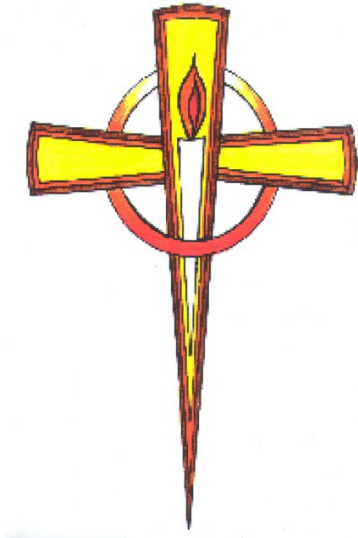


Christ Church Walmersley

in the Benefice of Walmersley Road



Magazine

Spreading the Word

January 2012

Thought for the Month



I don't know what it is about this year but I seem to have come across a more than usually high number of folk who claim not to be looking forward to Christmas. Reasons range from the vague, 'don't know what the fuss is all about,' to the financial, 'no money so it's going to be a poor sort of Christmas,' and to the understandable connected to the loss of a loved one.

Undoubtedly Christmas is a difficult time for many and I can understand how people would think there is too much fuss when they don't know or have forgotten the facts behind the tinsel. And I can see how lack of money is linked to a great deal of stress when people, particularly parents, are trying to meet unrealistic expectations. And, above all I can empathise with those facing that first Christmas without that person who made it alright no matter how stressed things got.

But is it any easier for us who claim Christ as Saviour, who sing out our praises of the Christ Child and who work hard to link all this to the man on the cross; is it any easier at all? Because we too have to do the endless preparations and we too have to struggle with the shopping and the balancing of family sensibilities. We too may wish, even occasionally, that the whole bally thing was over.

So, how do we find the true spirit of Christmas? Well first of all we need to remember that we are a Christmas People; we are used to the idea that we are an Easter People but we are also Christmas People.

Christmas People are able to see the birth of child in a stable not just as a historical event but as a chance for rebirth for all of us; a rebirth some will need pretty frequently! If rebirth seems a bit high falutin' think of it as being a fresh start.

Christmas People can see that it is the thought behind the gift that counts not the cost. Yes, those first gifts we read about in the gospels were rare, exotic and costly but the real gifts those wise men brought were their time and courage.

Christmas People can see beyond the obvious to what lies within, as the first visitors to a shed behind an inn saw beyond straw and dirt, beyond a bewildered young couple, beyond even a baby.

Christmas People see the hope and promise to come and also remember (most of the time) to look for the hope and promise of the here and now.

Christmas People use the past to make sense of the present and help prepare for the future. Because like so much else Christmas is about what you put into it not what you take out – because the real presents don't need to be bought, wrapped or taken – the real presents are showered on us every day. And you don't need me to tell you what they are, do you?

So, the next time somebody says to you this is going to be a rotten Christmas perhaps you can think how you could put something into their Christmas to make it a little better?

Have a wonderful Christmas – may it find you readier than you hoped and with room in your hearts for wonder and surprise.

Yours in Christ

Elizabeth



SERVICES AND READINGS FOR JANUARY



- January 1st **First of Christmas**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Galatians 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 15-21
- January 8th **Baptism of Christ**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11
10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service
Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11
- January 15th **Second of Epiphany**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Revelation 5: 1-10; John 1: 43-51
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Revelation 5: 1-10; John 1: 43-51
- January 22nd **Third of Epiphany**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Revelation 19: 6-10; John 2: 1-11
10.30 a.m. Morning Service
Revelation 19: 6-10; John 2: 1-11
- January 29th **Fourth of Epiphany**
9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Revelation 12: 1-5a; Mark 1: 21-28
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Revelation 12: 1-5a; Mark 1: 21-28

ARE YOU ON DUTY?

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

READINGS

January 1 st	Alison Fewtrell
January 8 th	Julie Tyrer
January 15 th	Ian Riddick
January 22 nd	David Peters
January 29 th	Anne Bullen

INTERCESSIONS

Joe McDermott
Barbara Taylor
Bob Taylor
Margaret Schofield
Alan Spencer

SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

January 1 st	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Alan Spencer
January 8 th	Roy Warburton	Sybil Fryer	Chris Standring
January 15 th	Bill Noble	Ian Riddick	Shelagh Beetson
January 22 nd	Geoff Hamilton	David Peters	Nigel Silvester
January 29 th	Pamela Hoyle	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater

LAY ASSISTANTS

January 1 st	Tricia Stokes	Jean Slater
January 15 th	Barbara Silvester	Cath Hilton
January 29 th	Margery Spencer	Nigel Silvester

FLOWERS

in church have been given:

- January 1st In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme
January 8th Mr J Clegg
January 15th Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
January 22nd In memory of Jack Grindrod
January 29th In memory of Mr & Mrs E Todd



	Interment of Ashes	
	November 27 th December 11 th	Jon Bradshaw Barbara Leather

Pray-ing

An hour of singing contemporary worship songs
with time for prayer and maybe a scripture reading or two.

Relaxed, gentle fellowship and all very informal.

At the home of Barbara & Nigel Silvester,
49 Fairlands Road, Limefield.
Monday 9th January at 7.30 p.m.



Buckhurst Whit Walks 1947

At the Junior Church Presentation service on Sunday 20th November we heard about the Baldingstone Trust and where the old school was, at the end of Bentley Lane. I first remember it as the old scout

hut with a rope tied to a roof support, then later as a builder's workshop.

I remember the Whit Walks and the magnificent sight of the great banner blowing in the wind above the blackened, weathered stone walls as we walked from Buckhurst Church, past the farm, following the old cart track which comes out near Butcher Acre Farm to a rest at Higher Sedger Hey Farm with the banner propped against the barn wall. A prayer was said, a hymn sung and the procession moved down the road to the Lord Raglan where a similar service took place. We processed around the village and on occasions to Baldingstone, but I remember stopping at Whitewall Farm for a rest and short service before striking out across the fields on the return to Buckhurst church past Joe Howarth's farm and Thompson's Lark Mount Farm.

The day was rounded off with refreshments and races and games on the field at the side of Percy Walmsley's farm. I remember the three legged race, because my mum and Jack Barlow, the coalman won it, and old Mr Baldwin fainting with heat stroke. He was a very smart gentleman who lived in Lumn Street - small in stature, dressed in a waistcoat complete with watch and chain, thick heavy coat and a bowler hat and walking cane. He was leaning on the wall by the stream when he fainted backwards and his hat fell off and went sailing down the stream. Well, what do kids do? We roared with laughter before being chastised and told to retrieve the bowler from the stream.

David Hall ex 14 Lumn Street



with Holy Communion for Epiphany

When: 6 January 2011
Where: Lower Room, Church Hall
Time: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome, so do come and join this informal meeting for fellowship, worship and time for tea and a chat. Transport can be arranged for you if necessary.

If you require any more information, please contact Don Altham

Prayer / Bible study

Thursday, 12 January
at 8 p.m.
in the Chapel, St John w St Mark's Church

Everyone is invited - an opportunity to be part of the planning for prayer groups and bible study groups in the benefice for 2012.

Would you like to meet in a small group and pray together?
Or maybe you would like a study course over a few weeks on a particular topic?

Study groups are planned for Lent, using the York Course which, appropriately in this Olympic year is called "Handing on the Torch". Would you like to host a group during Lent? Maybe you would like to lead?

Please have a word with one of the clergy.



Jigsaw Stewardship Mission - October 2011

A big thank you to everyone who responded to our request in October to 'Put Yourself in the Picture'.

Financially, there were ten new commitments to the Planned Giving Scheme and twelve existing members increased their level of giving. This will result in an increase to the annual giving of around £3,800. In addition, we shall be able to claim an extra £600 under the Gift Aid tax rebate scheme.

The replies to **Time & Talents** show that many of us are involved in maintaining the life of our church and that we will continue to do what we do! Offers of new involvement were rather thinner on the ground but nevertheless, there was interest shown in several areas. Six new people have offered to read scripture in services; three want to become sidespersons and six are interested in Bible study.

There are seven new offers to help with social events; four to engage in fund-raising and two new magazine distributors, whilst on the practical front there are five offers to provide transport; five new helpers with tea/coffee; and eight to do D.I.Y and odd jobs.

Everyone who has shown an interest will be contacted but in some cases the opportunities to take up the offers may take time (e.g. when a D.I.Y. job arises!)

Unfortunately there were no new offers for several areas which are really short of willing helpers. Thank you all for what you give to our church in terms of time, talent and finance. Without your involvement and commitment Christ Church Walmersley would not be here for the community we serve. Please continue to pray for the life of our church and thank God for faith, love and service.



Tennis Club Quiz Night

The Autumn Quiz Night held on Saturday 19th November was once again a very enjoyable evening. Though one or two of the "regulars" were unable to attend because of prior commitments, we welcomed several newcomers

As a result some £183 was added to church funds thus raising our total for the years to over £500.

At the end of a competitive but light-hearted evening five teams were within four points of each other, the eventual winners Pat and Bill Mongey and Jack and Denise Ives going home with a bag of liquorice All-sorts (because they knew the answers to all sorts of questions.)

The next quiz, to be held in early February (because two of our regulars will be at their time share in Spain 'til the end of January!) will be for the distinguished title of "Brains of Walmersley 2012".

It is rumoured that the Stamps and the Spencers are already in training to defend the title they won in 2011, so get swotting and give them some competition. Full details in the next magazine.

Stan Parkinson

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Winter Fair**.

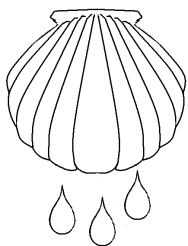
It was an enjoyable social event and over £1300 was raised for church funds. 10% of this has been sent to the charity The Mustard Tree.



Prayer Mat

Week One

Dear Lord, as we start this New Year, may we renew ourselves in you. May we be more prayerful, loving, and diligent in reading our Bible. May we be more helpful to our families, neighbours and friends. Lord, only through you can we show all the good things that you would have us do. We pray



that you will give us the strength and will to do all this. We also remember your baptism this week and our baptism and vows which were mostly made on our behalf. May we know these vows for ourselves, turning to you and renouncing the Devil. We ask all these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

Week Two

Lord, in this week of Epiphany when we remember your flight into Egypt away from King Herod, we remember those who are fleeing persecution and terror in the world, those who have become refugees either in their own country or in a strange land. Father, it must be very frightening to be forced away from everything you know, from your family and friends, terrified for your life. Bless all refugees everywhere, we pray for an end to tyranny and for peace in the world, a world where families can dwell without fear. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Week Three

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light,
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek to be consoled as to console, not so much to be understood as to understand, not so much to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we awake to eternal life.

(A prayer associated with St. Francis of Assisi)

Week Four

Peace of the running waves to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the shades of night to you,
Moon and stars always giving light to you,
Deep peace of Christ, the Son of Peace, to you.
(Author unknown)



A Winter Blessing

When sleet blinds you, hail drowns out voices,
and snow hides your path, may you see in each
flake, a star, like the one that guided the Magi,
and find that even in pain and cold there is a light
to guide you. Mary Palmer



Last year Christ Church was in the top 150 in the UK to back The Real Easter Egg!

Out of 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK every year, the Real Egg is the only Fairtrade charity faith egg telling the Easter story on the box.

Last year Christ Church joined a campaign to show that the demand for an egg celebrating the real meaning of Easter was significant. We promoted the egg, took orders and placed a mail order delivery.

Eventually four supermarkets ordered low numbers to trial the Real Easter Egg. They all sold out very quickly. Despite that demand the supermarkets still refuse to place large orders, not wanting mention of Jesus on their shelves in a significant way Easter.next

So to make the Real Easter Egg campaign a success in 2012, we still need to support it as a church through mail order. Each Real Easter Egg costs £3.99. Please help us to make The Real Easter Egg as successful as last year and join the movement to put Jesus back into Easter. More details from Barbara Silvester.

New look-improved box

Following feedback, The Real Easter Egg box has undergone a make-over. The box now includes a booklet with the Easter story; the Easter message on the outside is a colourful visual as opposed to last year's text only version; heavier card and brighter colours have been used and the three crosses are bigger. When you open the lid you will see 'Happy Easter' and there is a quote from the bible-the resurrection text from Mark.

This will make the Real Easter Egg an even more attractive gift and it remains a unique way to spread the Easter story in 2012.

Charity

More than £26,000 was given to charity from profits made from the 2011 egg, something the Meaningful Chocolate Company promised to do as a sign of the Easter themes of hope and new life. This year 15 pence from each egg will be donated to Traidcraft Exchange.

Children's Corner



Epiphany Wordsearch

S	T	F	I	G	S	M	E
W	E	M	D	E	T	B	G
O	S	A	E	O	A	S	Y
R	G	E	R	B	R	S	P
S	N	R	Y	C	S	E	T
H	I	D	S	I	H	A	H
I	K	W	A	R	N	E	D
P	H	A	N	G	E	L	D

Can you find these words?

angel, baby, dream, east, Egypt, gifts, searched, stars, warned, worship, Herod, kings,

The letters you do not use give a message – what is it?

An Epiphany Prayer

O God, who by a star guided the wise men to worship your Son, we pray that you will lead the wise and good of every land to you, so that at the feet of Jesus, every knee shall bow.

Advent was marked as usual with both Deanery and Diocesan Advent Carol Services.

The former was held at St. Philip's Church in Stubbins. What a lovely place to worship! I must confess that I had never before visited and was not sure where to find it but I was very glad I did! The service was well attended. It was unfortunately also chosen as a suitable opportunity to close the Mothers' Union Branch there. It is so sad when branches have to succumb owing to a lack of membership. I am very grateful that we are thriving.

The Diocesan service at St Ann's marked World AIDS Day as it explored the Advent themes.



The Winter Fair at the beginning of December was very successful and I would like to thank members for their contributions of time, effort and provisions. In our café, the bacon butties went down a storm and soup followed by mince pie and cream proved a winning combination both financially and logistically.

The Christmas Dinner at The Pavilion, Birtle was attended by 29 members. We were able to eat, drink and be merry in very pleasant surroundings. (Some of us could not wait for Christmas and opened our presents from Santa there and then!!)

As many of you are aware, we send knitted items to Enid Horrocks (Branch Leader at Christ Church, Ainsworth). Enid oversees the practicalities of collecting all contributions and getting them to the Rotary Club who ship them to parts of the world where there is a need. She has sent me an overview of what has been contributed this year.

2011	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec
Jumpers	65	183	132	130
Cardigans	7	19	30	31
Hats	59	133	107	73
Scarves	73	72	55	53
Blankets	14	10	0	0
Teddies	12	15	32	44
Squares	360	1110	1040	730
Mittens, etc	6	0	7	0
Total items	1596	1542	1271	931

Many thanks to all concerned.

So we find ourselves at the end of another eventful year. I am happy to say that the weather has been kinder than in previous years and so we managed to hold our Advent Meditation for the first time in three years. It was an opportunity for peace and reflection on the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Dates for diaries

Jan 4 Social Evening

Jan 18 Communion and Souper Supper

Cath Hilton

Branch Leader

Tea timers had their Christmas party this week with mince pies and sherry. They also experienced seated exercises organised through Mary Cooper. This proved enjoyable and hilarious. "Thank goodness Alan Spencer isn't here with his camera. We'd be on the back page of the magazine" was a loudly voiced comment! Wait and see.





Lettings

It has been suggested by Revd. Richard Gordon [1862] that the sonnet I have printed this month gave Holman Hunt the inspiration for his very famous painting "The Light of the World". The sonnet "*Tomorrow*" was written by Lope de Vega, a Spanish poet, and the translation is by H W Longfellow.

Tomorrow

Lord, what am I, that with unceasing care
Thou did'st seek after me, that Thou did'st wait
Wet with unhealthy dews before my gate,
And pass the gloomy nights of winter there?
Oh, strange delusion, that I did not greet
Thy blest approach, and oh, to heaven how lost
If my ingratitude's unkindly frost
Has chilled the bleeding wounds upon Thy feet.

How oft my guardian angel gently cried,
"Soul, from thy casement look, and thou shalt see
How He persists to knock and wait for thee!"
And oh, how often to that Voice of sorrow,
"Tomorrow we will open," I replied,
And when the morrow came I answered still "Tomorrow."

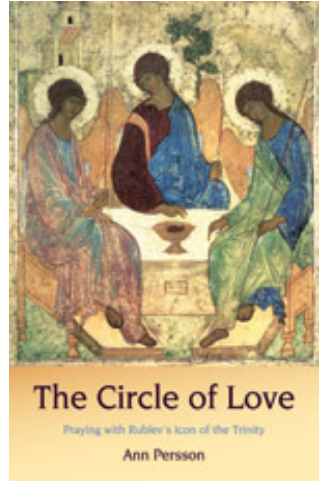
If you have an interesting article for *Lettings* or a Christian Book recommendation for *Book Review*, please contact Jean Slater



Book review

Circle of Love by Ann Persson Praying with Rublev's Icon of the Trinity

During the Mothers' Union Advent Meditation in December, Cath used this icon as part of the meditation and seeing this book advertised I thought I would add it to the Book Reviews. Ann Persson provides a detailed commentary on the image itself to draw out its full significance, and also reflects on the Bible story that inspired the icon. A perfect introduction to using icons in meditative prayer.



Little Voice Stamps

Many thanks to all those who have already given boxes and envelopes full of British and foreign stamps.

These have been sorted and I will wait until the New Year to send them off, as I know there will be many more to come from all your Christmas post!!



Thanks again,
David Peters

Winter Fair Quiz

The winner of the Winter Fair Quiz was Pat Mongey. No totally correct responses were received but six people had one answer wrong and Pat's name was the first out of the hat. Congratulations.

And now for the answers!

RHYMING PAIRS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lukewarm Christmas |Cool Yule |
| 2. Steady Board |Stable Table |
| 3. Hippy Cult |Flower Power |
| 4. Scarlet Cot |Red bed. |
| 5. Nude Fruit |Bare Pear |
| 6. Dead Celebrity |Late Great |
| 7. Dull Period |Grey Day |
| 8. Lively Spirit | Frisky Whisky |
| 9. White Mollusc |Pale Snail |
| 10. Better Pitman |Finer Miner |

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The first lines of well known carols.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1. ICUTMC | It came upon the midnight clear |
| 2. WTKOOA | We three kings of orient are |
| 3. ITBM | In the bleak midwinter |
| 4. OLTOB | O little town of Bethlehem |
| 5. HTHAS | Hark, the herald angels sing |
| 6. OCAYF | O come all ye faithful |
| 7. SATWS | See amid the winter's snow |
| 8. GWKLO | Good King Wenceslas looked out |
| 9. DDMOH | Ding dong merrily on high |
| 10. AIAM | Away in a manger |

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. LANDAID | Aladdin |
| 2. A CELL DINER | Cinderella |
| 3. HENN SAW TOM | The Snowman |
| 4. BEN BITES HAWOOD | Babes In The wood |
| 5. SABLE JACKET THANK DAN | Jack and The Beanstalk |
| 6. REAP TEN P | Peter Pan |
| 7. HOW FROZZA TIED | The Wizard of Oz |
| 8. MARIS GOATS LARCH | A Christmas Carol |
| 9. GRID HORN ODDIE | Red Riding Hood |
| 10.DOTH TICKING TWIN | Dick Whittington |

Thank you to everyone who took part. Try it out on your family this Christmas.

Thank you

To everyone who supported the Christingle Service.

- to the people whose donations helped to buy the sweets, candles and oranges
- to my three friends who for the price of a cup of tea and a biscuit, stuck 2000 sweets on 400 cocktail sticks
- to Junior Church for making the Christingles
- to the three hardy souls who surrounded the church with lights
- to everyone who attended (over 200 of you)

A total of £420.00 has been forwarded to the Children's Society- our best ever!

Thank you for bringing light into vulnerable children's lives.



What's on in Walmersley

January

Wed 4	Mothers' Union Social Evening
Thu 5	Thursday Prayers – Epiphany Communion 2 p.m.
Mon 9	Pray-Sing
Thu 12	Planning meeting – study and prayer groups
Wed 18	Mothers' Union – Holy Communion & supper
Sat 21	Meeting for magazine distributors
Mon 30	Deanery Synod

Feb 6 Ministry committee

From February we shall have a new-look magazine, shared by our two parishes and reflecting the life of the United Benefice. We hope you will let us have feedback (positive and negative) so that a magazine will evolve to meet the needs of the churches and communities of Walmersley Road.

We hope that the magazine will be informative, interesting and entertaining but this will depend on the material that the editors receive. Contributions from organisations, groups and individuals are very welcome. Remember send your idea for a logo by Jan 6th
Please continue to use magazine@ccwalmersleybury.org.uk to send your contributions and photographs.

This is another step forward on the way to bringing our parishes closer together – please pray that it succeeds as an important tool for outreach to our community.



Junior
Church
rehearsing



THE NATIVITY

