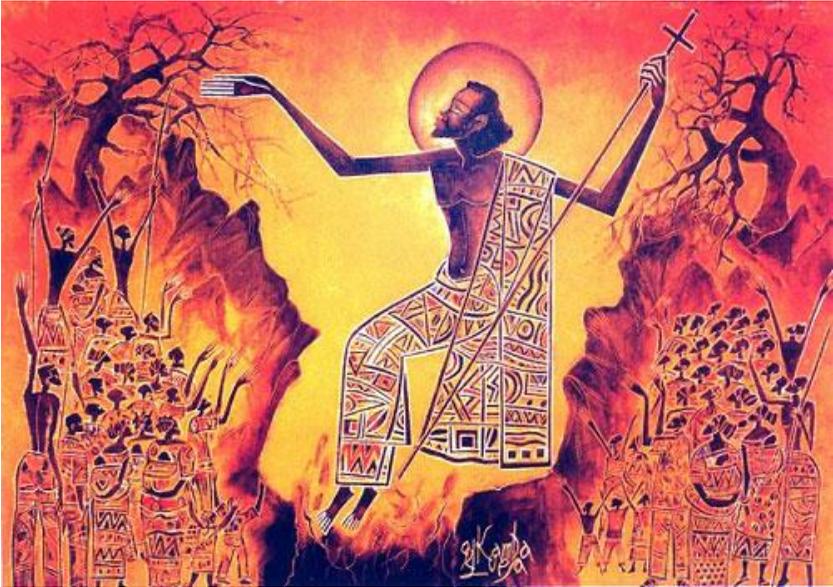




**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury
in the
United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



The Ascension of Christ

May 2014

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Morning Service 5 th Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 nd Parade Service	St John w St Mark

Wednesday

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

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

Saturday

4.00 p.m.	1 st Messy Church	Christ Church
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Saints days and other services as announced
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.



St John w St Mark's Church has the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



Doing Anything Special?

What day is it? How many of us have that first thought as we awaken at the start of the day? And I don't just mean us retired folk - though there may be a general mis-conception that every day is the same once retirement arrives!

Increasingly these days every day is the same. For many the demands of work dictate that shifts/rotas roll through every day as if there were no weekends - indeed weekends are a thing of the past. The days merge and one day becomes much like the next! Football is no longer a national event which only takes place at 3pm on Saturday; banks are open on Saturday; Sunday is a day just like every other day - maybe even more so - as shops are open, cinemas, restaurants, etc. There is a growing expectation that all facilities should be available every day of the week. There is increasing pressure to make every day the same.

Are there no special days left? Well, may be Christmas day - and that seems to be hanging on by its finger tips!

I had a look on the internet for any special days in May and there are loads of them for us to look forward to. To name but a few... there's May Day, of course, the ancient Spring fertility rite; Star Wars Day on May 4th (May the Fourth be with you!); VE Day on May 8th (which is also No Socks Day, apparently); Eurovision Song Contest on 10th May (held every year in May since 1956); and Towel Day on May 25th (you need to read Chapter 3 of Douglas Adam's Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy for that one). So there are still special days and many people celebrate them.



What of the church? Is every day the same for us or do we make the effort to observe special days - like Sunday for instance? Keep Holy the Sabbath Day. Holy meaning different, set apart. The word holiday was born from 'Holy Day' - a day to rest from our labours and, originally at least, a day to attend church. Do we look out for other special days in our church calendar? There's plenty of them but it is easy to overlook many of them as modern life seems to squeeze the time available to mark them out as special.

This month there is a particularly special day in the church calendar - Ascension Day. An occasion which has been marked since the very early days of the Christian Church. It is said that the apostles themselves reserved this day as special as they celebrated Jesus ascending to heaven remembering the promise made by angels that he would return in glory.

Ascension Day was firmly established in the church calendar by the fourth century - falling forty days after Easter and therefore invariably in May. Unfortunately we seem to have let Ascension Day slip down the priorities in more recent times. At many churches it was the patronal festival - as it used to be at Christ Church - and a must in terms of church attendance.

Maybe it is time to give it (and ourselves) a boost and make it a day to set apart - to come together at church to celebrate the promise that Jesus will return in glory.



This year Ascension Day is on May 29th - it is always on a Thursday. So perhaps when we awaken on May 29th and ask ourselves "what day is it?" we should answer "it is a special day - Ascension Day" and make the effort to do something special - be at church!

Nigel.



***CALLING ALL SIDESPERSONS
(and PCC MEMBERS)***

It is a duty of any Archdeacon to hold annual Visitations. Here these take the form of a service in each Deanery, for clergy, churchwardens, sidespersons and PCC members, held in May.

Within this act of worship, the Archdeacon delivers an address (or 'charge') and admits Churchwardens to office, on behalf of the Bishop. Sidespersons are admitted to office and PCC members are encouraged to attend also.

Long gone are the sermons on 'gutters and downspouts'! (Although we did have one based on a wooden spoon a year or two ago!!)

This year the service is even on 'home ground' – 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 May at St John with St Mark's Church.

Everyone is welcome.

Justin Welby has said that he hopes the first woman bishop could be appointed in early 2015

On May 22 members of the Manchester Diocesan Synod will be voting on the resolutions regarding the appointment of women to the episcopate. Whilst (considering the votes in those dioceses where synod has already met) it is unlikely that the Church of England will be holding its collective breath, nevertheless Manchester's will be the final vote before the deadline at midnight that night!

Please pray for those who will be voting on your behalf. It is our deanery synod representatives who elect those on diocesan synod so we do have a say, through whom we elect.

IN MEMORIAM: David Smith

The choir would like to say a few words about the sudden tragic loss of our choirmaster, organist and friend David Smith.

A private person, David was at St. John with St. Mark for thirty years and had been distressed at the loss of his wife Jean ten months ago. However more recently David seemed to be slowly coming to terms with things and had arranged to visit his sister and her husband in Australia at Christmas time. David also had been planning Summer holidays caravanning around Britain with friends.

David's sudden death was a shock to all who knew him, his family, all his friends, including all the choir members. The loss of David and Jean in such a short time has left a void where our Sundays and get-togethers will never be the same. We say a prayer for them both with hearts full of sadness.



From St. John with St. Mark choir members.

The Vicar writes:

David Smith, for over 30 years the organist at St. John with St. Mark's Church died suddenly on Friday 21 March.

David was previously organist at both St. George's Heap Bridge & at St. Mark's for a short time, before becoming the Deputy Organist at Bury Parish Church. But his talents were soon shown closer to his home on West Drive, when he was appointed Organist at what was then St. John's Church.

The choir blossomed and became part of David & his wife's Jean's extended family. Members of the choir provided a very moving contribution to his funeral service at which they paid tribute to his ability as organist and choir master as well as fostering a very close bond between themselves.

David's other interests included the East Lancashire Steam Railway of which he was the Health & Safety Officer at the time of his death. He fulfilled a lifelong ambition by becoming a train driver on the line.

David & Jean loved to travel around the country in their caravan. Jean's sad death last May after 34 years of marriage was a devastating blow to David and at the service the Vicar spoke of the shock and surprise to think of them being unexpectedly reunited after just over 10 months apart.

David's funeral was held in St.John with St.Mark's Church on Tuesday 8 April. A large number of people, noticeably many from the East Lancashire Steam Railway community, and members of his family including his mother Joyce and siblings Carl and Bev, celebrated his life.

We give thanks for all that David did to contribute to the worship at St.John with St.Mark's over many years.

May He Rest In Peace.



"My lips will shout for joy,
when I sing praises to you;
my soul also,
which you have redeemed."

Psalm 71:23

BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY

PLEASE NOTE:

The Acts reading must be used as the first or second lesson

4 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1: 17-23 Luke 24: 13-35

11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 42-47 1 Peter 2: 19-25 John 10: 1-10

18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7: 55-60 1 Peter 2: 2-10 John 14: 1-14

25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22-31 1 Peter 3: 13-22 John 14: 15-21

29 Ascension Day

Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 15-23 Luke 24: 44-53



Fairtrade Churches

Both the churches in this benefice were awarded Fairtrade status many years ago. This means among other things, that only fairly traded tea and coffee will be served at all church events and activities. At St John with St Mark other fairly traded goods are available to buy.

A note from Peter Roscoe, from Bury Fairtrade Group, thanks us for including information about Fairtrade Fortnight in our magazine.

'It will be most helpful in support of our biennial application for registration with the Fairtrade Foundation,' writes Peter.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Mar 23 Finley Bobby Lee Parnaby
Apr 6 Evie Mae Bretherton
Apr 13 Chloe Leigh Wilson

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

Weddings

Apr 12 Christopher Neary & Sophie Greenhalgh

"Those who God has joined together let no one put asunder"

Funerals:

Mar 27 Miriam Archer
Apr 8 David Smith
Apr 11 Irene Johnson

'I am the resurrection and the life' says the Lord



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

May 4 In memory of Norman and Bertha Meadowcroft
May 11 Mrs M Booth in memory of the Simpson Family
May 18 Mr J Clegg
May 25 Vacant

FROM THE VICARAGE

* Thanks to those who participated in the Laying on of Hands service at Christ Church at the end of March. It proved a very moving occasion much appreciated by those involved. The next such service is scheduled for Sunday 27 July.

* This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the first Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Church of England. To mark the occasion the Diocese has arranged a special service at Manchester Cathedral. This takes place on Saturday 17 May, beginning at 7pm. Bishop David Walker will be present and the guest preacher is the Most Revd Patricia Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare. All are welcome.

* Two evenings for the Eucharistic Assistants in the diocese have been arranged:

May 14th Bolton Parish Church, or July 3rd Oldham Parish Church

Both evenings will begin with tea / coffee from 7.00pm and start at 7.30pm. All Eucharistic Assistants are welcome – those who plan to attend, please book so they can know numbers - hfallone@manchester.anglican.org

* Congratulations to Kelly & Phil Watson from St.John with St.Mark's on the birth of their daughter Connie Mae at the beginning of April. Connie has already been in church as our youngest member!

* At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Christ Church, Brian Crow was elected as churchwarden, replacing George Fryer. Thanks to George for all he has done in his role as Church Warden. He will become the official vergger for Christ Church.

* From this month, the Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's every Wednesday evening - at which enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc can be made - will take place between 6.30pm-7.00pm, rather than until 7.30pm.

* The St.John with St.Mark's Parochial Church Council are considering how to renovate/repair the West Window of the church building. If anyone would like to help contribute to this or be involved in the discussions about what is required, please speak to the church wardens.

* The next Messy Church will be held on Saturday 3 May between 4-6pm. If you able to help, please have a word with myself, Kathryn Bailey or Barbara Taylor.

* Junior Confirmation Classes are currently taking place in preparation for the Confirmation Service on Sunday 22 June at St.Anne's Tottington. If any adult wishes to be confirmed, please have a word with Janet or myself.

* Next month sees the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the current church building at St.John with St.Mark's. These will take place on the weekend of June 6-8, with the Bishop of Manchester attending the joint service at 10.30am on that Sunday. The Summer Fair will take place on the Saturday. Thanks to those who have contributed memorabilia about the history of St.John's Church building, more information will be most welcome. Please pass any literature to myself or Diane Sanderson.

* Bury Council have now ratified the decision of the Village Green inquiry that the application by the Friends of Walmersley Village that our church field be designated a Village Green be rejected. Christ Church PCC will now be considering its available options as we seek to raise funds to maintain our church buildings.

MESSY CHURCH

Saturday
3rd May

4-6pm

Worship
Food
Craft
Fun

Christ Church
Walmersley
Church Hall

For all the family
Children must be
accompanied by an
adult

Why not click like on our
new Facebook page—
Messy Church at Christ
Church in UB of
Walmersley Road

Organised by
the Benefice of
Walmersley
Road



TACKLING POVERTY IN BURY

A Conference in Bury at the end of March highlighted the Diocese's commitment to tackling poverty in Bury and the surrounding areas.

The background to this event is based on facts including
** Several parts of the town are amongst the worst 10% of the country's most deprived areas.*

** 19.1% of Bury households are classed as fuel poor*

** 15% of children in Bury are regarded as living in households deemed as in severe poverty*

The Conference took place at St.John's House, near the Rock Development, an area around the former St.John's Church.

The keynote speaker was the Bishop of Manchester the Right Revd David Walker who spoke about the causes of poverty and outlined procedures to help combat this major problem. Various workshops were offered in which the participants were asked to consider how people affected by poverty access the services they need and how can such services make a difference to those in need.



Around 100 people took part in the Conference from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Members of local churches were also in attendance as well as diocesan staff.

It is hoped that St.John's House (a property owned by the Diocese) can become a community facility to tackle poverty in the area. By the summer, contracts should be signed so that the first users can be housed in the building, which is an ideal venue to coordinate the campaign against poverty in the town and beyond. Find out more at www.manchester.anglican.org

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11th -17th MAY 2014

Christian Aid Week is seven amazing days
of fundraising, prayer & action
against global poverty.

***WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS
ABOUT ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES.***

Once again we will be having a Christian aid lunch this year which has been well supported in the past and is an enjoyable and effective way of supporting Christian aid and helping their work around the world. Join us for a three course lunch in St John with St Mark church hall on the 11th May at 12.30 pm after the morning services, tickets are £7.50 for adults, £4 for children up to age 12 years, from John Brennan or Rosemarie

Menu for lunch

Melon Balls or fruit juice

Chicken, roast potatoes + vegetables

Trifle or cheese cake

Tea or coffee



Also if you feel you would like to help with street collections this year please have a word with me, John, on the number above.

Many thanks, John.

A Sonnet for Ascension Day

We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we ourselves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed .

The writer of this sonnet, Malcolm Guite is an Anglican priest, who has written a number of sonnets for specific points in the Christian year. More can be found at malcolmguite.wordpress.com

"Malcolm Guite knows exactly how to use the sonnet form to powerful effect. These pieces have the economy and pungency of all good sonnets and, again and again, offer deep resources for prayer and meditation to the reader. In his own words, 'brevity, clarity, concentration and a capacity for paradox' are typical of the best sonnet sequences, and all those qualities are to be found here."

Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury

NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 27 MARCH 2014

We welcomed a special guest at our meeting, Sabaila Adman. Sabaila is in the early days of her studies with the aim of becoming ordained into the Priesthood, and to follow in the footsteps of her father who is also a Vicar.

Sabaila explained her background and also gave us an insight into her homeland of Pakistan. The PCC heard about life for Christians in this country and in particular of recent attacks on the people and their buildings, which was at times quite shocking.

This led us to discuss our own community in Bury and how well we work with our Muslim neighbours, including various inter-faith groups and visits to the local Mosques, which are occasionally attended by people from our congregation.

The business items on the agenda were mainly outstanding issues from previous meetings, including updates on the west window and the 50th Anniversary weekend. Diane Sanderson has offered to coordinate the gathering of memorabilia for a display at the weekend.

Under the latest Safeguarding Children guidelines, the PCC were asked to consider a new Equal Opportunities policy for volunteers and it has also been suggested that an incident book for reporting accidents was made available for both the Church and the Hall following a query raised at the meeting.

This was our last meeting before the APCM so thanks were offered to all members for their service over the last 12 months, especially those coming to the end of their terms of office. The date for the next meeting will be set after the APCM.

NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

The APCM took place at Christ Church on the 9th April 2014

The Treasurer gave his report on 2013, stating we had again paid our parish share of £33,301 in full, and had also raised money during the year to pay for the dry rot work which cost £13,515. The Treasurer then outlined the cost of running both the Church and Church Hall. He stated that the PCC had much to discuss, not least of which being can we afford to run two buildings in the future, which we cannot do on present income.

The electoral roll officer stated there were 102 people currently on the electoral roll. The Wardens', Secretary's and organisation's reports were circulated and copies are available in church.

Wardens, PCC members, Synod representatives, verger, reader and sidespersons were duly elected. Thanks were expressed to George Fryer for his contribution as church warden.

The policy statement on the protection of children and young people was accepted by the meeting. It was announced that Christ Church would be making an application very shortly to be accepted by the diocese as a Child Friendly Church.

The retiring Lay Chair, Barbara Silvester reported on food safety and the conditions and requirements expected in the use of the kitchen.

The Vicar thanked all who had helped to bring the Village Green issue to a satisfactory conclusion and felt we had to draw a line under the situation and move forward. There would now be a period of reflection whilst the PCC considers its next moves. The vicar felt that tough decisions needed to be taken, and asked if it were reasonable to continue to maintain two buildings and to what extent should our building be adapted to meet the needs of a 21st century church.

The vicar commented that he and his family had been made most welcome in the area. He was delighted with the co-operation of the two parishes and looked forward to the future. He ended by saying he invited everyone to join him as we seek to serve God here at Christ Church in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

Like the two men who walked along the road to Emmaus, we often fail to recognise that Jesus is travelling alongside us.



Lord, help us to know you are there in the good times and the bad.

May we feel your presence reassuring us when illness, sorrow or anxiety cloud our thinking.

May we feel your presence sharing our happiness, when we are filled with joy and celebration.

May we feel your presence, understanding and supporting, when our faith falters.

Lord, may we know that you are always at our side if only we take the trouble to look.

Week Two

In Christian Aid week, we are asked to be an instrument of God's peace by giving, acting and praying to bring hope to the millions of people affected by war and disaster.



Lord we remember all those who suffer as a result of war, particularly in Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We pray for those driven from their homes, losing family, livelihood and security.

We ask your blessing on all Aid agencies who work to bring relief and hope to shattered lives and communities.

Week Three

Lord, help us to open the door - to allow the wind of the Spirit to blow through our dusty lives.

Help us to open the door - to welcome strangers and intruders who may just be Christ in disguise.

Help us to open the door - to changes and disturbances that may just have something to teach us.

Help us, Lord, to open the door to you. Amen.

(This is taken from the 'Chocolat' Lent course)

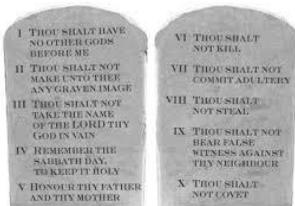


Week Four

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

G.K.Chesterton.

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



***The Ten Commandments
are the best tablets
for good health***



Mothering Sunday was a wonderful occasion as we had both the Provincial President and Diocesan President with us for the service. Barbara Taylor preached about 'relationships' and Cath Hilton

admitted our Vicar, Dave Thompson as a Mothers' Union member.

Dave explained that he hadn't been a member previously as he hadn't been asked! It's not really by invitation that you can be a member but the personal touch always helps, so if you know of people who aren't yet members maybe you could suggest becoming a member to them. And if you are reading this and would like to be a member and haven't yet been asked then ask us! Everyone is welcome to attend our Branch meetings, see what we do and meet us.

There was a tremendous response to the 'Make a Mother's Day' Benefice collection and £145 was collected. Together with a branch donation of £100 we have been able to support the following projects:

Make it stop: speaking up for women and girls who are suffering violence

Make it count: helping to train someone to read for the first time

Inspire us: equipping volunteers with the skills and resources to start local projects and programmes

A lifetime of love: support for the 'Loving for life' volunteers who deliver the marriage preparation courses

Save for the future: enabling families to have the skills they need to overcome poverty

Gifts were made in memory of loved ones and the following women were remembered by name:

Sheila Middleton
Gertrude Spencer
Marjorie Tasker

Margaret Hall
Elizabeth Smalley
Eileen Fewtrell

Elsie Earle
Margaret Bontoft

Thank you to all who contributed and those who made personal donations too – it *will* make a difference.

The new programme is available for our Branch meetings and takes us up to July. However there are two alterations already!

May 7th is the Archdeacon's Visitation for Church Wardens, Sidespersons and PCC members in particular but the whole congregation is welcome. This year it is being held at St John with St Mark. We are hoping to arrange an informal 'Natter night' for those who would still like to meet for a Branch meeting.

May 21 - 'Love your neighbour' - making welcome cards for distribution to newcomers to our community

21st - 25th is the Wave of Prayer - details to follow

Advance notice for the Mothers' Union weekend retreat 'Exploring the Cross' at Foxhill, Friday 5th - 7th September. This is being led by Revd Alison Hardy and Revd Denise Smith. Jean Slater is the contact and can give you more information about the weekend. Early booking is recommended.



We look forward to welcoming you to our meetings

Kathryn Bailey
Branch Leader



ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CE SCHOOL

News from our Church School

* The choir of St.John with St.Mark CE School will be appearing at a special Diocesan Conference at the Reebok stadium on Friday 2 May. The Heads & Incumbents event, features school Headteachers and Vicars from all over the Manchester Diocese and our young people will be singing during the Eucharist. The guest speaker is the Bishop of Oxford, The Right Revd. John Pritchard who is the Church of England Bishop with responsibility for the Church's role in education.

* The Choir will also be attending the Summer Fair at St.John with St.Mark's on Saturday 7 June and the 50th anniversary service with the Bishop of Manchester the day after.

* During Lent a series of school assemblies have used plants and flowers to highlight the events of Holy Week. Vicar Dave & Revd. Janet used palm leaves, a purple flower, a daffodil and a piece of wood as we considered the last few days of Jesus on the earth.

PLEASE PRAY FOR MRS MOORE
AND ALL THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, STAFF & GOVERNORS
CONNECTED WITH THE SCHOOL





ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

The Open Group meeting on 9th April entitled "A Lenten Quiet Evening" was led by David Andrew. In the lead up to Easter, David aptly described in simple terms the concept of the Jesus Prayers from its origins in the 6th Century Eastern Churches, through the ages, to how we might use it in the 21st Century Western Churches as a means of 'Repetitive Prayer'.

David then presented a collection of Jesus Prayers for members to read and say together whilst describing the meaning of the words and examples of how they can affect you in everyday life; a moving and important collection of prayers that can be said by anyone at anytime. David described them as a way and means to help you on your spiritual journey this Lenten season during what is seen as the most sacred and spiritually powerful period in the Christian calendar.

As a focal point, David chose a repetitive prayer which we all said together at times during the course of the evening and which emphasised the meaning of his talk, in that we are all sinners in some form or other and through prayer we seek to come closer to unity with God.

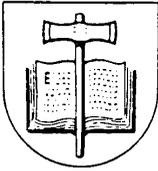
"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God.
Have Mercy on me, a Sinner!"



Our next meeting ~ Wednesday 14 May
at 7.30pm in the Library.

'A Particular History of Flowers'
Led by Ian Banks

*Please remember, the Open Group is just that, Open to all.
We would love you to join us for our meetings.*



Saint Matthias

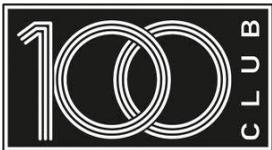
After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the disciples gathered together to decide who should replace Judas as one of their number. The disciples decided that whoever was chosen should have been with them throughout the time they had spent with Jesus.

Two men were suggested, Barssabas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. The disciples prayed " Lord you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry." They cast lots and Matthias was chosen. Matthias becomes the first disciple not to be chosen by Jesus.

Some sources say that he was originally known as Zaccheus, the tax gatherer Jesus called down from the tree who repented of his ways after meeting Jesus. It is thought that Matthias preached in Judea and possibly in Ethiopia. Some claim that he is buried in modern day Georgia others that his last resting place is in Jerusalem.

The feast of Saint Matthias used to be celebrated on February 24th but was later moved to May 14th so that it did not coincide with Lent.

APRIL 2014 WINNERS



1st Prize ~ Linda Thompson

2nd Prize ~ Archie Wardle

3rd Prize ~ Geoff Hosking

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



Christ Church Repairs & Renovations Fund Update & Thank You

As you will be very aware, the fund was opened in January 2013 and since then there has been a lot of fundraising activity in order to finance essential repairs to the church building where an outbreak of dry rot was discovered in the chancel/organ loft.

To date almost £23,000 has been raised which covered the cost of the dry rot works (£14,000) and this has left us with a current balance in the fund of some £9,000.

Our attention is now turning to the church tower. We are aware that the roof is desperately in need of repair - the rain is pouring in and will be damaging the fabric. To get up to the top of the tower would cost in the region of £10,000 if scaffolding were to be erected; so we are in the process of getting an internal ladder system installed to replace the old ladders which are very unsafe. The estimated cost is almost £6,000 but clearly this is cheaper than scaffolding - and will give us continuing access once completed.

In common with many Victorian churches in Manchester Diocese the years are taking their toll on the fabric and there is much to be done to address the issues arising. We cannot expect to do everything in one go but we hope that a programme of works carried out as funds become available will gradually sort things out.

Therefore fund raising will continue and we look to our parish, congregation and beyond for ongoing financial support in this venture. The PCC very much appreciate all the support that has been given to date and we hope that you will stick with us as we seek to get our church building in better shape.

Thank you all.

GAINING CREDIT WITH THE CHURCH

“We must help credit unions to become bigger, better known and easier to access if we want them to compete effectively with high interest lenders.” This is part of a letter recently written to clergy and other church officials by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

Credit Unions are financial co-operatives that offer a range of ethical, affordable and responsible saving and loan services. They are run by their members, for their members, for the benefit of the local economy. The Church of England – in consultation with other denominations – are seeking to promote credit unions as an alternative to the vast number of payday loan companies that are springing up on the High Streets of our nation.

As the Archbishop says in his letter, “Our faith in Christ calls us to love the poor and vulnerable with our actions. That is why the Church must be actively involved in supporting the development of real lending alternatives, such as credit unions. This is not an optional activity, but a fundamental part of our witness and service to all God’s people.



Please take this opportunity to consider how you and your church could serve your community in this way."

Credit Unions work by obtaining funds from members through savings schemes and deposits to lend to other members of the same community. They need to have a balanced membership of savers and borrowers in order to be able to support those who are struggling financially.

A number of Credit Unions are currently operating in our area, including the Mid-Rosendale Credit Union and Hoot - Wise with Money (Bolton). But the very nature of Credit Unions encourages local activity and more such financial organisations are always welcome. If you would like further information or would be interested in setting up a Credit Union linked to the United Benefice of Walmersley Road, please have a word with the Vicar.

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULT

Entries for March's 'pantomime' competition were few! – thank you to those who did respond. The judges liked:



Jill Smith's "You are being udderly ridiculous"

but the winner this month is Patricia Coote who wins a Fairtrade prize with,

"Surely you must understand by now why I had to swap you for those magic beans?"

Photographers! If you have a suitable photograph for future months please email to wrub@live.co.uk



Coffee Morning & Plant Sale



At Christ Church Hall
Saturday May 17th 10 - 12 noon

Come and browse the trays of bedding plants and buy what takes your fancy.



Pass time with friends as you enjoy a coffee - with toast - or maybe a croissant.

The book stall will also be open to select that essential holiday reading you will need when lying by the pool!

Would you be willing to be part of the T-E-A-M producing the monthly magazine, or updating our websites?

- You do not have to commit to every month
- We need lots of different skills
- Age is no barrier
- Guidance is available



If you would like to know more please have a word with a warden or any member of the clergy.

Perfection is not an option!
We work to minimize the IMperfections.

THE EASTER STORY - Answers

Where?



Where did Jesus ride into on a donkey? **Jerusalem.**

Where did Jesus and his disciples have their last meal together? **In an upper room**

Where was Jesus arrested? **Garden of Gethsemane**

Where was Jesus crucified? **Golgotha**

Where was Jesus buried? **In a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea**

Who?

Who betrayed Jesus? **Judas**

Who denied knowing Jesus? **Peter**

Who first questioned Jesus? **Caiaphas.**

Who washed his hands of Jesus? **Pontius Pilate**

Who was freed in place of Jesus? **Barradas**

Who helped carry the cross of Jesus? **Simon of Cyrene**

Who did Jesus ask to look after his mother? **John**

Who took the body of Jesus for burial? **Joseph of Aramitheia and Nicodemus**

Who was the first to see the risen Jesus? **Mary Magdalene**

What?

What did Jesus wash at the Last Supper?

The disciples' feet

What did Jesus say when he gave the disciples the wine? **This is my blood**

What did Jesus promise the robbers on the cross?

They would be with him in paradise



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

1	7.30 pm	PCC (CC)
3	4.00 pm	Messy Ark (CC Hall)
4		Third Sunday of Easter Services as usual
7	7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation (SJSM)
	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union – Natter Night (CC)
11		Fourth Sunday of Easter Services as usual
11-17		Christian Aid Week with lunch at SJSM on 11th
14	7.30 pm	Open Group (SJSM)
17	10.00 am	Plant/book sale & coffee morning (CC)
18		Fifth Sunday of Easter Services as usual
21	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union – Love your neighbour
22	7.00 pm	Diocesan Synod
25		Sixth Sunday of Easter Services as usual
29		Ascension Day

THE SERENADERS

SALFORD MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY



Saturday, 7 June at 7.30pm

St John with St Mark's Church

Part of our 50th anniversary celebrations

Tickets: £4.00, including refreshments