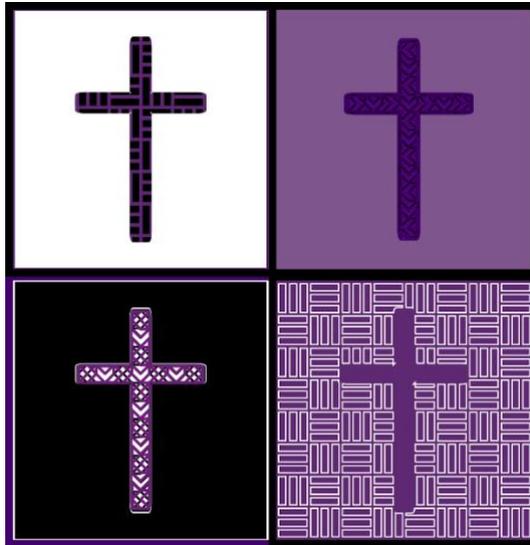


**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury**

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



Lent

March 2023



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD



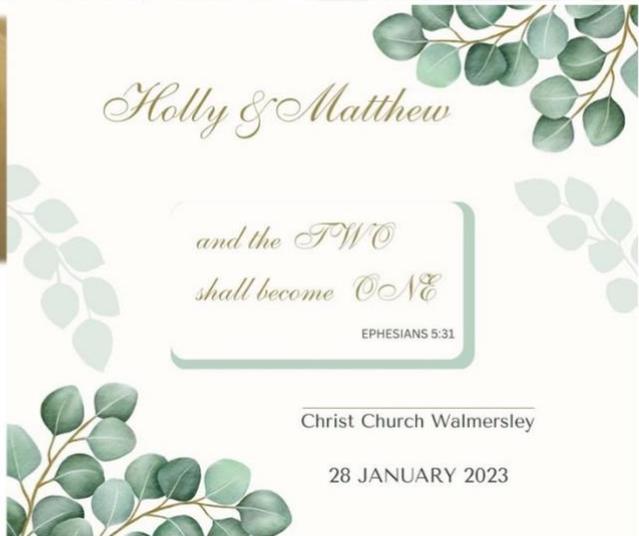
Holly & Matthew

and the TWO
shall become ONE

EPHESIANS 5:31

Christ Church Walmersley

28 JANUARY 2023



The image on the cover is by Nina Garman on pixabay.com

Make the most of this Lent

Greetings friends, and welcome to this March issue of our Magazine.

I should start by saying what a privilege it is to write the letter for the first time. When the Interregnum began, it was felt that we could use this as an opportunity to have a different person to occasionally fill this space, so I hope that my inaugural letter will be appreciated and provide some benefit.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



The timing of Easter this year means that the entire month of March runs through the season of Lent; a season of solemnity and abstinence. I should confess that the opportunity to avoid the indulgences and pleasures we enjoy during the rest of the year is very difficult for me, and there is usually little in the way of solemnity in my household, owing to the number of celebrations that occur. It starts with my Mum and Dad's wedding anniversary on 24th February; my own Birthday is on 6th March; my Mum's and sister's Birthdays are both on Annunciation Day (25th); Mothering Sunday will always fall around this time; and with the feast of Easter, it is traditional for it to be a month of celebration, indulgence and continuous differing greetings cards around the house. I am sure we have occasionally had the odd St. Patrick's Day decoration or card as well! It is also worth acknowledging that March brings other joys, with signs of spring, improving weather and increased daylight, enjoyed more so after the starkness of January and February.

I have recently read the autobiography of Selwyn Hughes, a preacher, minister and a global giant of faith. Early on, he was advised that his ministry journey would occasionally take him away from home, and that there would be a sense of expectation to occasionally cut things out of your life which you love. Most of you will have noticed that I

have not been at home very much myself recently; my home Church that is.

As part of my discernment process for Ordination, it has been necessary for me to cut out of my life the regular Sunday service I have attended for so many years here. I have been at St. Peter's, Bury, and have greatly valued the time I have spent there, enjoying different styles of worship and sharing fellowship and prayer time with faithful and enthusiastic people.

That time has now come to an end though, and I am back with you to journey through this season of Lent. Have you thought what you are going to 'cut out' of your life this season? I expect the traditional list springs to mind; your favourite tipple, your favourite chocolate bar, or your weekly night out. Let



us not forget though that Lent is not just about cutting out. For those of you who find it difficult to give something up, then please remember that Lent is also an opportunity to do a bit more. You may wish to spend more time in prayer or bible reading; attend an extra worship service during the week; you may find a Lent course nearby or online, consider giving a little more to charity by saving your loose change, or like me, you may find it helpful to attend a different Church once or twice. You may also wish to benefit from the extra opportunities which March has to bring, by making the most of the better weather and increased daylight and, as you are able, perhaps a walk around the local Lido or countryside.

However you choose to spend this Lent season, I pray that you will all find refreshment and benefit, as we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast and our Lord's resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

David

BAPTISM

February 19 Daisy Louise Smith

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

MARRIAGE

January 28 Matthew B Oakes and Holly H Bamford

"Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder."

INTERMENT OF ASHES

January 22 Beryl Williams

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

Lent Evensong



Everyone is welcome to Evensong during Lent at Bury Parish Church. There will be a different preacher each week from a Church or Benefice from across the Deanery.

Services are at 4.30pm on Sundays 26th February, 5th March, 12th March and 19th March. Then at 6.30pm on Sunday 26th March.

Preachers will be:

26 February	Ian Banks
5 March	Paul Sanderson
12 March	Simon Watkinson
19 March	Donna Williams
26 March	Margaret Trivasse



BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

Mar 5 **2nd of Lent**

Genesis 12.1-4a Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 John 3.1-17

Mar 12 **3rd of Lent**

Exodus 17: 1-7 Romans 5: 1-11 John 4: 5-42

Mar 19 **4th of Lent – Mothering Sunday**

1 Samuel 16: 1-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41
Exodus 2: 1-10 or 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 or Luke 2: 33-35 or
1 Samuel 1: 20-28 Colossians 3: 12-17 John 19: 25-27

Mar 26 **5th of Lent - Passion Sunday**

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45

Apr 2 **Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Matthew 27: 11-54

Flowers in church

There are no flowers in church during Lent.

At Christ Church, if you would like to contribute to Easter flowers (traditionally given by the Congregation), please put your donation in the box at the back of church. At St. John with St. Mark, please speak to Rosemarie Ashworth about Easter flowers.

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).

Interregnum Notes

- * The move took place, at the end of February, of the diocesan offices, from 90 Deansgate, Manchester to St John's House, 155-163 The Rock, Bury, BL9 0ND
- * In early March the Diocese will welcome the Archbishop of York who will be treated to a flying visit to numerous churches and institutions. On Thursday 2 March he will officially open the new diocesan offices in St John's House. Later that day he will lead an evening of inspiration and reflection "Teach us to pray" at St Anne Edgeside, at 7.45pm. Ask if you would like a lift.
- * The Ministry Team (Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister) meets every month – normally on the second Tuesday evening. If you have an issue that you would like them to discuss, please contact one of the team.
- * Many thanks to our own ministry team and to visiting ministers who are currently ensuring that all our usual services are continuing.
- * Please support our Wardens and Ministry team during the time of interregnum. We are grateful to Archdeacon Jean, Area Dean Rachel and our Mission Community Leader, Julian Heaton, who are all available for guidance if for any reason the 'home' team can't help you.
- * If you have any thoughts on the qualities desired in clergy working with us in future, it is not too late to share ideas with members of the PCCs.
- * 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.
- * Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches. Thanks to those who support others in need.
- * There is so much happening both in the benefice and in our new Mission Community. If you use social media that is a great way to keep up to date with everything.

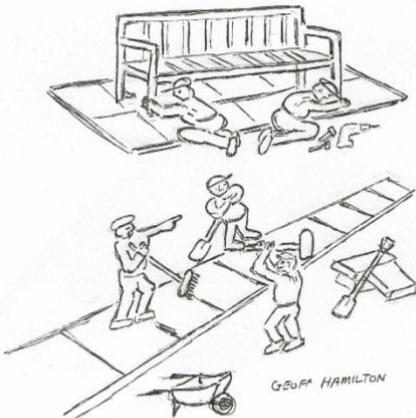
Summary of Christ Church meeting on 6 February 2023

1. Opening prayers were led by the Lay Chair.
2. The bench commemorating George Fryer has been placed in the Garden of Remembrance.
3. Work continues with the laid down procedure for applying for a new vicar for the benefice.
4. The Parish Share requested for 2023 is £27,900, or monthly payments of £2,325.
5. A written report and accounts were presented by the treasurer.
6. It was suggested that the external church notice board should be updated with current contact information. The Property committee were asked to look at the possibility of removing the redundant notice board by School Lane.
7. Printing costs were reviewed and a new password for the printer from Arena is required.
8. It was noted by the church hall committee that the church hall floor is becoming dangerous in parts due to woodworm.
9. The Pastoral committee reported that there would be Mothering Sunday cards and Easter cards which would show service times.
10. The Thursday work team is using concrete flags to repair the path at the south west corner of the churchyard towards the car park behind the Church Hall.
11. Plans are in motion for a new mid-week service beginning on 1st March 2023. Members were asked to publicise this.
12. The Lay Chair asked that the Mission Community be a regular item on the agenda as so far we have had very little feedback from meetings.
13. Closing prayers remembered the people suffering and bereaved following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

The CC Churchyard Team

Last year I wrote a piece in the magazine entitled "Head-scratchers, Chin-strokers, Lip-pursers" – we have now turned out to be a really good working group. We meet on Thursday morning between 10 and 12, weather permitting. After greetings and checking that everyone has taken their medication and is fit to participate, we can be assured of banter, jokes and laughter throughout the morning. So, if you have any of the above qualities we would love to see you.

For the past couple of months we have been giving things a good coat of looking at, and come up with a plan of action.



A) We cleaned the paving flags round church and fixed any trip hazards.

B) The bench which was given for the Garden of Remembrance is now in the garden and bolted to the flagstones.

C) We have completed the resurfacing of the path between church and church hall where the tarmac was.

Geoff Hamilton

*Ed – An appropriate quote found in Proverbs 14.23:
"In all toil there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty".*

A meeting of the Bury Mission Community took place at St. John with St. Mark on Monday 30th January. We opened with worship and items were then discussed and news shared:

Lent Evensong ~ There will be Evensong at Bury Parish Church on the Sundays during Lent at 4.30pm. Worship centres will provide a preacher for each of the services, to which all are welcome.

Beating the Bounds ~ Reverend Paul Sanderson will lead two walks around the boundaries of the Mission Community, to take in each Church. The first walk will go from St. Peter's and finish at Christ Church Walmersley (via St. Thomas, St. Paul & St. John Bircle) whilst the second walk will go from St. John with St. Mark and finish at Bury Parish Church (via St. James, All Saints' Elton & St. Stephen). Each will be approx. 5.5 miles and there will be prayers at each Church. These will probably be on two Saturdays between May and July.

Communication ~ It has been proposed that we produce a newsletter 3 times per year with material from each worship centre. This will include personal items with pictures, starting with the Area Dean, other clergy and then Focal Leaders. Also, a MailChimp E-Bulletin with similar info to the newsletter and notable items from the Diocesan website will be sent out to e-mail addresses as requested.

#MoreThanSunday ~ This is continuing within the Mission Community. More details are on page 14.

Joint Events ~ There will be an Easter Eve vigil service on Saturday 8th April at Bury Parish Church, to which all are welcome. Other proposed events include a September creation celebration involving parishes and schools and also an Epiphany event in January 2024.

Service cover ~ The provision of service and Eucharistic cover was discussed, particularly supporting Benefices which are currently in Interregnum.

Growing Faith Deanery worker ~ This search is ongoing. Presently the plan is that the appointee be based in Bury Mission Community initially, to help the Parishes develop work in schools and to evolve work in Bury Church High School. Forms have been sent to each Parish to capture information about our work with children.

Next meeting ~ Suggested to be Monday 17th April at a venue to be confirmed.

Loving God, Jesus called his disciples to seek your kingdom and follow him. You summon us to share in the work of the Bury Mission Community. Open our hearts to hear his invitation to be his disciples in this generation. Grant us courage. Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit. Give us compassion, wisdom and resilience. Pour on us your endless grace that we may flourish and our parishes grow in faith and love, service and compassion, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Real Easter Egg

It is not too late to order your eggs with the opportunity to save postage if between us we can order 18+ eggs. See the lists at the back of church.

There is much more information there or by visiting <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-easter-egg>

Why not also go online to send an egg to a foodbank where it will be much appreciated?

The only chocolate egg to share the Easter story

Quiet Moments in March

Prayer for Taiwan, the focus of 2023's World Day of Prayer

Lord in a land of so many people, and so many faiths, we pray for those who know you as the One True God.

In a land where many retain their own language and culture, we pray they will be able to live in the modern world without being lost in it.

In a land full of beautiful countryside, we pray for an awareness of climate change and its effect on the land.

In a land facing the challenge of an ageing population, we pray for an even burden of care throughout society.

In a country formed out of strife and war, we pray for good and wise government and support through international relationships.

In a country that delights in its democracy, we pray that young people will feel empowered to take part in the political aspects of life.

In a country that feels so safe and secure, we pray for a balance in criminal law that is appropriate for all.

In a land of co-existence and interfaith working, we pray that this interfaith approach shows something of the character of our God.

We pray these prayers through Jesus our Saviour and Lord.

www.wwdp.org.uk (adapted)

In a World of change

Lord, we live in a world of change.

Every day is filled with uncertainty.

We are surrounded by the twists and turns of life and we often feel we have little or no control over things that happen to us.

Lord, we come to stand in your eternal presence.

We come to you to find ourselves,

To find our way, to find hope.

We come to you because in Christ you first came to us. Amen



David Clowes ~ 500 Prayers for all Occasions

As we approach the arrival of spring

Creator God, in the beauty of Spring, we witness again and again your creative hand at work. As the earth reawakens after the dark days of Winter, help us to be renewed in our passion for you.

As the first crocus breaks through the winter-hardened earth, so your Son broke through the darkness of this world to bring us light and hope.

As we bathe in the warmth of the early Spring sunshine, may we feel the warmth of your love and radiate it to others.

In your name we pray. Amen

Jacqui Armstrong, Province of All-Ireland (Mothers' Union "Dear Lord")



A prayer for Passiontide



Jesus, Lamb of God,
when you walked this earth
you did not consider
heavenly equality,
though that was yours to choose,
but took the role of servant,
and in humility
and obedience
allowed the rough nails of our sin
to be hammered into your flesh
for the sake of our salvation.

And so it is
that we acknowledge you
as Lord of all,
to the glory of God
the Father, Son and Spirit, Three.

John Birch ~ Faith & Worship

#MoreThanSunday



Our most recent session in February focussed on “Worship, Preaching and Teaching” and how the 10% of our time we spend in gathered worship on a Sunday can inform and impact us, and also the

community in our lives throughout the week. Jesus’ material he used for preaching came from the everyday occurrences in life. This is still relevant to our own way of preaching 2000 years later. We discussed how our gathered worship and all that has been shared, taught, experienced and prayed for is intended to be taken out beyond our gathering. There was also a chance to look at how our worship could be enhanced to increase these opportunities.

We watched a couple of video clips from Churches in the Diocese which have come up with different initiatives, including after school groups aimed at young families and heard how St. John in Atherton are involved in a project with the local foodbank.

During the session we were invited to share together in a ‘360-degree peace circle’ when each member of the group stood with arms or hands outstretched and, beginning by facing East slowly turned in a circle in silence, praying about the community outside of our buildings.

At the end of the meeting, we were made aware of different resources connected to the theme and an LICC Confidence journey course that encourages us to grow deeper confidence in faith from Sunday and throughout the week.

It was felt that we needed to make congregations more aware of who is involved in the More Than Sunday course from each worship community. David Robinson has been the representative in this Benefice, so if you want to know more about the suggestions or resources, please see David. There is a course booklet which we could arrange to provide you with as well.

The sixth and penultimate shift is on Saturday 18th March in the Barritt Room at St. John with St. Mark at 10.00am (refreshments from 9.30am) and the theme is “Commissioning and Collaboration”, looking at discipleship and vocations. We meet in a hybrid environment with other Mission Communities joining us on Zoom.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to feel more confident about their faith. You do not have to have attended the previous sessions if you have not been to any before.

Give a Gift of Perseverance this Mothering Sunday

Mothers, caregivers and grandmothers are so important, doing so much to help their children, families and communities thrive, often unnoticed and without thanks. For Mothering Sunday (19th March) Mothers' Union invites you to thank them by buying a 'Gift of Perseverance' to help empower women to transform their lives and reach their potential.

When you buy one of these life-changing gifts you receive details of its transforming power, together with a Mothering Sunday card to give to your loved one.

Find out more at <https://makeamothersday.org/shop> where gifts start from £8.

By choosing one of these gifts, you could make the difference between a young person missing out on school or creating their new life at university. You could give a mother much-needed relief from hardship and poverty, and help her on a new path to grow and flourish with confidence.

"I have four grandchildren. God answered my prayers as my firstborn son finished school and is now in the police, another son finished university and is a doctor now. All my children have finished university. My daughter got pregnant and ran away, but after a time she came home. I took care of her child while she finished school, and now we live peacefully together."

In the UK and around the world, Mothers' Union volunteers support families when a parent goes to prison. Skills-building include sessions on cookery and crafts, as well as parenting skills, while for children, support before and during a visit, running a prison creche and making a simple card or present can all make a difference.

"It used to be that every time my husband and I had to pay school fees we would fear, and that fear would turn into arguments. Now, we have peace, we know that we will manage because we both can contribute something. We are free now."

Just some of the stories of change you can help to make flourish. Or you could just buy a box of chocolates or a bunch of flowers?!

Our afternoon meetings have continued with most people able to attend and some finding it easier. In 'The Big Picture' Catherine Hilton gave members a wider view of the scope of Mothers' Union than is often seen in branches.

Our Annual General Meeting was an opportunity to thank everyone who helps everything run smoothly. Going forward, our officers are:

Secretary	Barbara Taylor
Treasurer	Barbara Silvester
Card Secretary	Ruth Butcher
Prayer Circle rep	Claire Altham
Committee	Claire Altham, Denise Booth, Karen Kay, Joan Riggs, Barbara Silvester, Barbara Taylor

It was decided that a donation of £200 be sent to Manchester Projects, for work being done in the diocese. In addition, members approved costs in updating the provision in church for young children (activity bags and cases).

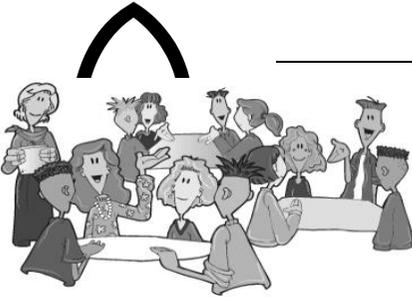
It was agreed that going forward meetings would be held at 2pm in the winter months (November to March) and in the evenings at 7.30pm from April to October. Whilst appreciating it is impossible to suit everyone, there is a strong preference for not venturing forth on dark nights.

Manchester Mothers' Union has moved its office and shop from 90 Deansgate to St John's House on The Rock, Bury. So, from 7 March we will be able to visit the shop with very little effort, compared to the past. Do pop in to choose from the selection of cards, check out gifts, have a drink and join in midday prayers. You will be made very welcome. The opening hours have yet to be confirmed, depending on the volunteers who wish to continue (or begin) in the new venue.

You will also be welcome at either of our March meetings at 2pm in the Hall. On 1st, choose one of your favourite hymns as we enjoy a 'songs of praise'. Then on 15th, Barbara and Nigel Silvester will lead "Open for Lent".

Bob Taylor, Branch Leader

The Open Group



It is the intention to resume the Open Group after the winter break on **Wednesday 22nd March** at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room. I am as yet unsure of the theme or speaker,

but as it is Lent, then possibly a reflective get-together. I will confirm nearer the time, and also on the weekly sheets what the plan for the evening is.

Going forward, the group will return to the regular second Wednesday of the month. Thank you to the people who have already volunteered to fill a session, and again, I will confirm dates in due course.

All are welcome, even those who have never been before, and please let me know if you need further information.

David Robinson

Light Lunches

EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

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

Lunch is served 12 noon - 1pm.

Christ Church Walmersley Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP

There is no charge – though, if you can, a donation toward costs would be appreciated. Any profit will go to charity or church funds.

It would be great to see you!

Upcoming Dates: 16th March, 20th April, 18th May



Men of the Benefice



The MOB met for the first time this year on Monday 30th January at the The Towler. Geoff Stokes had offered to speak to us about the organ at Christ Church and some of the musical highlights of his own life.

We were given some facts about the current organ, in that it was installed in 1883 by Hill & Sons, has 16 stops and many other features. Geoff also gave us an insight into his other involvements such as playing in a prison, at the Royal Albert Hall and singing in the Chapel Choir. In 2012, Geoff also played on the great Bridgwater Hall organ, a birthday present from Tricia. Questions for Geoff came thick and fast after the talk.

It was great to see a good number of people in attendance and also some new faces. The Men of the Benefice were expected to meet again at The Towler on Monday 27th February for a quiz night led by Colin. Details of the March and other future meetings will be made available in due course.

David Robinson



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

celebrated around the world each year
on the first Friday in March

Locally, join us
at 2pm on March 3
at St Hilda's RC Church, Tottington

See back page for more about the service

Upcoming Dates



Join Churches Together in Bury
for a **Walk of Witness**

on Good Friday, April 7
from 12 noon

Starting from Bury United Reformed Church, Parsons
Lane

There will be an
Easter Vigil
for our Mission Community,
at Bury Parish Church
on Saturday, 8th April
time to be confirmed



May 14 – 20 is **Christian Aid Week**

Once again, Churches Together in Bury is
organising a street collection.

Could you spare an hour to help – by collecting,
serving refreshments, counting money – or
maybe beforehand by baking?

Please have a word with our co-ordinator John Brennan.

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday			
8.30am	3 rd	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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 Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Venue tba
Wednesday			
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion		St John w St Mark
6.00 p.m.	Elevate		Christ Church Hall
Thursday			
12.30 p.m.	The Gathering		Zoom
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion		St John w St Mark
Other services as announced.			
Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.			

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



PARISH PEOPLE

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

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

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

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

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

FOR YOUR MARCH DIARY

Wed 1	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Fri 3	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer (St Hilda, Tottington)
Sun 5		2nd of Lent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Mon 6	2.00pm	PCC (CC Hall)
Sun 12		3rd of Lent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	12 noon	9 th Bury Scouts 'Bacon Butties' fundraiser
Wed 15	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 16	12 noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sat 18	10.00am	#More Than Sunday (Barritt Room)
Sun 19		4th of Lent – Mothering Sunday
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
		Morning Worship (SJM)
Tue 21	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury (venue tbc)
Wed 22	7.30pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
Sun 26		5th of Lent - Passion Sunday
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (Barritt Room)
Mon 27	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Towler)



Sunday @ Seven



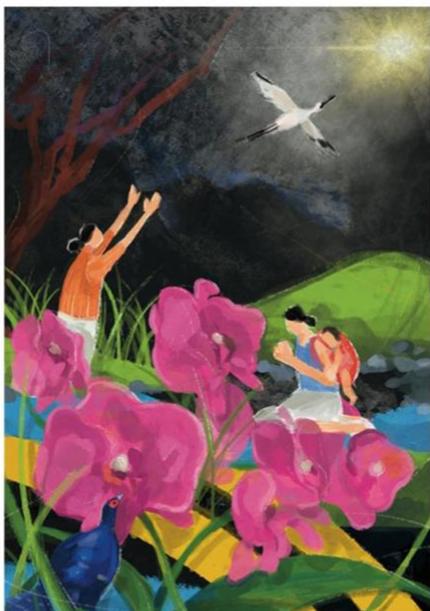
We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer)

March 26th at 7pm

*Sorry, but that's
the rules!*



**Come and join with us
for an hour of relaxed worship and reflection.
This month we will be reminding ourselves about those
Ten Commandments and their implications for us.
We will meet in the Barritt Room at St. John with St
Mark Hall. Or you can join in via Zoom.
Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks
for more details.**



World Day of Prayer

Friday, 3 March

2pm

St Hilda Tottington

**I have heard about
your faith**

This year's service has been planned by the people of Taiwan, with the theme "I have heard about your faith".

In this image the artist, Hui-Wen HSAIO, has used several motifs that highlight Taiwan's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan.

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill, which are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people. The Mikado pheasant is endemic to mountainous regions of Taiwan and is usually regarded as one of Taiwan's national birds. The Black-faced Spoonbill migrates thousands of miles every year to spend the winter in Taiwan. Their distinctiveness symbolizes a characteristic of the Taiwanese people—confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty.

The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the "Kingdom of Orchids." In recent decades, Taiwanese orchid's exports have increased, and Butterfly orchids have frequently been featured in international competitions. This beautiful island is known by its rich natural resources. Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care.



Taken from www.wwdp.org.uk