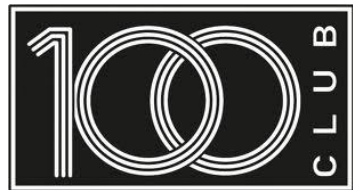
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

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### **FEBRUARY 2020 WINNERS**

1st Prize – Betty Alty

2nd Prize – Joyce Hopkinson



**CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH**

The AGM was held in February chaired by Revd Dave.

Officers re-elected for the coming year were:

branch leader Bob Taylor;

secretary Tricia Stokes;

treasurer Barbara Silvester;

card secretary Ruth Spencer

and committee members Clare Altham, Karen Kay and Joan Rigg.

The branch is in a good position financially so it was agreed to donate £300 to Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union to help fund current projects.

A service of Evensong was led by Margery Spencer at the beginning of March. Unfortunately the coronavirus outbreak had escalated during the month and this resulted in the second meeting being cancelled in the interests of members' safety.

Whilst we are unable to meet we shall continue to share information received from the diocese and from (and increasingly virtual) Mary Sumner House. We encourage all members to make full use of the resources available in Families First and Families Worldwide as we learn to be Church for a Different World.

Bob Taylor, Branch Leader

### **A thought shared from MSH**

Worries are really unarticulated prayers. So put words to your worries and send them heavenwards. Make yourself talk them out in the presence of love. Notice the promise Paul makes:

"Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6)

## ***25th Bury (Christ Church) Guides***

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We are **Moving** to Monday evenings 7.30 – 9pm

**Open** to all girls age 10 – 14.

If you are interested in moving up from Brownies, re-joining Guides, or coming as a completely new member, please contact us at [christchurchguides@hotmail.com](mailto:christchurchguides@hotmail.com)

We had hoped to start on 20<sup>th</sup> April but with the Covid 19 outbreak the date remains to be confirmed. Please email us and keep your eye on social media and the website. We would love you to come and meet us and find out further information.

Rose, Sue and Janet



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## ***Generous giving***

Whilst we are not able to gather for worship, nevertheless our expenses will not reduce significantly. Yes, we shall make some savings on electricity and gas, but we still need to pay, for example, insurance and parish share.

We appreciate that most people will continue to put their usual committed amount in their envelopes week by week. You may wish to bring this to church when we are open for prayer. If you have concerns please contact our planned giving officers or treasurers.

This could be a good opportunity to set up a standing order for your regular giving so that the church continues to receive it on a regular basis. We are happy to let you have bank details if this is something you would like to set up.

Or you may have been considering moving from giving in the plate collection to a greater regular commitment – again do please ask.

## ***THE OPEN GROUP***

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Our Open Group year began on Wednesday 11th March and was led by Reverend Dave for an evening entitled 'Our Memories'. There was a slight apprehension about this meeting as Dave realised he would require much interaction. Fortunately this happened, and what could have lasted five minutes actually could have overrun the hour. Not a bad thing though, as the evening produced some interesting discussion.

Dave began by playing his earliest musical memory, 'Grocer Jack' from 'Excerpt from a Teenage Opera' and then we were asked to discuss our earliest musical memories. This was followed by film memories, which included everything from Sound of Music to the first ever James Bond. TV memories were also on the list and it was interesting how many of these were sitcoms that are still being screened today. Obviously, children's TV of the time was also common. Probably the most discussed memory was news events. This varied from the assassination of JFK, First Man on the Moon, the death of Princess Diana and the attacks in America in September 2001. Many of us still remembered where we were when these events were first announced. It was remarked upon that in these days of 24 hour rolling news you would probably not need to wait for the media to announce such an event.

We also discussed our happiest memories which mainly included weddings, the birth of children and other family events.

A supplementary question was asked at the end 'When did we get our first telephone?' Many of us recall having one for a long time however it did bring back memories of the old circular dials and walking to the end of the street to use the public telephone box. Not sure how many of us still do that!

It was a really enjoyable meeting. Thanks to Dave for leading and also to Gary for attending and recalling the time he met Prince Philip. He does a good impression as well!

There will be no Open Group meetings until further notice.

David Robinson

## ***Wood Street Mission***

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The Mission is a children's charity based in the centre of Manchester. More than one in three local children is living in poverty. They help children and families living in poverty in Manchester and Salford by alleviating the day to day impact of poverty and improving life chances.

### **FAMILY BASICS – from the Mission's website**

Through Family Basics we provide low income families who need help with the day to day essential items that every family needs for their children.

These include:

Children's Clothing

Bedding and Towels

Toys

Baby Equipment

Toiletries

### **OTHER – MISSION OPPORTUNITIES at WOOD STREET**

The School Uniform Project - helping families meet some of the costs of going to school.

Books Forever - brand new bags that aim to inspire a love of reading, encourage families to read together and improve literacy.

Wood Street's mission is to help alleviate the effects of poverty on local children and their families through practical help.

Wood Street's vision is that all children in Manchester and Salford should live a life free from poverty.

Find out more at [www.woodstreetmission.org.uk](http://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk)

Or contact them on 0161 834 3140 25 Wood St. Manchester M3 3EF

**IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR**

## ***Christian Aid Week 10th-16th May 2020***

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### **With every gift, we help Rose stop this climate crisis**

In Kenya, the rains haven't come. Again! For villagers who farm the land that means life is getting even harder. Rivers are bone dry, and crops wither in the fields. The drought is starving people of food, water and the chance to earn a living.

At 67 years of age, Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Grandmother Rose shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop the climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

From house-to-house collections to Big Brekkies, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help Rose and her community to build a water dam, providing fresh water to help families survive the drought.
- **Act** to call for a New Deal for Climate Justice to help restore creation and build a world where everyone can thrive.
- **Pray** for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that, as a global community, we will care for people living in poverty.

**Together we stop this climate crisis.** Join us at **[caweek.org](http://caweek.org)**



## **Christian Aid Week Luncheon Platter**

If you would like to support the work of Christian Aid this year and help support people like Rose of Kenya, then why not join us again for a luncheon platter at the start of Christian Aid Week at St. John's Hall on Sunday 10th May, 12noon after the morning service.

Owing to the Covid-19 outbreak we may be unable to hold this event and will inform people as soon as a decision is made.

Tickets will be the same as last year, £5.00 per adult & £3.00 per child (under 12). You can contact John or church wardens for tickets.

Last year's luncheon raised £365.00, which was a great start to Christian Aid Week. Many thanks to those of you who supported it in any way.

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## ***NOT A LOT ON IN APRIL!***

But to keep us anchored -

Sun 5	<b>Palm Sunday</b>
Thu 9	<b>The Last Supper</b>
Fri 10	<b>Good Friday</b>
Sun 12	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
Sun 19	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
Sun 26	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>



***If you are able to assist in keeping church open each Sunday please speak to the Vicar.***

*Two people should always be present and we are asking that you "sign up" for 10-11 am or 11am-noon, at Christ Church or at St John with St Mark.*

***Thank you***

## Potential Dates for your Diary

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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 21 May  
7.30pm

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

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

JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE

**Celebrating 250 years  
of the parish of St.John's**

7 June  
10.30am

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK

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### **St. John with St. Mark Summer Fair**



The rainbow stall is in need of items for the Summer Fair this year. If anyone has items suitable for the stall could you please bring them to Church for Margaret Brennan or Marjorie Evans.

We are also in need of completed jigsaws. If you can help provide these, please see Joan Pearson.



The Summer Fair is in the Church Hall on Saturday 6th June, as part of our 250th Anniversary celebration weekend.

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

Lots more info on our websites: [www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk](http://www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk)  
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Please send your articles for the magazine by 14<sup>th</sup> of the previous month  
to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)



# World Day of Prayer

Bury's service  
hosted this year  
by Christ Church

The Mayor, Cllr Trevor Holt  
and Mayoress, Mrs Evelyn Holt,  
pictured with Coordinator,  
Mrs Tricia Stokes, joined over 40  
women and men to sing, pray and  
hear of challenges faced.



**THANK YOU** to all who contributed  
to an offering of £173.72

## Rise! Take your mat and walk

The service this year  
was written by the  
people of Zimbabwe,  
journeying towards  
love, peace and  
reconciliation

