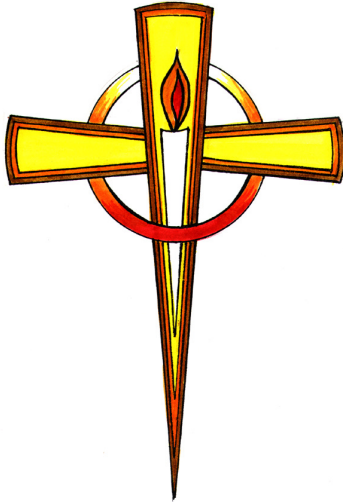


Christ Church  
Walmersley



Magazine

*Spreading the Word*

December 2009

## Thought for the month



A special welcome to you if you are reading this month's magazine on our web site. I hope you find it helpful and relevant and a point of contact wherever you are in the world.

Well, just 24 days to Christmas!- so much to do, so many people to see and so much to be spent - that is if you capitulate to the retail frenzy that nowadays surrounds Christmas or 'Xmas' in their speak.



The grandchildren have been talking to Nigel and I about what **gifts** they would like for Christmas, the **gift** catalogues have been coming through the post - Mothers' Union started the trend back in SEPTEMBER – we hadn't even had our summer holiday! Followed by one from Traidcraft and then news that Tearcraft was now called Created **gifts**.

I know that many who read this "Thought" will be looking forward to celebrating God's **gift** to us.

This **gift** didn't come all wrapped in glittering paper with a large bow on.

This **gift** didn't come from a Santa all dressed in red - we have *Coka-Cola* to thank for that.

This **gift** isn't one of those that goes back to the store on Boxing Day or lies broken in the bin, but one that will last for eternity.

This **gift** wasn't even given on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December - though we celebrate it on that day in the west.

Yes, you have got it; this **gift** is the birth of His Son.

Yes, the **gift** of Jesus is a truly amazing one. God in human form, able to experience all that life holds: joy and sorrow, danger and freedom, life and death.

Yes, many today knock Christmas with all its glitz and glamour, its superstitions and disappointments, and muddle up holly, ivy and Santa, with stars, shepherds and baby in the manger. Yet if we are able to keep Jesus at the heart of our celebrations something seems to make sense, and gets our feet back on the ground; perhaps not the baby in the manger Jesus but the fully grown up man. The man who at thirty left his family and travelled around meeting as many people as possible, to talk to them about God's continuing love for them. Talking to huge crowds and yet going to people's homes. Talking to anyone who would listen, from Jewish leaders to prostitutes and beggars, he made no distinction between women, children and men- totally radical then. He loved them all and devoted his life to letting everyone know that God loved them even though it eventually cost him his life.



Yes, God's **gift** of Jesus is still there and waiting for anyone who wants it, all you have to do is **open it** if you haven't already done so and then share it with those round you. You might just find then that Christmas takes on a whole new meaning.

And finally, yes, please do come and celebrate God's **gift** with all of us this Christmas.

May God bless you all richly this Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Jones'.

**Unto us a child is born  
Unto us a Son is given**





## **SERVICES AND READINGS FOR DECEMBER**

### December 6<sup>th</sup> **Second Sunday of Advent**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

### December 13<sup>th</sup> **Third Sunday of Advent**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18
- 10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service  
Luke 3: 7-18

### December 20<sup>th</sup> **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

### December 24<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Eve**

- 6.00 p.m. Family Celebration
- 10.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
Hebrews 1: 1-4, 5-12; John 1: 1-14

### December 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day**

- 10.00 a.m. **Holy Communion (CW)**  
Hebrews 1: 1-4, 5-12; John 1: 1-14

December 27<sup>th</sup> **First Sunday of Christmas**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion  
Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52

# ARE YOU ON DUTY?

If you are unavailable, please arrange to exchange with someone else.

## READINGS

- Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Shelagh Beetson
- Dec 13<sup>th</sup> Bill Noble
- Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Barbara Taylor
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Barbara Silvester
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Margery Spencer
- Dec 27<sup>th</sup> Jean Slater

## INTERCESSIONS

- Joe Mc Dermott
- Alan Spencer
- Bob Taylor
- Nigel Silvester
- Sybil Fryer
- Margaret Schofield

## SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

- |                      |                 |                 |              |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Dec 6 <sup>st</sup>  | Nigel Silvester | George Fryer    | David Peters |
| Dec 13 <sup>th</sup> | Alison Fewtrell | Jean Slater     | Alan Spencer |
| Dec 20 <sup>th</sup> | Roy Warburton   | Shelagh Beetson | Sybil Fryer  |
| Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> | Bill Noble      | Bob Taylor      | David Thew   |

Help will be needed over the Christmas period to cover services.  
Please see Jennifer Wood if you are available.

**LAY ASSISTANTS**

Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Pilkington	Nigel Sylvester
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cath Hilton	Jennifer Wood
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Sylvester	Nigel Sylvester
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Slater	Tricia Stokes

**FLOWERS**



Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. M. Booth. In memory of the Booth Family.
Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. O. Greenhalgh
Dec 20 <sup>th</sup>	The Congregation
Dec 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. & Mrs. R Nicholls In memory of their parents



**Baptisms**

November 1st      Reeve Dean Angulin



**Funeral**

November 13<sup>th</sup>      Bernard Lilley

**Interment of Ashes**

November 14<sup>th</sup>      Vera Jay

A Christmas Concert Presentation from  
United Christian Singers

The Gift



by Graham Kendrick

on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm  
at Christ Church Walmersley

and afterwards- coffee, cake and time to chat.

Free Admission – Retiring Collection  
(Tickets available from Nigel Silvester or on the door)

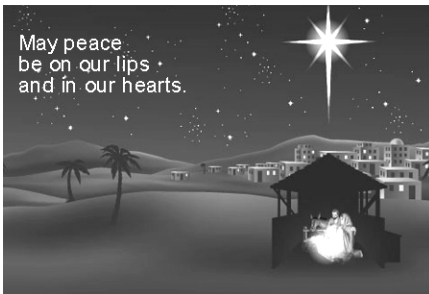
**Don't miss it - book it in your diary now**

# The Gift

What is the Gift?-

It's a seasonal listening experience and more. It is the basis for a joyful event, building bridges to those for whom the Christmas story is just a fairytale. The United Christian Singers are an inter-denominational choir who have sung at venues throughout the North West – including the Free trade Hall and latterly at the Royal Northern College of Music. Not only do they bring an excellent choir but drama too!

Come along and bring your family, friends and neighbours.



## **Christmas Greetings**

As is our usual custom, there will be a board at the back of church during December dedicated to our greetings to one another.

In this way many people are able to send greetings to all in the church family whilst at the same time donating to charity the money they have saved on individual cards. There will be the usual 'post-boxes' for those who wish to send cards to close friends.





## **EID / ADVENT EVENT**



The Muslim-Christian Forum of Bury  
invites you to  
a social event  
on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
at the Jinnah Centre, Alfred Street, Bury  
at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Come and share in prayer, food and fellowship

Halal food will be served.

Please contact Keith Trivasse  
on 0161 761 6991  
for FREE tickets for this event.

We had a wonderful time Circle Dancing at the meeting in October. It is very spiritual and reflective in addition to being gentle exercise. It was also an opportunity to spread the word about the work of Mothers' Union to those outside our immediate community.

David Andrew joined us on our first meeting in November and we had a remarkable turn out considering the hideous weather and the fact that a number of our regulars were unwell. The communion service, led by Don, was uplifting and an apt start to our evening of very enjoyable fellowship. Pie and peas were served and then we had our annual postcard competition. The theme of boats had elicited some lovely pictures and the winning entry was from Nigel and Barbara Silvester. Congratulations!

In January's magazine there will be details about Barbara Taylor's presentation on her trip to Kenya.

We have sent Christmas presents for the homeless via the Deanery Leader. Yes, time is marching on and I find it a good reminder that I have to get my own Christmas organised!! December's meetings include the Advent Meditation which gives an opportunity for 'time out' in this busy season and our Christmas celebration meal at Greenmount Golf Club.

The Deanery Advent Service is on Sunday, 29th November at 2.30 p.m. at St. James', Bury, whilst the Diocesan Service is at 2 p.m. on December 3rd at St. Ann's, Manchester.

Good wishes to all for a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas.

Cath Hilton  
Branch Leader

# Prayer Mat

## Week One

Lord God, we stand at the beginning of Advent  
looking forward to Christmas.

We come with our arms laden –  
full of fear as we watch a world filled with wars  
full of concern as we watch the world's politicians,  
full of helplessness as we watch people suffer quietly  
at home or in hospital  
full of shame as we look back at our own anger and  
mistakes.

Our arms are full of good things too –  
our preparations for Christmas  
our homes and families and friends  
our talents and hobbies.



Help us Lord,  
to lay our burdens at the foot of the cross  
and to lay our gifts at the altar.

Then Lord, with empty hands  
we can lift our arms in praise to you  
and open our arms to embrace each other in love.

*Christine McMullen (Based on an idea in God's Priceless Gift)  
(Christian Aid 1981)*

## **Week Two**

Heavenly Father, we pray this week for all those for whom Christmas holds no joy: for those for whom the loss of a loved one is more poignant and traumatic at this time; and for those who will be alone without family and friends to share the joy of the season. Lord, help them to know that you are with them in their sorrow, that they are not alone, that you sent the light of the world to them in the form of your son at Christmas. Comfort and bless all your people at this holy time. Amen.

## **Week Three**

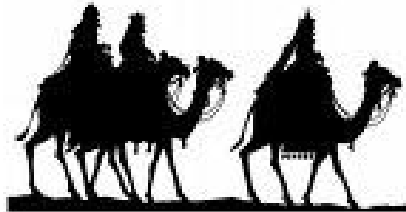
May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gifts to us and to people everywhere, this Christmas and always.

*(Bishop Mervin Stockwood)*

## **Week Four**

God bless our year  
giving us  
time for the task  
peace for the pathway  
wisdom for the work  
friends for the fireside  
love to the last.

*Prayers for Divine Service  
Church of Scotland*



Sunday, November 29th at 2.30 p.m.

**Advent Carol Service**

at St James' Woolfold  
arranged by Bury Deanery Mothers' Union



Monday, November 30th at 6.30.p.m.

**Christingle Service**

All collections will go to the Children's Society and will be used to help young people who have run away from home and are living on the streets in Manchester. Please come and join us at this service.

Wednesday, 2nd December at 7.30 p.m.

**Advent Preparation** hosted by Mothers' Union.  
Everyone is welcome, in the Church Hall.



Saturday, 12th December at 7.30 p.m.



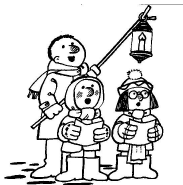
**The Gift**  
with United Christian Singers

Tickets available in church – retiring collection

Tuesday, 15th December

at 10 a.m. **Springside School Carol Service**  
in Church. Please support our children.





Thursday, December 17th meet at 6.55.p.m.  
in Church for **Carol Singing** round the Parish.

Supper served in the Church Hall at 8.15 p.m.  
Tickets available in Church

Join us as we take the news of Christ's birth into our community.

Sunday, 20th December at 6.30 p.m.

**Carol Service**  
with brass band

Hear the GOOD NEWS and join in singing new  
and traditional CAROLS – a great opportunity  
to celebrate with all the family of Christ Church.



***O come, all ye faithful.***



Thursday, 24th December

at 6.00 p.m. **Family Celebration**

The Christmas story re-enacted for all ages

at 11.30 p.m. **Holy Communion**

All are welcome at this first Eucharist of Christmas

Friday, 25th December

at 10.00 a.m. **Family Communion**



***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning***



## **What happened from 30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November at Waddow Hall in Clitheroe?**

Clue 1 - There was Inspector Gadget, Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, Scooby Doo and the Famous Five.

Clue 2 - Grace had to make her promise dangling from a rope, and Elle and Nicole had to bounce away whilst making theirs.

Clue 3 - There was more bouncing, lots of arrows shot and everyone hanging from ropes at some point.

Clue 4 - There was a 'Detectives Dinner Do' and strange goings on outside in the dark with lots of odd items found lying around the site.

Solved the mystery?

That was what the Guides had to do on the 'Murder Mystery' themed weekend away in their Scooby Doo and Famous Five patrols.

The weekend started on Friday night with a ghost walk, blink murder and other games.

Saturday's activities were crate challenge, trampolining and archery after they had helped with the cooking and cleaning (including the toilets!) Grace made her promise after having fallen from her stack of crates and Elle and Nicole made theirs on the trampoline.

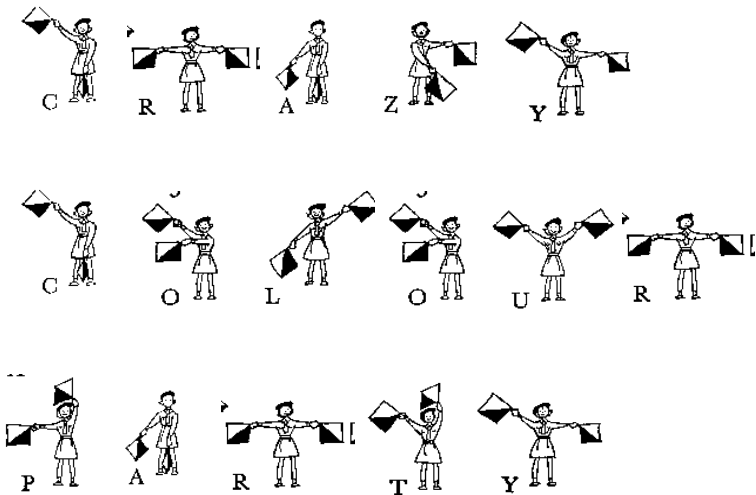
In the evening everyone dressed up as detectives for dinner and then there were 10 clues to solve each leading to an item. The Guides had to work together to tell their version of a murder incorporating these items, which included a bloody sock, rope, gardening fork, a tin of beans and a CD.

On the Sunday everyone completed their Traditions of Guiding badge. This involved sending a message using semaphore, hand and whistle signals, woodcraft sign trails, lighting a candle and setting a table for a 3 course meal.

Also staying at Waddow was the Senior Section press team for the International Centenary Camp in 2010 so the Guides posed for many photographs and took part in a number of interviews for practice.

What was your alibi on that Saturday night???

Well – the editors were at the





**It was bright!**



**It was boisterous!**



**It was brilliant!**



Adults and children alike had a great time:

cutting  
pasting  
colouring  
searching  
icing  
singing  
jumping  
eating



**What** was it you missed?

# The Crazy Colour Party

on 31 October.

Why not come and join the fun next year?



## Book Review

### ***Finding God in the Shack***

*by Randal Rauser*



Have you read **The Shack**? What did you think? Are you an enthusiast or a critic?

It has been interesting to hear the varied comments from those of you that have read this book, which I recommended a few months ago. The Shack, read by over five million people throughout the world has caused quite a stir, as well as being praised it has also become quite controversial.

Whatever your feelings are, can I now encourage you to read this book written by Randal Rauser, a theologian, who explores some of the beliefs of the Christian faith contained within this book.

If you have a Christian book recommendation to be included in "Book Review" please send or give to Jean Slater

# Children's Corner



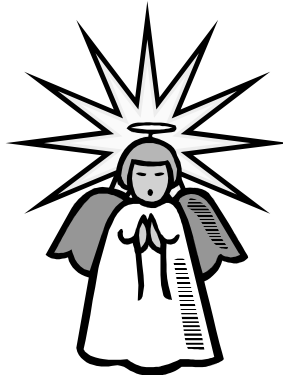
## Nativity Word Search

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Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	R	F	A	L	L	U
R	A	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	T	E	J	S
N	E	M	E	S	I	W	S	H	E	E	P	I	G	O	E
J	G	N	I	K	M	A	R	Y	G	I	U	V	N	S	J
M	O	S	Y	I	H	X	Q	U	R	Q	W	I	A	E	T
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Z	I	L	I	N	N	K	E	E	P	E	R	Y	O	H	F

ANGELS  
INNKEEPER  
KING  
NATIVITY  
SHEPHERDS

CHRISTMAS  
JESUS  
MANGER  
SALVATION  
STAR

DONKEY  
JOSEPH  
MARY  
SHEEP  
WISEMAN





**A hidden message - can you find it?**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
7				21				17					

O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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**A Prayer**

Thank you heavenly Father for all the good gifts  
 we receive at Christmas but especially we thank  
 you for Jesus.

# Art and Craft Event Quiz



1. What is the name of the house which is built in the Arts and Crafts style and open to visitors in Bowness on Windermere? **Blackwell**
2. What is depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry? **Battle of Hastings**
3. Which Art form involves sticking paper etc. onto a background to build up a design? **Collage or Decoupage**
4. What do you call the effect achieved by dabbing paint with a sponge on to a differently coloured background? **Stippling**
5. What is the name of the illuminated Bible from Holy Island, Northumberland? **LIndisfarne Gospel**
6. Which area of Norway has given its name to a type of needlework?. **Hardanger**
7. What is the name of the edging piece on the bottom of a sleeve? **Cuff**
8. What is the name of the stiffening fabric traditionally stitched into tailored garments? **Buckram**
9. What is the usual name for the green absorbent foam used in flower arranging? **Oasis**
10. What is the name for a small spray of flowers worn on a dress at weddings and formal occasions? **Corsage**
11. In jewellery, what do you call a ring engraved with initials? **Signet**
12. What is the name for a carved stone with a raised head on it, often set into a ring? **Cameo**

13. What is the name of the purple precious stone which is a form of quartz? **Amethyst**
  14. What do you call a pendant that may be heart shaped and contain mementoes? **Locket**
  15. What is the name for a ring encircled with stones and worn next to a wedding ring? **Eternity Ring**
  16. Which potter was the grandfather of Charles Darwin? **Josiah Wedgwood**
  17. Who designed a range of pottery named "Bizarre" ? **Clarice Cliffe**
  18. Which northern city gives its name to a cream pottery ware with a basket design? **Leeds (ware)**
  19. What name is given to pots after their first firing? Biscuit, Bisque
  20. What is the name of the pottery first produced in St. Ives in 1963 and continued to 1983? **Troika**
  21. Who designed the stained glass for Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral? **Sir John Piper**
  22. Which fashion designer was responsible for the "New Look"? **Christian Dior**
  23. Which architect designed the Fusilier memorial in the Gallipoli gardens in Bury? **Edward Lutyens**
  24. Who introduced children to "Morf"? **Tony Hart**
  25. What did Henry Beck design in 1933? **London Tube Map**
- In which gallery would you normally see the following paintings?
26. The Mona Lisa **Louvre**
  27. Calais Sands **Bury Art Gallery**

- 28. Guernica **Queen Sophia Gallery Madrid**
- 29. The Bar at the Folies Bergere **Coutauld Institute**
- 30. The Neville Brothers **National Portrait Gallery London**

The winners of the quiz were Hilary and Ian Riddick who have received a gift voucher.



**Thank You**



To everyone who supported the Art and Craft Event whether by donating items, helping with preparations, assisting on the day or by attending.

The event raised over **£900** for church funds. Thank you again

Sybil Fryer

## **First Thursday Prayers**

If you are unable to attend "First Thursday Prayers" but would like to use the service notes for your own private meditation they are available at the back of church for you to take home each month.



## Jottings

### My Christmas List

There are lots of folk I know, all written in a book  
And every year at Christmastime I go and take a look.  
For each name stands for someone  
Who has touched my life some time  
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm of the rhyme.

I really feel I am composed of each remembered name,  
And while you may not be aware of feeling quite the same,  
My life is so much better than it was before you came.

For once that you've known someone, the years cannot erase  
The memory of a pleasant word, or a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list forgotten in-between.  
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you  
It is because you're on that list of folks I'm indebted to.

And whether I have known you for many years or few  
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.  
So every year when Christmas comes I just realise anew.  
The biggest gift that God can give is knowing folks like you.

Thank you to a friend of mine who included this message with her  
Christmas card last year. I send this to you all to include with our greeting,  
along with the card that will be on the board at the back of church.

If you have an interesting article that you would like to be included in

**Jottings** please send to Jean Slater



## What's on in Walmersley

### **December**

Sun 29	Mothers' Union Deanery Advent Carol Service St James' Woolfold
Mon 30	Christingle Service
Wed 2	Mothers' Union Advent Meditation
Thurs 3	First Thursday Prayers
Thurs 3	Mothers' Union Diocesan Advent Service, St Ann Manchester
Sat 5	Farmers' Market
Sun 6	Eid/Christmas Event Jinnah Centre
Mon 7	Ministry committee
Sat 12	'The Gift' – United Christian Singers
Wed 16	Mothers' Union Christmas meal

Please let us know what is happening in your organisation. E-mail [ccwalmersley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ccwalmersley@hotmail.co.uk) for inclusion on the weekly sheet, magazine or web-site.

You can visit the web-site at [ccwalmersleybury.org.uk](http://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk) – please let us know what you would like to see there and help us keep it up to date.



CCW Guides in Murder Mystery! (see p16)

