

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



EASTER SEASON

April 2024



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**



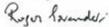
The Order of William Temple Certificate

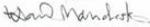
The Order is a gift by the Dean and the Bishop of Manchester; to those who are recognised and duly honoured for longstanding and distinguished service to the Church in Manchester.

The Order marks the significant and exceptional contribution you have made, and for the esteem in which you are held, by all associated with the Cathedral and the Diocese.

This is to certify
CANDU BARBARA TAYLOR
has been awarded
The Order of William Temple

Date
3 MARCH 2024

Signed

The Very Reverend Rogers Goverder
Dean of Manchester

Signed

The Right Reverend Dr David Walker
Lord Bishop of Manchester



My thanks to everyone who supported me last month, whether in the Cathedral or at home. It is a great honour to have been admitted as the fourth member of this Order, primarily **“in tribute to the long and distinguished contribution that, nationally, you have made to promoting the mission of the Church of England”** but it would not have happened had I not had the love and prayerful support of so many of you over the past 40+ years.

Thank you



Hello from Harvie

I have been asked to pen an introduction to you, the wonderful people at Walmersley as I begin my ministry with you this month.

The first thing I have to say is thank you, to the parish reps for putting their trust in me to lead us onward. A huge thanks goes also to those who have helped out in any way during the period of interregnum. To the guest clergy, but most of all to the faithful people of both church communities. My last thanks go to Rev Dave Thompson for his ministry with you all.

As we go forward, I make no apologies for buying into the Mission Community vision the diocese has for ministry in the future. It sometimes saddens me that the figures in the Church of England nationally have halved since the 1980s but, on the plus side, it makes the future one where we must once again evangelise a nation that has turned its back on organised faith. Even here in Bury, we have seen many people disengage with church for one reason or another. This gives us a chance to reset and to move forward again, gaining strength in the reason we follow Jesus and learning once more how to articulate it.

As I will spend the first few months getting to know the church communities and the area, don't expect that I won't be working on a strategy to lead us forward as we seek to release God's people into the ministry he has for us. I will no doubt be asking some to step outside their comfort zone as we seek to identify the best way to be church in 2024 and beyond.

I look forward to the induction service on 17th April and my first service as your new incumbent on Sunday 21st at Christ Church.

Can I please ask that you pray for myself and my wife Sally as we make the transition from where we are to joining with you. Sally will not be as

visible for a few months as she will be having knee replacement surgery as we arrive, but she too is very happy to be joining you all.

So, until we meet in person, I send my prayers for you and give God the glory for all he has in store for our future together.

Love and blessings.

Harvie

You are invited to the Induction and Licensing of

the Reverend Harvie Nicol

with

the Rt Revd Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton
the Venerable Dr Rachel Mann, Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton

at 7.30pm

on Wednesday 17 April
at St John with St Mark

followed by light refreshments

Harvie's first service in the Benefice will be

at 10.30am

on Sunday 21 April
at Christ Church Walmersley

followed by a bring and share lunch in the Hall

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

Mar 10 Valentina Olszewska
Mar 24 Lucas Joseph Chadwick-Smith

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

FUNERAL SERVICES IN CHURCH

Mar 6 Barbara Law
Mar 20 Dorothy Butterworth
Mar 21 Alfred Kipps

FUNERAL SERVICE AT THE CREMATORIUM

Feb 29 Shelagh Beetson
Mar 14 Marjorie Evans

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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Both APCM's will take place on Sunday 14th April

9.45am at Christ Church & 12noon at St. John with St. Mark

COME ALONG AND INFLUENCE THE WAY YOUR CHURCH OPERATES

Please note: Only those on the Church's Electoral Roll may vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.



BIBLE READINGS FOR APRIL

Apr 7	2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	1 John 1.1-2.2	John 20.19-end
Apr 14	3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3: 12-19	1 John 3: 1-7	Luke 24: 36b-48
Apr 21	4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4: 5-12	1 John 3: 16-24	John 10: 11-18
Apr 28	5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8: 26-40	1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 1-8
May 5	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 10: 44-48	1 John 5: 1-6	John 15: 9-17



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

- Apr 7 Vacant
- Apr 14 In loving memory of Joan Birch
- Apr 21 In memory of Sarah Melling and Jack Illsley
- Apr 28 Vacant

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church for a specific week, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St John with St Mark).

Interregnum Notes

- * For the FINAL time!
- * There are details elsewhere of the services to welcome Harvie Nicol as the new incumbent of our Benefice. If you need a lift to either of these occasions, please ask any of our Wardens. Likewise, if you are willing to offer lifts, please let them know. We hope everyone will be able to be present to welcome Harvie and in the coming weeks Sally, as she recovers from her surgery.
- * We wish to take this opportunity to note our grateful thanks to our Ministry team here in the benefice and to all visiting clergy who have enabled our services to continue throughout this period of vacancy.
- * Thank you to all who attended the recent Lent reflections, led by Diocesan Head of Mission and Growth, Mike McGurk. It was felt that these were very beneficial evenings and Mike is a very inspiring speaker.
- * As we approach our APCMs please consider seriously if you could play a part in any aspect of church life. Or maybe your prayers will lead you to speak words of encouragement to others.
- * There are details later in this magazine of a number of events being held later in the year – please note them in your diaries now.
- * There is a very real need for the work of Porch Boxes at this time. Please do all you can to contribute – simply adding a couple of cans to your weekly shop will make a real difference if we all do it. A box is available at the back of both churches and there are lists of the items most needed. Also welcome are any 'bags for life' you can spare as the charity gives out around 80 bags each week.
- * 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.
- * Both churches have contactless devices which provide a simple way to give each Sunday, or perhaps to make additional donations on specific occasions.

Summary of St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting – 7th March

- We held a minute of quiet at the start of the meeting to recall PCC member Marjorie Evans, who had recently passed away.
- Mission Community Activities: Included notes from the last leader's meeting on 29th January; it was confirmed that Thursday Compline had now ceased; a discussion had taken place around the involvement of young people's groups in the Mission Community; an event has been proposed in Clarence Park in the summer, however there are still some practical matters to resolve first.
- Seedfield Housing: The demolition of the main buildings is now underway and should be completed by the summer. It has been confirmed that no extra road will be added, and traffic calming measures will be introduced on the Seedfield Road area.
- New Incumbent – Reverend Harvie Nicol will be licensed at St. John with St. Mark Church on Wednesday 17th April and invites will be sent to local dignitaries. There will then be a joint Benefice communion on Sunday 21st April at Christ Church. A notice about this is to be placed on the door in Church.
- Finance – The draft APCM report was discussed and approved. It was noted that a couple of groups still needed to submit organisational reports. Meetings are to take place for churches wishing to discuss Parish share allocation – ours is 30th April.
- Wardens' Report: The Easter service times and dates were confirmed.
- Health & Safety: It was noted that several external security lights have now been repaired. The Warden discussed designated fire exits from the building.
- The APCM has been set for Sunday 14th April at 12noon. A Baptism will take place the Sunday before (7th).
- The date of the next full PCC meeting will be decided at the APCM.

Summary of Christ Church PCC meeting on March 12

1. The opening prayer for peace was led by the Lay Chair.
2. The Minutes for 12th February were proposed by Lillian Lees and seconded by Barbara Silvester, all in favour. There were no matters arising.
3. The treasurer had circulated the finance report. There was a small surplus last month, this will however dramatically change next month as we have already paid some significant amounts. As at today's date, March expenses have exceeded receipts by £10,050.21
4. We have had a letter from the diocese regarding our decision not to contest the parish share values for the next three years (2024 £30,034, 2025 £31,536, 2026 £33,112 *subject to confirmation*). It was proposed that the letter confirming this be signed by the lay chair. Proposed by Ian Riddick, seconded by Barbara Silvester, all were in favour.
5. The PCC had received an email from Rosemary Taylor, advising that she would be restarting the Bury Rangers (this is the next age group up from Guides) in September. They will be meeting alongside the guides on a Monday evening in the Church Hall from 7.30-9pm.
6. There was nothing further to report on the sale of the church field, we are awaiting answers from the Diocesan Registrar.
7. The account for the Baldingstone Trust fund had now been reopened by Barclays Bank.
8. Cath Hilton was asked to finalise the draft notice to be put up in church and the church hall regarding safety when working alone in our buildings.
9. The Big Church Picnic was discussed, this is planned to take place in Clarence Park, hopefully on June 29. The PCC were asked to provide a gazebo as a base for our activity.
10. The PCC secretary volunteered to try and make progress with the ECO church project.
11. There will be an Art Group display of paintings in the Church Hall on the 27th April from 10am to 12 noon.
12. It was decided that we would repeat the scarecrow festival from 11th July 2024 with the theme Children's Book Characters.
13. Bookmarks were given out to congregation members in church on Mothering Sunday.
14. The key-holder list will be updated - Jennifer Wood will review.

IFTAR MEAL

On 15 March members of the Muslim Christian Forum joined together to celebrate Iftar, the breaking of the daily fast at sundown during Ramadan.

Before the meal we shared our views on Fasting. Diane Bohan from St Joseph's spoke of the meaning of Lent and Easter; and Imam Hassanat Ahmed of the Noor Ul Islam Mosque spoke of Fasting in general and during Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims who are able to, fast from dawn to dusk eating and drinking nothing including water.



A common theme for both faiths is the need to spend more time in prayer, fasting and alms giving – a time when we grow in our relationship with God.

At 6.16 p.m. precisely we sat down for the Iftar meal of samosa type starters, followed by savoury and sweet rice dishes, dates and fruit. All very healthy but I must mention the tray of luxury iced doughnuts, a treat from one of the several young men

who arranged the meal. One thing that always strikes me at these meetings is that the work in the kitchen and dining area is always done by the men. In the Christian Churches the kitchen work and catering is usually done by the women, although nowadays in our church men are also involved.

The evening was very enjoyable and we went home feeling very full, both physically and spiritually.

Please see a photograph of the event with our friends on the back page.

Gillian Smith

At the branch AGM in February Bob Taylor stepped down after seven years as branch leader. Members were very generous in their thanks for his commitment to the branch, even arranging for two 'special visitors' who apparently travelled from HQ in London to present his gifts! He was presented with:

- A Guide to the World's Best Cricket Grounds,
- a 'Mr Cricket' mug,
- money it was suggested could buy a ticket for (guess what!) a cricket match.



Barbara Silvester stepped down after 10 years as our Treasurer and was presented with a card and an orchid.

It is planned for the present to run the branch by committee, which comprises:

Barbara Taylor, continuing as secretary

Bob Taylor, taking on the role of treasurer (no, we weren't letting him off completely!)

Claire Altham, Denise Booth, Joan Riggs, Barbara Silvester.

We had previously decided not to hold a meeting during Easter week and have now rearranged our speakers booked for 17 April so we can all be there to welcome Harvie to the Benefice.

We do encourage all members to attend the Diocesan Spring Council meeting on Friday, 26 April, 10.30am – 2.30pm. It is held at St John's House so extremely convenient. Please bring your lunch, drinks are available, and the shop will be open. This is a great opportunity to meet members and learn so much about the work of Mothers' Union.

Quiet Moments for April

On the Emmaus road, in answer to Jesus's questions, the followers told their story, his story, and he opened the scriptures to them. We pray for our eyes to be opened to God's Word.

All-seeing and unseen God,
you make your presence known to us when we least expect it.
Come to us, we pray, when our need is greatest;
and when we have forgotten need and least think of you.
Give us peace when we are troubled;
disturb us when we are complacent.
When we are locked into darkness, release us.
When we are neglectful of the darkness, open our eyes
to see the one who overcame the powers of darkness for our sakes.
Amen.

Terry Garley, Wild Goose Publications

As we look to a new step on our journey, we remember with thanksgiving those who passed on their faith to us.

Heavenly Father,
give us the faith to look to Jesus crucified
and risen from the dead.
Faith to see the invisible, and do the impossible;
faith invincible in the face of evil and death.
Faith to pass on the good news of Jesus to the next generation;
faith to live in sustainable ways to bless the earth you created.
Faith to take up our cross and follow Jesus all our days
until we come to our eternal home.
In Jesus' name. Amen

*from Margaret Vivian, Sheffield Diocese
and printed in Mother's Union's Platinum Prayer Book*

As we welcome our new Vicar, we pray for all who minister, both lay and ordained:

Lord God, bless all those whom you have called to the ministry of the Church.

Deepen their understanding of faith, so that they may share it with others.

Strengthen their commitment with love, hope and joy, that their witness may be more effective.

Pour your grace upon them and their families, and give them time for renewal of faith.

May they have the love and support of each one of us, through our prayers.

Amen.

Margaret Wilson



Remembering the fifth Mark of Mission, as we rejoice in God's creation, we pray for our environment:

Heavenly Father, we see your daily splendour as we open our eyes to see the beauty of your creation. We hear the music of the birds, touch the trees and snow, smell the fragrance of the flowers, feel the breezes as they whisper past us and eat the fruit and vegetables that you provide.

Help us to understand the collaboration of your work for us to enjoy the environment we sometimes take for granted. May we always look at the beauty of the world with respect and not take for granted what you have given us.

Help us to understand that everything is intertwined and to know that we must care for and protect the environment, not only for us but for those to come.

Amen.

Patricia Smith, Mothers' Union Trinidad and Tobago

THURSDAY LUNCHES

Thursday Lunch Crew (TLC) meet on the Third Thursday of each month at Christ Church Walmersley to prepare and serve a light lunch.

TLC is an important element of this community lunch. Nigel here models one of the new aprons purchased from monies given in memory of Jacqueline Lomax.



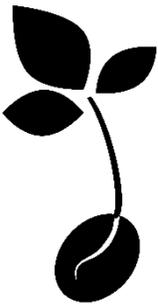
Come and join us on the third Thursday of every month. A chance to enjoy a chat in the company of friends.

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!

So come along on
18th April & 16th May.



You cannot force someone to comprehend a message that they are not ready to receive. Still, you must never underestimate the power of planting a seed.

Men of the Benefice



The MOB met at Christ Church Hall on Wednesday 28th February for a talk by Andrew and Lillian Lees on life in the Royal Air Force and also their work as Volunteer Reserves for the RAF. The talk centred on their role in the 635 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, which provides training and instruction for Cadets.

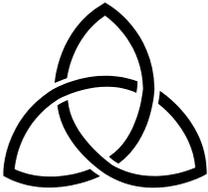
We were given the background of some of the many types of glider used in the training, and which Andrew had also flown. There were some interesting photographs of the various aircraft and informative explanations as to how they were flown. Displays of the airfields used in the training were also shared with us, particularly the now sadly disused Salmesbury airfield.

The role that Andrew and Lillian played in the training of young RAF Cadets was particularly inspiring to hear as it became apparent that some youngsters have had their lives turned around when it could have been so much the opposite. Discipline was a huge factor in the training process, and in the end the best form of discipline is that of self-discipline. Something for us all to think about there.

This was a great evening of nostalgia, memorabilia and adventure from Andrew and Lillian, and it was great that we got to hear about their passion and dedication to service.

The latest MOB meeting was on Monday 25th March at The Towler for an informal chat. The last Monday of April is the 29th, and unless alternative arrangements are made, we should again meet at The Towler at 8.00pm.

David Robinson



The Open Group

The Open Group resumed in 2024 on Wednesday 13th March for a quieter and more reflective evening of music, prayer and Taizé chants.

The session involved thought and interaction with items including stones, a wooden cross, scripture, pen and paper, tealights and an opportunity to share fellowship. This was whilst listening to some known or perhaps less familiar Taizé chants.

There was only a small number of us gathered, but thanks to all those who joined and participated in sharing worship together.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 10th April and Julian Hartley will lead a talk on his previous role as a funeral director. All are welcome at 7.30pm in the Barritt Room.

David Robinson

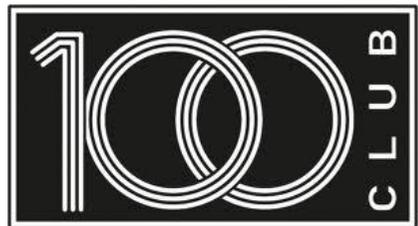
ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

March 2024 draw winners:

1st Prize £15.00 – (16) Joan Wild

2nd Prize £10.00 – (41) Wendy Kier

Congratulations to both



Thy Kingdom Come events

More information on all these events in May's magazine, social media and our websites, but please make sure you have a note of the dates.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites us to pray from Ascension to Pentecost (9th to 19th May) for more people to come to know Jesus.



Specifically, we are invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not yet responded with 'Yes' to God's call.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." writes Archbishop Justin Welby.

There will be resources available next month.



Bury Mission Community **Quiet Day**

18th May 2024

St Mary in the Baum, Rochdale

Leader: The Revd James Read

Churches Together in Bury

Prayer in the Park

18th May 1pm – 4pm

Clarence Park



An opportunity to pray for our town, communities, schools, businesses. With refreshments from The Green and an interactive prayer trail. Within our Benefice so we don't even need to travel to take part.

Some more dates for your diary this summer

Christian Aid Week from May 12th to 18th



Will you help someone push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week?

Watch out for ways in which to show support.

The BIG picnic

a FUN event hosted by the churches of Bury Mission Community, is planned to take place in Clarence Park on 29 June from 11am to 2pm. An event for all the family, and bring your friends and neighbours too. A pentathlon for the young (or young at heart), activities for those feeling less active, and a fantastic opportunity to show that the churches here in Bury (and especially on Walmersley Road) are active and welcoming.



The Scarecrows are returning!



We do hope that this year you will be able to make a scarecrow and/or come along to see them all.

There is to be a theme – but it should not be too hard (although deciding which could be!)

Children's Book Characters

The festival will take place from 11 July, for two weeks (weather permitting).

So please get your thinking caps on and let's make this second festival even better than the first!

ART DISPLAY

by members of the Art Workshops at Christ Church Walmersley

Saturday, 27th April 2024

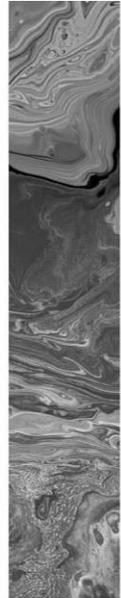
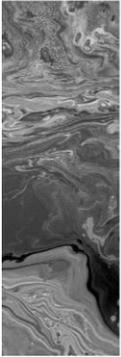
10am - 12 noon

Entry FREE

Refreshments available for a donation

In the Church Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP

CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk



REENGAGE GROUP

Reengage - the UK's only charity dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation in over 75's is launching a new activity group in The Green Community café (Clarence Park) on Tuesday 2nd April 11am-1pm to support older people in the community.

They are also looking for friendly volunteers who would like to help run the group.

If you would like more information, please contact Rhiannon Briscoe via email rhiannon.briscoe@reengage.org.uk or www.reengage.org.uk

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



We are members of Manchester's Transforming Prayer Community

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, Parkinson Street 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
X (formerly Twitter)	@cofewalmersley
Instagram	cofewalmersley
and YouTube	CofE Walmersley

FOR YOUR APRIL DIARY

Sun 7		2nd Sunday of Easter
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Mon 8	1.30pm	PCC (CC Hall)
Wed 10	7.30pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
Sun 14		3rd Sunday of Easter
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	9.45am	APCM (CCW)
	10.30am	Family and Parade Service (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
	12noon	APCM (SJM)
Wed 17	7.30pm	Induction of Revd Harvie Nicol (SJM)
Thu 18	12noon	Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 21		4th Sunday of Easter
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Parish Communion (CC) followed by a Bring and Share Lunch (CC Hall)
Fri 26	10.30am	Mothers' Union Spring Council (St John's House)
Sat 27	10.00am	Art Display (CC Hall)
Sun 28		5th Sunday of Easter
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (Barritt Room)
Mon 29	7.30pm	Mission Community Leaders' meeting
	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice - Towler



Sunday



@ Seven



We next meet for our time of informal worship

**April 28th at the
Barritt Room, St John
with St Mark Hall**

'Would you believe it !!'

We shall be taking a look at some of the events following on from the Resurrection of Jesus. Come and join us for an hour - or you can be with us via Zoom. Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks for more details.

IFTAR MEAL CELEBRATIONS

**WITH THE BURY MUSLIM CHRISTIAN FORUM
ON 15TH MARCH**



**Growing in our relationship with God
and with each other**

PLEASE SEE PAGE 10 FOR A REPORT OF THE EVENING