

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

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



May 2021

50p



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

REGULAR SERVICES

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

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

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



“He gave gifts to his people”

Dear Friends

This month sees the season of Rogationtide, traditionally held around the sixth Sunday of Easter. The word comes from the Latin word *rogare* which means “to ask.”

Originally the Christian observance of Rogation involved an annual procession, often round the parish boundaries, asking for God’s blessing upon the crops. Rogation Sunday and the three days following, prior to Ascension Day, were times of praying for all involved in the agricultural process of a community.

The verses from Ephesians 4: 7-8 are the basis for this celebration:

“But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”



God’s gifts are often taken for granted. Occasions like Rogation & Harvest remind us of the need to give thanks. The idea of ploughing, sowing, reaping and gathering has a link with the many parables of Jesus who would have known this process very well.

The Rogation processions – also known as beating the bounds - were a significant part of community life. The poet George Herbert gave the following good reasons to beat the bounds:

- a blessing of God for the fruits of the field;
- establishing and preserving boundaries in the case of disputes;
- encouraging fellowship between neighbours;
- giving to the poor.

Whilst life is very different today to the early seventeenth century of George Herbert's existence, these principles remain important.

Today the Church uses Rogationtide to also pray for equality amongst God's people. The events of the coronavirus pandemic have shown once again not only the inequalities throughout the world, but in our nation.

Statistics have shown how different communities have been adversely affected by Covid-19.



Yet the words of Galatians 3: 28 remind us that "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

In the introduction to his latest book the Archbishop of Canterbury writes:

"The impact of Covid 19 has been as dramatic as a tyre blowing out on a car travelling at speed. It demands urgent action and it reveals the need of essential and often equally urgent change. It has shown us in close-up of time and distance, inequality, injustice and the capacity of nature to pose an existential threat beyond the power of any one country to face.

"If we do not learn the lessons and act on injustices of ethnic discrimination, lack of solidarity, neglect of the common good and most of all the even greater danger from human caused climate change, then these already terrible results of Covid-19 will seem as little compared to what is to come. We must learn together or suffer and even perish in our differences."

Let us use this time to work together to build a more united community in both our church and society.

With every blessing,

Dave

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

St.John with St.Mark: Sunday 16 May 12noon

Christ Church : Monday 24 May 7.30pm

**BOTH MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN A "HYBRID"
ARRANGEMENT – IN PERSON & ONLINE.**

**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 9 JUNE – Bury Parish Church.

(Only Clergy & Churchwardens to attend in person)

The Revd Canon Ralph Mallinson

Owing to health reasons, Ralph Mallinson no longer feels able to lead
worship. For that reason Ralph has requested that the Bishop withdraw
his Permission to Officiate in the Diocese.

We thank Ralph for his faithful ministry. In the next few weeks we shall
be arranging for a suitable gift to be presented to him. An
announcement has been made in both churches.

BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

May 2	5th of Easter Acts 8: 26-40	1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 1-8
May 9	6th of Easter Acts 10: 44-48	1 John 5: 1-6	John 15: 9- 17
May 16	7th of Easter Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	1 John 5: 9-13	Luke 17: 6-19
May 23	Day of Pentecost / Whit Sunday Acts 2: 1-21	Romans 8: 22-27	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
May 30	Trinity Sunday Isaiah 6: 1-8	Romans 8: 12-17	John 3: 1-17
Jun 6	1st after Trinity Genesis 3: 8-15	2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5:1	Mark 3: 20-35



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

May 2	In memory of the Booth family
May 9	Mr & Mrs J. McDermott, in memory of their daughter Carol
May 16	Mr Derek Schofield, in memory of his mother Bessie
May 23	Vacant
May 30	In memory of Margaret Dutton and Alex Farnworth

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).

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICE IN CHURCH

April 12 Clifford Porter

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

ASCENSION DAY

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



**Thursday 13 May
at 7.30pm**

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

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

JOINT SERVICE

on 5th Sunday of each month

The next joint service will be on 30 May

TRINITY SUNDAY

at 10.30am

AT CHRIST CHURCH



From the Vicarage

* Thanks to all those who helped decorate both our church buildings in preparation for Easter Day. As always they looked very impressive.

It has been good to be back worshipping in church, especially during Holy Week, and even more so after missing out last year. We can even sing outside now!

We will continue to be aware of the need to be Covid secure and mindful of any future government advice. As the lockdown rules are eased and the roadmap (and vaccinations) continue, I hope we can arrange more social activities and that our church halls can become more in use.

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

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

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

* Churches Together in Bury represents most of the Christian Churches in the town. The group meets every two months, with a prayer group which meets fortnightly. Currently, all meetings are on Zoom and are open to all. Please contact Barbara Taylor if you would like a link to join.

* 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 Nigel & Barbara Silvester who have been in Christ Church each Monday morning between 10-11 to collect donations.

*The new Diocesan Deanery structure will come into operation next month and our new full time Area Dean - Canon Dr Rachel Mann – will begin her post. Please pray for Rachel as she prepares to move to this area.

* 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.

* 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 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk

A grandfather was walking in the garden when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet, in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained,

“I’m praying, but I can’t think of exactly the right words, so I’m just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me because he knows what I’m thinking.”



Sunday @ Seven

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

May 30th at 7pm



Whether you are Zooming or Rooming - however we are able to meet. From the comfort of your own sofa with a lap-top, Ipad or hardcopy service sheet; make or pour yourself a relaxing drink and come and join us as we reflect on the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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

May 13 – May 23

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which the Archbishop of Canterbury invites people around the world to join.

The wave of prayer runs for 11 days between the Christian festivals of Ascension and Pentecost.

We will be distributing copies of the Prayer Journal.

PLEASE JOIN WITH CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD AS WE PRAY
"THY KINGDOM COME"

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

FROM THE WEBSITE:



"Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. Christians from 172 countries have taken part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ."

MORE DETAILS at www.thykingdomcome.global

A Resurrection Prayer in this Easter season

O God, week after week you arise,
gathering your people,
proclaiming your word of life,
feeding us with food that is eternal,
sharing your Spirit,
and renewing the face of the earth.

O God, transform us by this resurrection,
that we may embrace all that you have made
and live toward the justice that you intend
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Signs Along the Way <http://vicarbill.wordpress.com/category/prayers/>

A Benediction for Ascension Day - May 13
(based on Acts 1)

People of God,
let's not just stand here, gazing into heaven
as the disciples did after they saw Jesus leave.
Instead, let's take up the mission Jesus left us:
to be his witnesses,
to tell everyone we meet who Jesus is,
and how he has changed us.
And may the grace of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
go with us all.
Amen.

Christine Longhurst

Thy Kingdom Come

Two prayers from this year's prayer journal, covering the days of hopeful waiting and praying between Ascension and Pentecost:

Turning around (Day 4)

Steadfast God, redirect my life and redirect the life of the world. Help us to live in peace with each other and with the planet. And today help me to tread lightly on the earth, praying for others that we may all find for ourselves the way of being human that God shows us in Jesus. Give me the chance to start again. To turn around.

Give us our daily bread (Day 9)

Bountiful God, feed me with the bread of heaven, and give me today the things I need for today and save me from wanting more than my share. There are so many people who are hungry for love and thirsting for peace. Help me to help others find their place at your table.

A Call to Worship for Pentecost Sunday – May 23

God of wind and fire,
When you send your Spirit, we are created anew.
God of mighty oceans and still waters,
When we receive your baptism, we are born anew.
God of bread and wine,
When we eat at your table, we are nourished anew.
So pour out your Spirit
Let sacred waters flow
Fill us with holy food.
**May our hearts and our hands be open wide
to receive your gifts of life. Amen.**

Joanna Harader <https://spaciousfaith.com/>

Thursday Prayers falls this month on Ascension Day and will be available on YouTube from noon on 13 May. If you are unable to watch but would like the sheet which accompanies this short service please let me know.

On Friday, 14 May on Facebook at 2pm and on YouTube will be MU's **Thy Kingdom Come** Service.

I hope you were able to watch the incredible video for our **Wave of Prayer** service. It involved a number of children, people of different ethnicities, some great photos as well as the thoughtful liturgy put together by our president, Christine. Search YouTube for Manchester Mothers' Union to watch.



Last month I mentioned new initiatives being launched at Spring Council. One came from a meeting a couple of months ago and was the suggestion from a member from Christ Church. It is called **Let's Chat** and I will have more details after the Council meeting.

This came from the feeling that for some people these months of shielding / following stay at home guidance / not seeing close family / etc have made it difficult to

socialise and "Let's Chat" is aimed at combatting this. What I am certain of is that it is something we can all manage.

We look forward to meeting in the coming months – in some shape or form. Any suggestions for this summer please speak to a member of the committee.

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader



10-16 May

What we do

We work with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. We aim to end poverty and injustice worldwide by focusing on seven key areas. (Please see the Christian Aid website for more about these).

This involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

Our work includes helping people to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education;
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason;
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes;
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

This year Christian Aid are focusing on people like Florence and millions of people in Kenya, who are struggling to get enough food and water.

Florence's story

Florence is courageous, kind and a survivor. A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a dangerous journey to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us.



(Tom Pilston, Christian Aid)

Florence could easily have been defeated. But Florence is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be fighters too. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water. It's thanks to Christian Aid Week donations like yours that Florence and her community have built this water dam, with the help of CA's partner ADSE, just a short walk away from her village. 'I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power.' - Florence Muthiani.

Florence is generous, and she knows other people are struggling to cope without a reliable water source. 'There is a village nearby – they don't have an earth dam. They travel for a long way to come to this water point. They are suffering.'

Give today and help more people like Florence stop this climate crisis. Your generosity this Christian Aid Week could help another community build a dam. Many more people will have the water they need to sustain their families.

Our planned luncheon event last year had to be postponed and it looks like we will not be able to hold a similar event probably until sometime after the summer break this year.

A huge thank you to those of you who give directly to Christian Aid, and to everyone who kindly donated to Christian Aid through church, Christian Aid envelopes or small change boxes, which raised £270 from across the Benefice. Below are details if you would like to give directly to Christian Aid.

Many thanks,
John Brennan

Online cash donations may be made at christianaid.org

For details on how to pay money directly into CA's bank account please call 020 7523 2226.

Unfortunately under the current circumstances regarding Covid-19, there is a delay to processing donations by post. Please give via the website where possible or call 020 7523 2269 to donate by telephone.

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Freely, freely

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

Last month we were sent an acrostic for Easter.

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

We invited our readers to send further acrostics for coming seasons. We are printing two to mark the Ascension of Christ. If anyone attempted Pentecost they did not submit it.

There are many opportunities coming in the next few months so why not give it a try?

A Arisen

S Saviour

C Christ

E Exalted

N Not

D Dead

E Everlasting

D Deity

A After

S Suffering

C Christ

E Entered

N New

S Seat

I Inspiring

O Ordinary

N Nations

Thank you to Tricia Stokes
for the photo of
her Easter Garden.



Brownies are ZOOMING back to Face to Face meetings

After over a year of virtual meetings we are now returning to normality. We have been saying "fingers crossed we can meet in person" at the end of every term and half term and it has finally happened!

We have still been able to do science experiments, bake, make crafts and play games but it has been hard not being able to put hands through the screen to help. Scavenger hunts have been amazingly popular (with girls, if not parents).

We do thank all our parents who have been incredibly supportive throughout. Laura's fortnightly drop offs have now ended – no more wondering what these items will be for!

What we have missed is outdoor activities, so we were delighted that after the Easter break we were able to meet again outside.

The girls are, of course, a year older – so several are now old enough to "fly up" to Guides. They have continued to meet as one on Zoom, led by leaders from both groups. Our first outdoor meeting provided the opportunity for these girls to move up and for long awaited awards to be presented.

For the present Brownies are meeting for an hour, followed by Guides, weekly during term time.

If you know a girl aged 7-10 or 10-14yrs who is interested in joining this wonderful organisation then please register their details at www.girlguiding.org.uk/join us and we will contact you.

Brownie and Guide Leaders
25th Bury (Christ Church)



A JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Following the announcement of church closures in March 2020, as a result of the pandemic, this was the first time in two years that a full programme of Holy Week services could take place. This was pleasing to many, although there were still some who were unable to attend due to continued shielding and guidance.

Our journey began on 28th March with Palm Sunday. Our worship services were revised this year for obvious reasons and therefore there could be no procession of Palms around the Church grounds. However in light of the fact it was pouring down on this morning I suspect that was probably a relief to most. We did still receive Palm crosses and were able to hold them up and have them blessed at the beginning of the service.

The week continued with services to mark Monday to Wednesday of Holy Week. The numbers were small in attendance, particularly on Monday and Tuesday evening, but nice to observe them all the same. I did discover that they each have their own individual names, including Spy Wednesday, which is a reference to Judas's actions. Apparently it is also traditional for some to use this early part of Holy Week to clean or tidy various parts of the house in preparation for the Easter feast. Some may prefer the term spring cleaning!

Our service on Maundy Thursday was well attended and included the commemoration of the Last Supper. Foot washing was obviously absent, but the void was filled with an enjoyable and thought provoking talk from Ian on this subject. It was also videoed as part of Ian's Reader training, and some of us were asked to observe and provide feedback. So it was pens and clipboards at the ready. The service ended with the traditional stripping of the Altar and removal of decorations from the Church.

Vicar Dave led a reflective service of Penance for Good Friday. This was a responsorial service based on the Seven Last Words of Christ and included quiet reflection, prayer, readings, a homily and some reflective music. Something a little different held within the bareness of the Church.

A small team of helpers spent Saturday morning putting the Church decorations back, redressing the altar, arranging the flowers and generally sprucing up ready for the Easter Day celebration.

I then attended the Bury Deanery Easter Eve Vigil and Service of Light at Bury Parish Church at 7.30pm. This was an enjoyable and well organised service with a thought provoking sermon from the Area Dean, which got us thinking about the future of the Church both locally and nationally. The new Paschal candles were blessed, however unfortunately we were unable to take ours as the stand was just too much to transport. The service concluded with an opportunity to sing Thine Be the Glory. Easing of restrictions now meant that we were able to sing this outdoors as a congregation by the Church gardens.



We were then back in our own Church the following morning for a lovely Easter Day celebration, which began with the blessing of our own Paschal candle.

After being seriously curtailed last year, it was good to have a varied Holy Week programme this time and thanks to those who led the worship services, as we could not have had them without you.

David Robinson

THANK YOU



Just a note to say thank you to everybody for all your prayers and best wishes, following my recent spinal operation at Salford Royal.

I'm glad to say that each day I feel stronger and am very grateful for all the care received at both Fairfield Hospital and Salford Royal.

Once again, thank you and God bless. Pam Cowie

May

Sun 2		Fifth of Easter
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Parish Communion (both)
Sun 9		Sixth of Easter
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Family Service (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
Thu 13		Ascension Day
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (Both)
Sun 16		Seventh of Easter
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Parish Communion (both)
	12 noon	APCM (SJM)
Sun 23		Day of Pentecost / Whitsunday
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Morning Prayer (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
Mon 24	7.30pm	APCM (CC)
Sun 30		Trinity Sunday
	9.00 am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30 am	Parish Communion (joint service at CC)
	7.00 pm	Sunday @ Seven (Zoom)

As we begin to meet again
please let us know of anything you would like publicising

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

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

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

Lots more info on our websites: www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Please send your articles for the magazine by 14th of the previous month to wrub@live.co.uk



What joy!

**to sing again—even
though it meant going
into the churchyard**

