

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

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



March 2021

50p



REGULAR SERVICES

Please be aware of current restrictions as you read this edition. For the latest position as we go to press please see the Vicar's Notes on page 6.

Sunday			
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th 5 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Service of the Word Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	All	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Currently by Zoom
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
Other services as announced Morning Prayer is said each day at 9.30 a.m. Evening Prayer is said each day at 5.00 p.m.			

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.



Both churches have Fairtrade status

Cover photo by Syd Sujuaan on Unsplash

Moving Forward in Hope

By the time you read this, God willing, the 'Stay at Home' Covid-19 pandemic rule will be relaxed and we will be well into Lent. Both of these events should allow us to strengthen the feeling of moving forward in hope.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been with us now for a full year. It has taken over the lives of all of us in a way which we would never have dreamed of. Anxiety and fear have hung over us and there has been great sorrow for many. We have had restrictions and precautions imposed on us, not just for our own good, but importantly, for the good of all. The cracks and shortcomings of our society have been exposed.

Perhaps it should be no surprise that at times like these hope is rather thin on the ground. But it has also been a time when amongst all the negative there have been positive signs. We have seen lots of good, caring, love, support and concern being shown for those in need. The Christian ethic of 'love thy neighbour' has been very evident in our communities. The NHS and many other key workers we perhaps took for granted previously have worked hard to keep on providing their services for the rest of us. Private and public appreciation was much in evidence. In the darkness light has shone, which gave hope amongst the despair.

Church life has seen much disruption during this time. All the day to day activities have had to stop or be severely curtailed. Socially distanced worship, no hymn singing, amended Eucharist procedure, and periods of our buildings being closed altogether. Yet here too we saw light in the darkness; hope in the frustration and despair. We learnt new ways of coming together, of keeping in touch, via the internet, the distribution of printed news sheets and service sheets, the telephone, and the friendly chats at the doorstep or in the street. The body of Christ has had to adapt and re-shape but the church was, and is, still very much in being! We look forward to coming together again soon.

How has all this affected our faith and belief? All this disruption to our previous routine? Have the aspects of hope mentioned above strengthened our assurance of the Christian hope we have in Jesus? Lent is traditionally a time when we look at ourselves and our

relationship with Jesus. A time of renewal, rebuilding and perhaps strengthening those weaknesses we find in our faith. A time of repentance, resolution and repair. A time to refresh and get going again. There is a strong sense of hope in all that.

During Lent we read again of Jesus spending time out in the wilderness where he looked at his faith and his calling to ministry. A time of self-questioning – what is it all about? What is being asked of me? Maybe we feel that over these last months we have all been out in the wilderness. A time away from the crowd; a time to re-focus. Let our prayer be that we are going to come back stronger; more determined than ever to follow Jesus; ready to move forward in hope.

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” – Isaiah 40 v 31.

Nigel & Barbara



LENT MATTERS

We will be hosting an online Lent Group each Monday evening until 22 March via Zoom. The groups begin at 7.30pm.

Access details can be obtained from Ian Banks.

The meetings will be based on a book “God’s plan for your Wellbeing”

Subjects include wellbeing for physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, financial, and vocational health.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THESE GROUPS DURING THIS
IMPORTANT SEASON IN THE CHURCH YEAR.

May God bless us all this Lent

BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH

Mar 7 **3rd of Lent**

Exodus 20: 1-17 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22

Mar 14 **4th of Lent – Mothering Sunday**

Exodus 2: 1-10 Colossians 3: 12-17 John 19: 25b-27

Mar 21 **Passion Sunday**

Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33

Mar 28 **Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 11: 1-11

Apr 4 **Easter Day**

Isaiah 25: 6-9 Acts 10: 34-43 Mark 16: 1-8

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD AT THE CREMATORIUM:

Jan 26 Alun Pritchard

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



Flowers in church

There are no flowers on the altar during Lent.

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to 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.

* The Government's "roadmap out of lockdown" announced on Feb 22 prompted a review of our decision made in January to pause public worship.

Following consultation with the Ministry Team and members of both Parochial Church Councils, the decision has been made to resume worship in both churches from Mothering Sunday (March 14).

At this stage we are once again holding just one Sunday service in each church at 10.30am. Midweek services will also resume from that date.

This will enable all our Holy Week & Easter Day services to go ahead (details elsewhere in this magazine). We will continue to be mindful of any future government advice as the pandemic maintains its hold on our daily lives. However, it is encouraging that church worship is going ahead and in turn we hope that our regular social events will also be able to resume later in the year.

Until March 14, we will continue to provide weekly Service At Home sheets and the monthly Sunday @ 7 services will continue online. In addition, we are holding online Lent groups each Monday evening until Holy Week. Please contact Ian Banks for access details.

* I continue to say Morning Prayer at 9.30am and Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on a daily basis. It is good to know that others are saying prayers at the same time as we join together in prayer.

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

* Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches. Whilst public worship is paused, Nigel & Barbara Silvester will be in Christ Church each Monday morning between 10-11 to collect gifts of food for Porch.

* 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.

LENTEN POEM

by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us,
a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.

The Egg that shares the Easter story

The Real Easter Egg was first launched eleven years ago. Since that date more than one million items have been sold with over £300,000 being raised for charitable causes.

FROM THE REAL EASTER EGG WEBSITE:

“The 2021 Original Real Easter Egg includes a new 24 page Easter story activity book with a £200 prize competition. It features a rainbow design to remind us of the importance of working together, in amazing and inspiring ways, for the common good.

There is also a super thick Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa – Palm Oil & plastic free. *(Don't miss the plain and white chocolate options too)*

This year the free 24 page Easter story-activity book has had a whole new design. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities.

Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The book contains a prize competition worth £200.”

The Real Easter Egg is available online at

www.meaningfulchocolate.co.uk

For the first time in 10 years the Real Easter Egg will not be available in supermarkets. The pandemic has caused them to reduce their stock of chocolate eggs after a very difficult Easter 2020.

Don't forget, online it is very easy to donate an egg to a foodbank too.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company is based in Lymm, Cheshire. They produce the Fairtrade Easter Egg and the real Advent Calendar.

PLEASE SUPPORT THEM



Sunday @ Seven



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

March 28th at 7pm

Making an entrance!

**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 look at Jesus
riding into Jerusalem.**



Currently some fifty people come together with us, 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.

- SUNDAY: For all our worship services.
All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes.
Those who read, lead intercessions and serve in our churches
- MONDAY: Our music ministry. The Study Groups.
Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry
Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- TUESDAY: All the educational establishments in the parish.
School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools, Primary Schools,
St.John with St.Mark CE School.
Our pastoral care to all the community, especially to those bereaved.
- WEDNESDAY: Ecumenical Links within the community. Mothers' Union
Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning
- THURSDAY: Our ministry with young people. Our baptism ministry.
Those preparing to be married in church.
- FRIDAY: Community involvement. The PCCs and their committees
Those who provide and arrange church flowers
Those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY: The Vicar and our retired clergy
The Licensed Readers, ALMs.



As we are all aware, the current Covid pandemic has highlighted many shortcomings in our society. Those struggling at the bottom end of life's ladder have come to our notice more than ever.

Campaigners like Marcus Rashford have shown us that help is needed to feed hungry children. Can this be happening in one of the world's wealthiest countries? Are children and families going hungry? Unfortunately, yes!

Foodbanks across our land are working flat out to provide help where it is needed. Bury now has several foodbank-type charities, whereas before there was only one or two. Porch Boxes has been busy since 1998 providing emergency rations for those in desperate need and is still an important part of the Bury foodbank network. Just now a lot of food packs are being sent to schools for onward supply to children and families. This is in addition to providing emergency food packs for the homeless and others in dire straits.

Church congregations like ours at Christ Church and St. John with St. Mark have always been vital cogs in the supply chain for Porch Boxes. The regular donations of foodstuffs we collect and deliver to Porch Boxes are very much appreciated. So please keep them coming. Whether or not the church buildings are open or closed donations can still be given.

At the time of writing Christ Church porch doors are open on Monday mornings (10 – 11am) so that donations of foodstuffs can be left. We are also very happy to take donations at our home anytime – just give us a call. You could say that donations for Porch are welcome at the church porch and our porch!

On behalf of Porch Boxes, we thank you all for your continuing support at what is a difficult time for so many. Thank You!!

Barbara & Nigel Silvester

Cast all your anxiety on him (1 Peter 5:7)

Like Jesus in the wilderness, we are never alone

Father God, you are ever with us,

beside us as we walk the path of life.

Your presence is forever beside us –

guarding, guiding, loving, caring.

Help me to walk with you, to be in your presence,

feeling your care surrounding me,

that I may be enfolded in your loving arms,

praising you forever.

Amen

Annette Smith, "Dear Lord . . ." ©Mothers' Union

Mothering Sunday – 14th March

God of celebration, who rejoices with those who rejoice,

we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday

is a time of thanksgiving and joy.

God of compassion, who weeps with those who weep,

we pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday

is a time of heartache and pain.

God of community, who calls the children to come to him,

we thank you that your love abounds for families of every kind.

God of comfort, who gathers us as a hen gathers its chicks,

we thank you that your love surrounds the disappointed and hurt.

God of every circumstance, we bring our thanks and praise

that we belong to your family as your beloved children.

Amen

©Mothers' Union

A Prayer as Things Get Harder

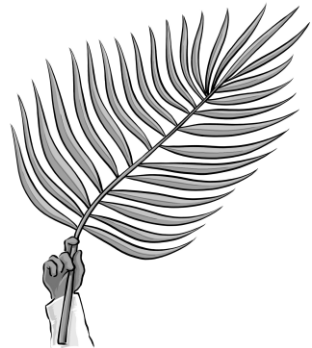
(Initially written in March 2020, early in the pandemic)

God of gentle presence,
you knew the ultimate separation
when on the cross Christ felt he was forsaken;
be with all who feel their Good Friday has come today.
Comfort those who have the virus.
Empower all who care for those in distress,
through medicine, acts of kindness or imaginative communication.
Be present to any who feel utterly alone,
without companion or health or hope.
Show us your face amid grief and bewilderment.
Inspire us to find new ways to be one with one another and with you.
And bring this time of trial to an end.
In Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev'd Dr Sam Wells (Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London)

The triumphal entry – 28th March

Loving God, as we step into Holy Week,
we remember your triumphant entry into
Jerusalem. We sing your praises,
shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David."
You alone are the true King, the leader
greater than all others. Even so, in your
great mercy you chose to become like us,
taking on human form and living among
us. As we celebrate and shout "Hosanna"
today, may we remember what will soon
follow. Keep us faithful in word and deed,
and help us to love you always. We ask
this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



corkandross.org

Lent Appeal 2021

There are some things they can't go without.....

Safety To stay alive, Abeer and her family had to run from their home in Iraq. They took nothing but their ID's, any money they had and the clothing they wore. "We couldn't take our things with us because we were fleeing," Abeer shared. "At that time, ISIS was taking over our village and we were scared of being killed. We just fled for our survival."

Health Abeer's family has struggled because of lack of healthcare. The cramped conditions made the threat of diseases, like coronavirus, even more frightening. Abeer said "My children get sick because it's too cold. Their temperature gets high and so we take them to the clinic. I fear for my children more than anything. But what can I do or where can I go?"

Warmth Although Abeer's family found safety in the tent they now live in, it's flimsy, and the extremes in temperature have been hard to cope with. "In the winter, it's too cold. We cannot breathe. In Arabic we say the cold is to the bone. These tents get so wet and smell so bad, and we have to keep our children inside. There's a lot of mud. The situation in winter is so hard."

Peace The memory of the explosions has stayed with Abeer's family. "We were just crying and afraid at that time. There was lots of fear."

With your help, families like Abeer's could receive vital emotional support from a clinical psychologist, helping them process the trauma they carry.

Your generosity enables Tearfund to help families around the world. You can help provide the essentials people need to live the lives that God intended for them.

This news arrived when we were at the coldest part of our winter so far and really struck home to me – the plight of families living in refugee camps just under canvas – a nightmare. You can find out more and how to donate at tearfund.org or call them on 020 3906 3906

If you are able to send a donation before 30th April 2021 your donation will be **DOUBLED** because of an incredible generous group of Tearfund supporters who have offered to match every pound you give in this appeal – up to £1 million.

And a final word from Abeer. "The money we received helped us to buy clothes for the children. Last year Tearfund also set up a shop with winter clothes and shoes. This helped a lot. The children were very happy."

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Barbara Silvester (Tearfund Church rep at Christ Church)

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2021

Palm Sunday 28 10.30am Worship Services with procession of palms

Monday 29 7.00pm Holy Communion – JMB

Tuesday 30 7.00pm Holy Communion – JMB

Wednesday 31 10.00am Holy Communion – JMB

Maundy Thursday 1 April

7.30pm Parish Communion – CCW & JMB

Good Friday 2 April

9.00am Morning Service – CCW

2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross – JMB

90 miles = 238,565 steps

During November, I realised that 8 months of furlough and lockdown meant I was less active and my motivation levels were low, so I needed an incentive to get out and about.

I decided that if I committed to a charity event I would then have to be held accountable! I considered a number of charities, deciding I wanted to support locally and as our Benefice are supporting the Attic Project this was my choice.

My challenge? As we were approaching Advent I googled the distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem, which was 90 miles. That seemed a reasonable distance and one I would complete by Epiphany to fit with the theme. This was not as realistic as I may have thought!



It turns out that starting a challenge like this the same week as a new job, when the nights turn dark early and you can't go out in an evening is a slight disadvantage. I managed to fit a few short walks in during my lunch breaks midweek, and set myself further distances at the weekends.

By midnight on Christmas Eve I had completed 45 miles. Halfway there, but wondering how I was going to complete another 45 miles in 12



days. This was the point where I had to accept that my timescale was unrealistic and had to reassess. My decision was to complete the 90 miles as soon as I was able.

I was hampered again by a bout of vertigo and adverse weather conditions with snow and ice making the paths treacherous underfoot but the

number of miles remaining was lessening and I could see the end approaching.

On Saturday 23rd January I headed off on my final walk with 4.02 miles to complete. By this time I had a good judgement on where I needed to walk to complete this distance. As I headed home, I kept looking at the distance recording app on my phone. With my house in sight the counter clicked over to 4.02 miles....but I had to walk an extra 0.2 miles to my front door!

The mission was complete and I felt a great sense of achievement....and relief!

I had walked 90 miles equating to 238,565 steps and raised £405 for the Attic Project.

I have currently spent £250 on basic food items such as pasta, milk, beans, tinned fruit, porridge and cereal which have been gratefully received and distributed to many families.

I will be donating Easter eggs to the project next month and giving the remaining money for their funds to buy fresh food.

Thank you to everyone who has supported, encouraged and sponsored me during this adventure. Watch out for the next one!

Rosemary Taylor



 0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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.



The gift of togetherness

This Mothering Sunday your gift can help a child and their guardian find a path of strength and solace through life's difficulties and traumas.

Give a gift of togetherness by visiting makeamothersday.org or phoning 020 7222 5533. Gifts range in price and come with an optional card or can be dedicated in memory of someone you loved.

£7 enables attendance at an empowerment class;

£15 allows a savings group workshop to help grow family income;

£32 pays for a session at a parenting class, giving support and comfort;

Or £40 pays for one person to attend a series of classes,

£75 supports an individual through trauma-healing workshops,

£102 allows a family to get away for a day from the stresses of life.

If you would like to contribute to a joint gift from church please speak to either treasurer.

If this year you are unable to purchase a gift, please pray for those who will be helped and may God's promise of a hope-filled future comfort and bless you this Mothering Sunday.

250th Anniversary Display

Thank you to all who contributed items of memorabilia for the display to mark the 250th anniversary of the Parish of St. John. We hope people were able to have a look however we have taken to the decision to now remove this from the back of Church. We felt it was best to move on and the display was sat there abandoned.

All the items are now back with me at home and I will ensure these are returned to their rightful owners as soon as the circumstances allow. I have a reasonable idea as to who donated what, however if you have provided us with something then I would be grateful for a gentle reminder, as I know things were left for me in the vestry anonymously, or via someone else.

David Robinson

A Mothering Sunday Quiz

1. What food is most associated with Mothering Sunday?
a) Sunday Roast b) Eggs c) Simnel Cake
2. In Ancient Greece, which goddess was celebrated on Mothering Sunday?
a) Goddess Artemis b) Goddess Hestia c) Goddess Rhea
3. "Mother's ruin" is a common British name for which alcoholic drink?
a) Gin b) Vodka c) Brandy
4. In which Indian city, did Mother Theresa found her missionary?
a) Mumbai b) Varanasi c) Calcutta
5. How many cards are sent for Mothering Sunday in the UK?
a) 10 million b) 45 million c) 30 million
6. In which year did Marie Curie become the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize?
a) 1925 b) 1903 c) 1910
7. Mother of Pearl is a common name for?
a) Nacre b) Jewel c) Stone
8. Who was the mother of Queen Elizabeth I?
a) Anne Boleyn b) Mary Queen of Scots c) Mary II
9. Which popular Mothering Sunday flower do Christians believe were made from the tears of Mary when she wept for Jesus on the cross?
a) Carnations b) Daffodils c) Sunflowers
10. When did women get the parliamentary vote in the UK?
a) 1918 b) 1917 c) 1916



Answers on page 22

EVERYONE CAN LIVE WELL



Since the coronavirus outbreak life has changed for everyone but we are still here to help you with living well.

These are challenging times and it's more important than ever for us to look after ourselves and each other, be healthy, be active and live as well as we can.

Bury Live Well Service

bury.gov.uk/livewell | 0161 253 7575

Bury
COUNCIL

We can help you...

- BE MORE ACTIVE, SAFELY
- PLAN AND MAKE HEALTHY MEALS
- QUIT SMOKING
- SLEEP BETTER
- DRINK LESS ALCOHOL
- BREAST FEED YOUR BABY



Join our Live Well Programme and we'll soon have you feeling the benefits of living well

Refer yourself online or give us a ring to chat things through.

Visit: bury.gov.uk/livewell-referrals or

Phone: 0161 253 7575

Please leave your name and number and we'll call you back.

Bury Live Well Service

bury.gov.uk/livewell | 0161 253 7575

Bury
COUNCIL

March

Mon 1	7.30pm	Lent study (Zoom)
Fri 5		World Day of Prayer
Sun 7		3rd of Lent
Mon 8	7.30pm	Lent study (Zoom)
Sun 14		4th of Lent – Mothering Sunday
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both churches)
Mon 15	7.30pm	Lent study (Zoom)
Sun 21		Passion Sunday
	10.30am	Parish Communion (in both churches)
Mon 22	7.30pm	Lent study (Zoom)
Sun 28		Palm Sunday
	10.30am	Service of the Word (CC) Parish Communion (SJM) both with procession of palms
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (Zoom)



Joan Birch and Val Dawson have voiced the thanks of many to **David Robinson** for faithfully delivering weekly sheets, orders of service and magazines throughout the past months whilst churches had to close or public worship was suspended.

Answers to Mothering Sunday Quiz on page 19

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Simnel Cake | 2. Goddess Rhea |
| 3. Gin | 4. Calcutta |
| 5. 30 million | 6. 1903 |
| 7. Narce | 8. Anne Boleyn |
| 9. Carnations | 10. 1918 |

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

World Day of Prayer



Written for 2021
by the people
of Vanuatu

Since the early 19th century, a worldwide ecumenical movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.

The vast majority of its income is received at the annual services each March. This year the Bury committee has decided not to hold a service owing to the pandemic but hope that will not prevent you from contributing to the vast amount of work undertaken.

Please visit www.wdp.org.uk to learn about the people of Vanuatu, the grants awarded each year, and how you can contribute.

Or send a cheque to
Joan Heffernan
14 Hambleton Close
Bury. BL8 2JP

