

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



Presentation of Christ in the Temple – 2nd February

February 2023

Follow The Star
THE GREAT
INVITATION

was the Church of England's
theme for 2022

Here are just a few
images from our
benefice this
Christmas

We hope
you were
able to be
there too



The image on the cover is from Christianclipartreview.blogspot.com

Light that candle!

Dear Friends

February is quiet in terms of the church calendar, like the weather. We need some light to lighten us. We celebrate this exactly at Candlemas! Let's hear it for Simeon and Anna! Baby Jesus is six weeks old and it's time for his Presentation at the Temple as his faith requires – but something else happens too.

Indulge me in a bit of artistic licence here. We move forward in time by about 2000 yrs. This is not the Temple at Jerusalem, but Tesco's at Bury, not exactly a religious centre I agree. Mary as a woman however, would only have been allowed in the outer court of the Temple, where buying and selling was allowed - with a good helping of imagination then, Mary goes to shop in this Outer Court.



Well, there you are, looking for the cheapest nappies when an elderly man appears at your side asking to see the baby. He looks harmless so you agree and the old chap gets quite emotional, muttering about salvation and how he can now die in peace. You feel a bit spooked to be honest, but it gets worse. An elderly lady comes to look at the baby too then suddenly runs up and down the aisles telling everybody about the glory of him!

In my mind's eye I see the puzzlement in the face of my Tesco couple as they hear the man's words. Would we, with our easy access to New and Old Testament texts, be able to understand? I have a song on my laptop. It goes like this.

*Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you.*

*Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod –
and when you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak – the praises of the Lamb!*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy is lord of all creation.
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding, is the GREAT I AM*

I wish I'd written that - but a man called Mark Lowry beat me to it. A Christmas song, the words could equally represent those of the Wise Men to Mary, and Simeon's words to her in the Nunc Dimittis. Both highlight that the promise of God to mankind has been fulfilled, the Saviour is here.

This baby was fully human, and fully divine and he was born into a suffering world.

Some people struggle with this. They may accept the divinity, but not side by side with humanity. They'd prefer a sort of Super baby, who will progress through Super child to Superman. This is Docetism, amazingly enough I recall the term from my training. It means not allowing Jesus to be human. But equally we may do the opposite, allow him to be ordinary, but not be God.

Jesus learned carpentry from Joseph - if he ever hit his thumb with the hammer, how did he react? Were his nails always driven perfectly straight into the wood at the first attempt? Was he a perfect teenager? Is there any such thing? A lot of people believe that he must have been perfect, or not divine. Yet, if we deny the human-ness of Jesus, we take away the humanity of God.

Surely God comes to us through the ORDINARY PEOPLE, everywhere, in Tesco's, in the street - all of us. You and me.

Simeon, rejoices by singing what we now call the Nunc Dimittis. This tells of the LIGHT of salvation of ALL people, regardless of race, colour or belief. And where there is suffering, God is there - suffering with us.

Candlemas invites us to remember that ordinary happenings can be the most miraculous. Not one of you here is unworthy to have God act through you or for you. This is what Candlemas is - The light of the world, which is given to us all to be used. Don't be afraid.

With love from
Dorothy Hawkins



BAPTISMS

Jan 15 Anastasia Hilton-Holmes

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

CHURCH FUNERAL SERVICES

Dec 13 Brian Pearson

Dec 19 Alan Edwards

Jan 6 Jack Edward Ives

FUNERAL SERVICES AT THE CREMATORIUM

Dec 2 Beryl Williams

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



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

Feb 5 In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme

Feb 12 In memory of Sarah Melling and Jack Illsley

There are no flowers in church 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).



BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 5 **3rd before Lent**

Isaiah 58: 1-12

I Corinthians 2: 1-16

Matthew 5: 13-20

Feb 12 **2nd before Lent**

Genesis 1.1-2.3

Romans 8.18-25

Matthew 6.25-34

Feb 19 **Next before Lent**

Exodus 24.12-18

2 Peter 1.16-21

Matthew 17.1-9

Feb 22 **Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17
or Isaiah 58. 1-12

2 Corinthians 5.20b-
6.10

Matthew 6.1-6,
16-21 or John
8.1-11

Feb 26 **1st of Lent**

Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7

Romans 5.12.19

Matthew 4.1-11

Mar 5 **2nd of Lent**

Genesis 12.1-4a

Romans 4.1-5, 13-17

John 3.1-17

Ash Wednesday



Services to mark the beginning of Lent
as we remember the 40 days
Jesus spent in the wilderness
in preparation for his public ministry.
Holy Communion Services
with imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 22 February

**St. John with St. Mark at 10.00am
&
Christ Church at 7.30pm**

Interregnum Notes

- * 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, please take this opportunity 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.
- * Can you spare just two hours of your time once a year to help an older person feel valued and connected with the outside world? Re-engage local co-ordinators Lynn and Susan are looking to recruit enthusiastic families to host a tea party for 6 older people who are lonely and socially isolated. For further information ring 01706 82 2249 or email sue.lynnwhitehead@yahoo.co.uk or take a look at www.reengage.co.uk
- * 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 St. John with St. Mark meeting of 6 December 2022

- This was our Section 11 meeting, which included an initial look at our profile. Ian presented a sample of profiles he had found online and how we could use these to form the basis of ours. It was discussed what we would be looking for in our new Vicar and there were volunteers to help put the profile together. Ian and David were nominated as our two Parish representatives.
- Mission Community – It was felt that the Advent Sunday launch service had gone well and enjoyed by all. The #More Than Sunday group has met again in November and there will also be a meeting on Saturday 21st January here.
- It was noted that the pews from the back of Church had now gone to auction.
- Seedfield housing development. The Tenants and Residents Association are continuing to provide us with updates.
- We have received a donation from the Diocese to help with heating bills this winter.
- The Christmas Fair raised £1300. It was asked if more help could be available with setting up and clearing away before and after the fairs.
- The cheques for the various charities we will be supporting as part of our annual giving have now been sent off.
- Thanks were offered to Ian for ensuring that all our regular services have been covered up to the end of March.
- It was felt that the Christingle was enjoyed this year, but it has been asked if this could be put back to the first week of December.
- There was a problem with the fire and intruder alarms in the hall, however these have been repaired since the meeting.
- It is likely we will have another PCC meeting in January before a joint PCC meeting takes place.

Summary of Christ Church meeting on 11 January 2023

1. The meeting opened with prayer led by the Chair.
2. It was noted that the plaque commemorating Arthur Smith's time as organist of Christ Church had been installed in the organ loft.
3. A thank you letter from the Royal British Legion had been received for the poppy appeal donation.
4. The draft financial accounts for 2022 were reviewed, and the notes amended, prior to agreement that they be sent for examination.
5. We have received a contactless payment device from the National Digital Giving Team for use in services and other events.
6. We have received a donation of £1250 from the central Church to help with heating bills this winter.
7. A letter was received from the water utility company regarding moving the position of the water meter for the church and church hall. The matter will be pursued as we had requested reading of the meter, not its siting.
8. The costs of using the printer in the office in the church hall were discussed.
9. There was nothing to report on the sale of the field; it is still with Bury Council planning. The next planning meeting is on 24 January 2023, with no agenda available yet.
10. A faculty had been submitted to the diocese for the extension to the garden of remembrance. A letter requiring questions to be answered has been received back from the diocese.
11. The property group intend to install the seat purchased in remembrance of George Fryer in the remembrance garden.
12. It was noted that water was running down the internal wall in the organ loft. This will be looked at by the property committee on 12 January 2023.
13. 1450 Christmas cards were delivered around the parish.
14. A proposal regarding provision of midweek worship aimed at families was discussed and the PCC decided to go ahead with the recommendations to have a launch event on 1 March 2023.
15. The next PCC meeting will be on Monday 6 February 2023.

Bury Mission Community

Following an initial meeting in October, the Bury Mission Community officially launched with a service for Advent Sunday on 27th November at the Parish Church. The service formed a traditional evening of readings and Advent hymns, and each Church in the MC was asked to choose two representatives to participate, one to do a short reading and the other to produce a short relection. Helen Mallinson and David Robinson volunteered for St. John with St. Mark with Barbara Taylor and Cath Hilton for Christ Church. It was felt the service went well and there was an interesting content of reflection from across the MC. It was also good to sing the traditional Advent hymns we have come to know and love.

The #MoreThanSunday event continues during the winter and spring, which is also a Mission Community gathering, and more details are on page 16.

The next MC meeting will be on Monday 30th January at 7.30pm at St. John with St. Mark Church. We will endeavour to update you with goings-on when possible, but for now we will share with you our official Bury Mission Community prayer:

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

David Robinson

On March 1 we are inviting everyone to Christ Church Hall at 6pm for half an hour of food, fun and fellowship, and an opportunity to chat about the new initiative we are planning – **Elevate**.

10.30 am on Sunday for many people is not the most convenient time to come and worship. So, **Elevate** is an opportunity to come together each Wednesday for a time of short, lively, interactive worship geared especially to families with children (although, of course, we have no intention of being exclusive – everyone of any age is most welcome.)

Please share about **Elevate** with your families, friends, neighbours. The flyer on the back page is also available in church as well as on the website and social media. We really need you to spread the word – please!

Real Easter Egg

'Easter is the festival of chocolate and loveliness' was the quote which sent David Marshall to look for an Easter egg which mentioned the religious aspect of Easter – there were none! Since that day in 2008 so much has been achieved following the creation of the Meaningful Chocolate Company.

To be a 'Real Easter Egg' it had to reflect the Easter themes of hope and new life and do three things – have a copy of the Easter story in the box, be made from Fairtrade chocolate, and support charitable causes.

Now more than 1.8 million eggs have been sold. Over £320,000 has been donated to charitable projects with Fairtrade Premium fees paid to farmers allowing them to buy everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

As such The Real Easter Egg campaign is one of the biggest evangelism initiatives in the UK. It crosses all denominations and offers a simple way to share the Easter Story.

This year it can only be obtained directly from the company so please sign up on the lists in both churches – if we work together and order three cases, delivery will be free.

Ukrainian Christmas Celebration

The war in Ukraine and what it means to its people was very vividly brought to our doorstep when an ecumenical service was held in the Dormitium of Our Lady Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cheetham Hill on their Christmas Day which was Saturday 7th January.



Worshippers from many Bury churches, including St John with St Mark and Christ Church Walmersley, attended a packed church for the traditional Ukrainian Christmas Mass which was conducted entirely in Ukrainian. This was followed by a short ecumenical service in English in which clergy from Bury participated. The Revd. Julian Heaton of Bury Parish Church, The Revd. Janet Lyssejko of Roch

Valley and other Bury clergy all offered prayers for peace in the world and particularly Ukraine at this time. The Ukrainian church expressed their gratitude for all the help that Britain and its individual denominations and churches are sending to aid them in their current struggle.

To say the church was packed for the service would be an understatement. People of all ages, from the smallest children to elderly men and women crammed into the pews then stood, filling the side aisles and the centre aisle. This made the giving of the sacraments rather difficult as people from anywhere other than the front had to force themselves between those standing to get through.

If one was fortunate to get a seat in a pew it didn't mean all that much as most of the service was spent standing up. There was no organ or any music but the choir in the west gallery kept up the responses and chants throughout the service with distinctive a cappella singing.

The interior decorations, notwithstanding that the church was decorated for Christmas, have to be seen to be believed. The flags and banners which are held throughout the service were a joy to behold. The richness of the robes of the clergy was reflected in the brilliantly shining gold and silver of the shrine and the altar furniture.

The service was rounded off with what we would call a Nativity Play given not only by the children but including teenagers. As far as we could work out, the play went beyond our 'no room at the inn, visitation of the shepherds and the wise men bringing gifts' and seemed to include Herod enquiring about the birth (fortunately no first-born were slaughtered). The whole production was well-rehearsed and enhanced by the colourful costumes.

The church of the Dormitians of Our Lady UCC is in an old 19th Century English church but has been used by the Ukrainians since they bought it after Ukrainians began settling in England not long after the First World War. The priest, Reverend Father Andriy Tsyaputa, explained afterwards, over fine examples of



Ukrainian traditional Christmas delicacies, that most of the people attending that service were refugees from the current war in Ukraine.

If you ever get the chance to visit this remarkable church then take it. You will not be disappointed.

Robert Peters

Please see page 27 for some photographs



*If you have a family that loves you,
a few good friends,
food on your table
and a roof over your head,
you are richer than you think.*

Quiet Moments in February

As we enter a brief period of Ordinary Time, a prayer for us to consider our own time and how we can use it in your service:

Heavenly and Glorious Father, I praise and give glory to your name. You have blessed me each and every day. Your word is great and true. Yet Lord, I pray that I will be able to use my time wisely. Lord, so many times I am too busy to take time to spend in Your Word and to spend proper time in prayer and communication with you. I pray that I will develop the discipline to always have you first in my life and in my day.
Prayerist.com



For those needing a little reassurance or confidence:



Today is going to be a struggle.
The act of rising,
journeying,
conversation,
bustling crowds,
those I work with,
people I meet.
Be my confidence,
my assurance,
the words that I speak.
Be my freedom,
my guidance,
as I walk through these streets.
Today is going to be a struggle.
Keep my head above water,
my eyes fixed on you.

John Birch ~ Faith & Worship

More Quiet Moments in February

As we approach the first anniversary of the Ukraine conflict on 24 February, a short reflective prayer for peace:



Lord God,
Remember Christ, your Son, who is peace itself,
and who has washed away our hatred with his blood.
Because you love all men and women,
look with mercy on all who are engaged in battle.
Banish the violence and evil within all combatants
so that one day, we may all deserve to be
called your sons and your daughters.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

- Author Unknown

A thought for the start of Lent:

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
Give up complaining: value what you have.
Give up stress: take up prayer.
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.



cafod.org.uk



You probably spend at least 90% of your life outside of church.

#MoreThanSunday is a learning journey - exploring what it means to follow Christ, Monday to Saturday

beyond church in our work, education, community and family contexts. Currently there is an opportunity to join this journey, meeting monthly at St John with St Mark. There are seven 'Shifts' in the journey, which began in September last year. Our most recent session in January focussed on "Small Groups", whether it be Lent Groups, prayer groups or social groups. There seems to be a good diversity of small groups taking place across the Diocese. It is felt that our smaller groups become more intimate and people feel more confident and willing to share their faith journey and personal situations in this kind of environment. St. Andrew's Church in Halliwell shared with us a group that connects on WhatsApp, whilst closer to home, Bury Parish Church discussed their 'Adult Sunday School', which meets over breakfast. It was noted though how a small group can just be the people that meet over tea and coffee after the Sunday morning service.

The session then went further to ask how we can enable our small groups to become more focussed on supporting faith in everyday life.

We were also given further resources and suggestions for small groups that churches may wish to explore. These include: **Dust & Glory** (the theme for Lent 2023); **the Prayer Course**, which is an 8-week journey exploring the Lord's Prayer; **Pilgrim**, a more basic Christian course; **Growing Good**, encouraging growth within social action and community; and **Diary of a Disciple**, an after school 6 week course focussing on Luke's Gospel aimed at 8-11 year olds.

This session was also Bishop Mark's final #MTS before he retires and thanks were given to the Bishop at the end of the day.

The fifth shift is on Saturday 18th February in the Barritt Room at St. John with St. Mark at 10.00am (refreshments from 9.30am) and the theme is "Worship, Preaching and Teaching", looking at how this can be fed into our communities. 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. Why not 'give it a go'? You do not have to have attended the previous sessions or feel compelled to come to any of the others.

Our Third Thursday Lunches are approaching their seventh birthday

– we started out in Lent 2016. It is very affirming that this project has been blessed with great support from ‘customers’ and ‘workers’. Most Thursdays we see getting towards thirty people – we have even hit the forty mark! Our regular ‘customers’ come from members of both churches in the Benefice and, increasingly, from our surrounding community – we are open for all and welcome all!

We re-opened post Covid shutdown in February 2022 and through the year have served 352 customers. This reflects a 12% increase on our pre Covid numbers. Importantly, we would emphasise that there is no charge for lunch. If you are able to make a donation to help cover costs that is gratefully received. The main aim is social, not a fund-raiser. As the scriptures tell us, “practise hospitality.” So do come and enjoy a light lunch with friends and, perhaps, make new friends. If you are already a regular, think about inviting along someone who has not been before.

Amazingly, the donations we have received have not only covered our costs but also enabled us to make onward donations - £950 to Christ Church (which also covers our use of the hall); £239 to the DEC Ukraine Appeal and £200 to Porch Boxes.

So, a big thank you to all those who come and support this project. Also, a special thank you to all our regular team – Claire, Margery, Alan, Bob, Denise, Joan and Christine. We also thank Margaret and David who left us during the year to move to Cambridgeshire – and our occasional helpers. We couldn’t do it without you!

If you have not yet come to lunch with us then do come and give us a try. You will find not only a hearty midday snack but a hearty welcome from staff and customers alike – we are a very friendly bunch!! Lunch is served from 12 noon till 1.00pm at Christ Church Hall.

The next lunch is on Thursday February 16th.

Barbara & Nigel Silvester



September saw the start of a new term with 6 new guides joining. Rain thwarted their promise ceremony outside around the campfire, but we still managed to finish with sparklers in the yard.

We spent an evening thinking about Armistice Day and the sacrifices that many people made. We decorated crosses and made a garden which was laid alongside the wreath in church on Remembrance Sunday.

In December we joined in the Christingle service, leading worship and handing out service sheets and stickers.

We joined Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from all across Bury at Vue cinema for a private Division screening of Matilda the Musical.

Girlguiding units across the country were all watching the same film on the same weekend. It was great to think of ourselves taking part in the same activity as thousands of others and remind ourselves that we are part of a large organisation.

Throughout the term we have been taking part in activities in the Express Myself theme of the programme. This has included creating a bucket list and thinking about our skills for the future and people that inspire us.

We finished the term with a Christmas party filled with games, food and wrapping paper!

Badges were presented for everything we have completed this term. We were really pleased to be able to present Lucy with her Bronze Award. Lucy is the first guide to have earned a Bronze Award, so we are very proud of the work and commitment she has shown. We look forward to more awards being presented in the future.



We have started back after the Christmas break and are planning many more activities...including an indoor weekend holiday in March.

We have had a social time recently.

Members, with some spouses and friends, enjoyed a Christmas Lunch at the Red Hall in December.

In January, conscious of potential bad weather and cold dark nights, it was decided to move our meeting to the afternoon. Clearly some have other commitments during the day but some no longer like to go out at night, so a good number gathered at 2pm.

We took the opportunity to refresh the activity bags which we provide to help keep under 3s occupied during services and we worked out that it is over 25 years since these were introduced. "Left over" Christmas cake and a delicious lemon drizzle cake accompanied tea and coffee as we enjoyed fellowship.

It was agreed to continue with afternoon meetings in February.

Catherine Hilton will talk to us on February 1. As the zonal trustee for York Province she has promised us "The Big Picture".

On 15 February we shall hold our Annual General Meeting.

In 'other news' -

Last year was Belfast but the Gathering for 2023 is to be held in York. (It will be five years before there is the potential for it to be any closer.) Why not spend a day (or two or three) in this wonderful city, meeting members from around Britain and Ireland and celebrating so much that is good about Mothers' Union. Worldwide President Sheran Harper will also be there. The event will take place on September 22 and tickets are now available.

11am – 3.45pm **Annual Gathering**, York Barbican £23.95

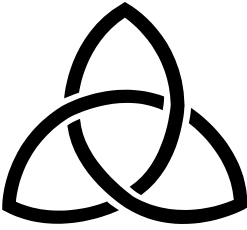
5.30-7pm **Evensong** at York Minster with Archbishop Stephen preaching.

Ask me for more details or visit mothersunion.org

Why not join us for some meetings in 2023? You are most welcome.

Bob Taylor,
Branch Leader

The Open Group



The Open Group met on Wednesday 30th November in the Barritt Room for a pre-Christmas get-together to mark the last meeting of the year. At the party I thanked everybody who had supported, attended and led meetings during 2022, and I would like to echo those thoughts again in the magazine. I felt it was an achievement to resume the group after over two years away and the loss of prominent former members.

Those who attended enjoyed the get-together, which included a Christmas Carol quiz for a bit of fun, and of course food and drink. Thanks to Ian and June for sourcing the sandwiches. There were just 14 of us, but it was just a good number. We ended the evening with a brief service of night prayer.

I expect we will resume our meetings for 2023 sometime during March, so I may be on the lookout for speakers. Get ready for a visit from me if you are a regular speaker! Please watch out for details in future magazines or weekly sheets.

David Robinson



CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICES

St. John with St. Mark Church Hall
10.30am on Sunday 19 March

Christ Church Hall
10.30am on Sunday 26 March

Men of the Benefice



The MOB last met after the Christingle services on Monday 28th November in the The Towler. We were just a week into the World Cup, so this soon became a theme and topic of conversation.

It was also felt that we should use this meeting as an opportunity to try and draft a programme of events for 2023, so Barry came armed with pen and paper. There were some regular suggestions proposed, including a summer walk, a potential night out and 'home' speakers on a particular subject. It is hoped we can put a schedule together over the coming weeks, so please watch for updates in the magazine or weekly sheets. The MOB were expected to meet on Monday 30th January and again on Monday 27th February at 8.00pm in The Towler.

David Robinson

A H Smith BEM

The PCC at Christ Church has obtained the necessary faculty and installed in the organ loft a plaque to mark the amazing service of a much-loved member of our church family.

The plaque is made of brass with the writing below engraved into it and then filled in black.

**In Memory of
Arthur Hoyle Smith BEM
1915-2021
Organist and Choir Master
1935-2015**

You can easily see it as it has been placed on the inside of the loft door, so do have a look next time you are in Christ Church.



Sunday @ Seven

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

February 26th at 7pm

Hungry & Thirsty?

**I AM THE BREAD
OF LIFE**



**Come and join with us for an hour of
relaxed worship and reflection.**

**We will be reviewing our spiritual menu -
Are we feeling nicely replete or still a bit empty?**

Some refreshment needed perhaps?

We will meet at Christ Church Hall.

Or you can join in via Zoom.

**Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks
for more details.**

Upcoming dates



3RD THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCHES

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 February, 16th March

COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR



**SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY
from 10.00am until around 12noon**

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK CHURCH HALL

REFRESHMENTS & CAKES
OTHER STALLS
LOADS OF BOOKS!!
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS
AND ALL WELCOME



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
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



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 FEBRUARY DIARY

Wed 1	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 5		3rd before Lent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Mon 6	2.00pm	PCC (CC Hall)
Sat 11	10.00am	Coffee Morning & Book Fair (SJM)
Sun 12		2nd before Lent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
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		Next before Lent
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
		Morning Worship (SJM)
Wed 22		Ash Wednesday
	10.00am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (CC)
Sun 26		1st of Lent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Mon 27	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Towler)

A remarkable church in Cheetham Hill, well worth a visit, is the Dormitian of Our Lady Ukrainian Catholic Church

On 7 January an ecumenical service celebrated the Orthodox Church Christmas (*this date works to the Julian calendar, pre-dating the Gregorian calendar we use*)

An account of the service can be found on pages 12-13.



These photos give an idea of the richness of the interior

An Orthodox Ecumenical Christmas



Wednesdays
6-6.30pm

lively
worship

for
everyone

Elevate

Starting 1st March at 6pm with food
Christ Church Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP
A new opportunity to come together each week
- lively, fresh, interactive, fun