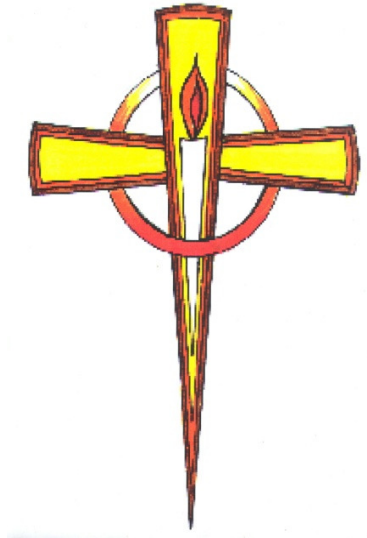


Christ Church Walmersley

in the Benefice of Walmersley Road



Magazine

Spreading the Word

January 2011

Thought for the Month

The trouble with going away on holiday is the fact you have to come back AND face the harsh reality after living in a dream world. This time, being isolated from the sub-zero climate back home made it even worse! The lingering warmth of sunshine is soon dispersed in the first encounter with home temperatures at Manchester airport and the accompanying quick movement to put on the fleece and topcoat. I can hear your murmurs of sympathy, still dreaming as I am!

Knowing the volume of mail that is always awaiting our immediate attention and then multiplying it by a factor of unknown quantity on account of Christmas, I tried to make adequate preparations beforehand. In the hotel - in a moment of quiet, I logged on to my e-mail and determined to reduce some of the backlog. Success can only be achieved by the frequent use of the delete key. It worked! There is, however, always someone who sneaks in a last-minute reminder that it is my turn to write the article for the magazine in January. Can't ignore that call to duty. After all, I have managed to escape from other things.



The highlight of coming home this time was another late e-mail directing my attention to a feature on youtube. The last time I had contact with that service was when our son showed us the appearance of Susan Boyle on the television talent show and we were overwhelmed by the beauty of her singing and entertained by how the judges and audience were moved from derision and hostility to standing ovations. It was a memorable experience for which we were grateful and we acknowledged his attempt to extend our programme of enlightenment in the twenty-first century.

This time the view on youtube is of a shopping precinct in Edinburgh where unsuspecting shoppers get a big surprise while enjoying lunch. The shock turns into delight and many are drawn into the event in such a positive way. It brings tears to your eyes, I warn you! Try it on www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxh7JR9oKVE&feature=fvst

I know that many won't have access to a computer but I submit that nobody will mind if you ask a young person at one of your family gatherings to bring this to a screen. It will cause a lot of comment and fun, I can promise you. The pictures of a public performance of a well known piece of music in such an unusual setting create something outstanding and wonderful to behold.

In all the current suppression of Christian images and story this year - and I am glad to read about the efforts of the Archbishops to counter such censorship – the Edinburgh experiment gladdens the heart and shows what can be done to serve the community with the Good News of Christmas.



Now is the chance to look back over the events in our parishes during Advent and rejoice in the practical outreach and mission to the people whom we serve. We thank God for these opportunities and dedicate our energies in renewal of commitment to His work in the coming year. HALLELUJAH we sing in chorus!

Doa



SERVICES AND READINGS FOR JANUARY

Jan 2nd **Second Sunday of Christmas**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: 10-18
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: 10-18

Jan 9th **Baptism of Christ**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17
- 10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service
Matthew 3: 13-17

Jan 16th **Second Sunday of Epiphany**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

Jan 23rd **Third Sunday of Epiphany**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23
- 10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer (CW)
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18; Matthew 4: 12-23

Jan 30th **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
1 Corinthians 1: 18- 31; John 2: 1-11
- 10.30 a.m. Family Communion
1 Corinthians 1: 18- 31; John 2: 1-11

ARE YOU ON DUTY?

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

READINGS

January 2 nd	Ian Riddick
January 9 th	Rosemary Taylor
January 16 th	Sybil Fryer
January 23 rd	Jean Slater
January 30 th	David Peters

INTERCESSIONS

Margaret Schofield
Brownies
Joe McDermott
Barbara Taylor
Bob Taylor

SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

January 2 nd	Geoff Hamilton	Ian Riddick	Chris Standring
January 9 th	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters
January 16 th	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Alan Spencer
January 23 rd	Roy Warburton	Shelagh Beetson	Sybil Fryer
January 30 th	Bill Noble	Alan Standring	David Thew

LAY ASSISTANTS

January 2 nd	Nigel Silvester	Barbara Silvester
January 16 th	Cath Hilton	Tricia Stokes
January 30 th	Jean Slater	Gill Pilkington

If these dates are inconvenient please arrange to exchange with someone.



FLOWERS

- January 2nd In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Barcroft Wolstenholme
- January 9th Mr. J. Clegg
- January 16th Mr. & Mrs. J. McDermott in memory of their
daughter Carol
- January 23rd In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. Todd
- January 30th In memory of Mr Jack Grindrod



Apology The funeral last month should have read
Keith and Elaine Lowcock

Muslim Christian Forum

are arranging a New Year event, at the Jinnah Centre, Alfred Street,
on Sunday 9 January. Doors open 6.30 p.m. to begin at 7 p.m. and
it will end about 9 p.m.

This is a free event but as space is limited please contact Keith
Trivasse (keithtrivasse@ourchurch.plus.com) for tickets.

Christmas with the young . .

Springside Primary school were delighted to again hold their Christmas Carol Service in Church on Tuesday 14th December. The children retold the Nativity Story and the singing was wonderful!

I would like to thank all our friends at Christ Church, Walmersley for making us feel so welcome and for giving up their time again to help make the Carol Service special.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

Mrs Karen Murphy
Headteacher
Springside Primary School



I was privileged to be there and to hear the children sing three songs I had never heard before as well as familiar carols. They opened by singing "Children of the World", followed by "Gabriel's Calling". Part way through the service over 200 voices rose to sing "Alleluia". The readers were brilliant, easily heard and giving real meaning to the words. This was helped by two boys operating the sound system very efficiently.

. . and the young at heart

Mince pies, sherry, biscuits and chocolates were enjoyed by the Teatimers at their Christmas Party.



Entertainment was home-made with Margery singing two versions of "We're reet down int' coal-hole where muck splats ont' windows". The second version begins, "We are down in the basement, where the dirt accumulates on the casement"

It wasn't high opera but it was entertaining.

A vote of thanks was given to all the helpers by Elizabeth Mather.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11th.



Christingle Service

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christingle Service either by donations to purchase oranges and sweets, attending the service and enabling us to collect the largest amount yet for the Children's Society or helping to count the money after the service. A big "thank you" to Janet for agreeing to take part in the service and to Ian for being such a good heckler.

The money collected on the night was £364 and this has now increased by £30 with extra donations. This will bring light into the lives of many young people. Thank you all.

Margery Spencer

Last month I promised a report on our November Circle Dancing. Our friends from Holcombe brook Methodist Church once again inspired us with spiritual dance and readings which managed to lift our mood on a miserable, cold evening and I certainly recommend anyone to take the opportunity to join in whenever you have the chance.

Sadly, our Advent Meditation had to be cancelled for the second year in succession because of terrible frosty and snowy weather conditions. I do hope that we can hold our meetings in the New Year but, as always, they will be subject to the vagaries of our climate which seems to be worsening!

The Christmas Meal on December 15th was attended by twenty-eight of our members. The three course feast at The Red Lion in Hawkshaw was thoroughly enjoyed by all and certainly put us in the mood for the Season.

Best Wishes to all for 2011. The theme this year is 'Faithful Relationships.'

Our first meeting in January will be a Candlelit Poetry Evening with sherry and shortcake on 5th.

On January 19th there will be Communion in the Chapel followed by homemade soup!

On February 2nd we shall hold our AGM.

Hope you can make it to some or all of these meetings. It would be lovely to see anyone who is interesting in joining as well as current members. Just turn up!

Cath Hilton
Branch Leader

Did you know:

- that over 80 million chocolate Easter eggs are sold each year in the United Kingdom?
- that incredibly, not one of them mentions the Christian understanding of Easter on the box?

This Easter this will change – and it is all thanks to a new company set up in Manchester. The Meaningful Chocolate Company has developed **The Real Easter Egg**, made from high quality Fairtrade chocolate and with an explanation of Easter on the box.

30 pence from each egg will be donated to Traidcraft, helping small scale farmers and producers around the world, and 10% of the profits go to Baby Lifeline, supporting mothers and new-born babies in the UK..

Only a few stores have agreed to stock the egg this year – it is up to us to demonstrate that there is a demand! Eggs are £4.50 and may be ordered through Barbara Silvester who will take delivery in early April.

Please support this great initiative.



Who's Who

This month we have been set a puzzle. Do you know who this is?

I am born and bred a Bury girl.

I was born in 1964. I grew up in the Sunnybank area.

Although I am not a twin I share my birthday with my eldest sister who is 6 years to the day older than me. We were born on 29th September, one at 3.05am the other 3.10am.

I have a middle sister who was born on New Year's Day.

My Mum worked at Halls Mentholypus for 25 years.

My Dad worked as a police officer at Victoria Train station for 33 years. He went to work at Bolton Crown Court until he retired permanently.

I attended Sunnybank Primary school, followed by Unsworth Comprehensive then Bury 6th Form College.

I spent most of my weekends and school holidays in Didsbury with my Nan. This was where I started to attend church, St Nicholas', on a regular basis. I lapsed though at 16.

I started work six weeks before my 18th birthday for the then Inland Revenue and have remained with the department for the past 28 years.

I married my husband, John, in 1989 and we renewed our vows in September 2009, after 20 years. We have two daughters, Tasha 18 and Fee 15. We have just welcomed our newest family member, Milo our puppy dog.

After many years of wanting to return to church, I finally did so when we moved to Walmersley 11 years ago. This was due to the girls starting to attend Brownies. It never ceases to amaze me how many people return to church through their children.

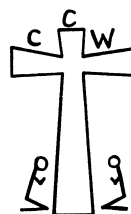
I have been happy to serve my family at church in many ways over the last 10 years, such as in Confirmation lessons, Acolyte, Readings, Intercessions and Youth Group to name a few.

The last 7 years have been a roller coaster on my journey of faith and service. But it has certainly been worth it, to now be in such a privileged and honoured position.

Blessings to you all.

Junior Church

It has been a busy term for Junior Church, as well as all the usual meetings, and a now special 1st Sunday meeting for those at senior school, we have taken part in Harvest, Celebration for the new Benefice, Christingle and of course our own Presentation Service.



The Presentation Service was as usual on the last Sunday of the church's year – this year it was Sunday 21st November. We were fortunate to have Rev'd Steve Dixon to address us (the Diocesan Children's Officer)– I'm sure you will remember his sound effects for some time, and Rev'd Janet Lyssejko led the service. During the service Bibles were presented to James Baumber, Archie Nichol, Georgia Tyrer and Ella Walsh for their regular attendance over several years, and there were certificates for every child and leader who had been involved over the last year.

This year, instead of the usual party near Christmas, the children and leaders went to see "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" at the Met.

Church has replaced the worn out Bibles that the children were using in Junior Church with new ones using the same text as in their group work.

Barbara Silvester

Prayer Mat

Week One

Dear Father, the Three Wise Men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, to your son. Let us remember to celebrate and use the gifts that you have given to us. Each and every one of us has a special gift from you. In this New Year, help us to start anew and see what gifts we have and to have the confidence to use them for you and your glory. We give our gifts back to you when we use them and do so with joy. Amen.



Week Two

In this second week of the New Year, as we think about the flight to Egypt that Mary and Joseph undertook to protect Jesus from Herod, we pray that as they listened and obeyed you, dear Lord, so we may listen and recognise when you are talking to us.

We think of children everywhere who are fleeing from war, poverty and injustice. We pray for children looking after sick parents or siblings and that they will receive help.

Lord, give these children the privilege of being a child, without responsibility and care. Our children are so precious, help us to help them and nurture them and give them love. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Week Three

O Father, we are your children, created by you. Let us cherish our heritage and do justice to our responsibility. Make us wise, understanding and loving in all we do. Lord, your world is eternal and our time on earth is short. Help us to do all we can in our time here for your glory and pleasure. Amen.

Week Four

Be silent
still
aware
for there
in your own heart
the Spirit is at prayer
listen and learn
open and find
heart-wisdom
Christ



Malling Abbey
Anthology of Public Prayers

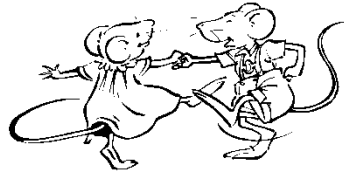
First Thursday Prayers

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

The group will meet on the Feast of Epiphany for Holy Communion followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Transport can be provided – ring Don

Children's Corner



Winter Wordsearch

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

chilly
frost
white
hot chocolate

penguin
snowflake
winter

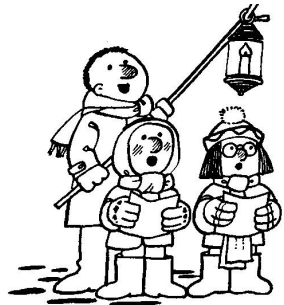
fireplace
hibernate
migrate

polar bear
snowman



Did you recognise these carols last month?

1. **Silent Night.**
2. **See Amid The Winter's Snow**
3. **Hark The Herald Angels Sing**
4. **Lullay Lullay Thou Little Tiny Child (Coventry Carol)**
5. **Good King Wenceslas Looked Out**
6. **O Come All Ye Faithful**
7. **Infant Holy**
8. **Joy To The World**
9. **In The Bleak Midwinter**
10. **Away In A Manger**
11. **Once In Royal David's City**
12. **Ding Dong Merrily On High**



Sudoku

			2				9	3
3								5
	1	4	3		8			
2		5	8		7	1		6
7		6	1		9	3		2
			4		5	9	6	
5								1
6	7				1			

A prayer

Now before I run to play,
Let me not forget to pray
To God who kept me through the night
And woke me up to morning light.

Help me Lord to love you more
Than I ever did before,
In my school and in my play
Be with me Lord throughout the day.

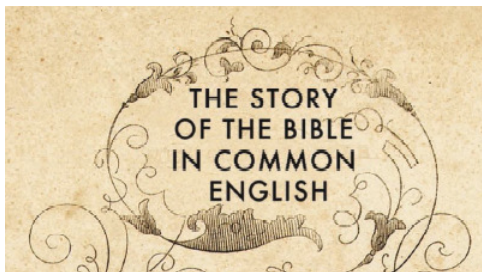
I know I have so far to grow
Please this January no more snow!!!



Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry

We were absolutely delighted by the response to the first session of this course. Nineteen people from both churches attended and three were unable to attend because of work commitments but will be joining us later. We concentrated on determining what we mean by ministry and looked at how children develop and how this should affect the way we minister to them. There was lively discussion and everyone went home with a little box full of mementoes to remind them of the importance of children.

The next session in which we will look at prayer will be held on January 18th in St John with St Mark's church hall at 7.00 p.m.



The Good Book Tour;
the story of the Bible in
common English

Featuring Lacey Theatre
Company, poet Gerard Kelly
and historian Derek Wilson

February 9, at 7.30 p.m. in Manchester Cathedral

During the evening –

Derek Wilson, celebrated historian, will be sharing the fascinating journey of the Bible into English. "This is a fantastic opportunity to relive the remarkable story of the foundational book of the English speaking world and the amazing men and women - scholars, artists, poets, businessmen, missionaries and others - who lived for this revolutionary enterprise and, in some cases, died for it."

Lacey Theatre Company helps many connect with the Bible in new ways as they explore creative and contemporary ways of communicating it. The artistic director says, "We're particularly excited about performing in some venues that have been around for as long as, or longer than the Bible in English, bringing together centuries of the story of the Bible in Britain and seeing how it still speaks today."

There will also be poetry and thoughts from author Gerard Kelly who comments that "In the 400 years since the Bible first hit the streets in English, this book has done more than any other to shape our society. It has not only given us words with which to talk about God: it has opened up to us the worlds of science and art; of knowledge and beauty. The Bible has formed our language, shaped our expectations and crafted our culture. Even now, from texts first written tens of centuries ago, it speaks to us, in a story that finds new life and new expression at every new turn of our journey."

He hopes that people will "Join us for an evening to celebrate the past, present and future impact of God's book: the good book."



Jottings

Happy New Year everyone and may we find the Peace, Joy and Love in 2011 that only God can give. I thought that this New Year's Blessing I found recently was appropriate for **Jottings** this month.

A New Year's Blessing

May your inner vision be transformed so that you can see more clearly your own journey with all humankind as a journey of peace, hope and bondedness. [Numbs.24: 15-17; Jn 20:20]

May God be someone you can lean on in your weak and painful moments. May you know God as your rock, your shelter, your strength, your wing of comfort and support. [Ps 94:18]

May you be aware of all the places your feet carry you in the New Year. May you know "How beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news". [Rom 10:15]

May you not be afraid of the questions that press upon your mind and heart. May you welcome the questions and wait patiently for the day when you will have their answers. [Mt 11;3]

May you be the one with welcome in your smile and "hello" etched upon your hand – the hand you extend to everyone who blesses you with presence. [Lk 7:36-50]

May yours be the gift of reverence for all created things. May you face bravely and enthusiastically the responsibility to preserve and care for the beauty of the earth.

May the wellsprings of compassion flow deep within you until you can taste the tears of your sisters and brothers. [2 Cor 1:3-7]

May you wake each morning with "Thank you" on your lips and in your heart, recognising that all is gift, all is blessing. [Ps 138;1]

May your friendship with God be strong and healthy. May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as you struggle to find your way into a new year. [Jn 21:15-19]

May your spirit be open and perceptive in discovering the will of God for you. May your prayer be that of wisdom, guidance and a deeper understanding of God's way for you. [Lk 1: 26- 38]

May your life this year be a living legacy to God.

If you have any contributions for ~~Jottings~~ or ~~Book Review~~ please contact Jean Slater

Speciality Scarves

Thank you to everyone who has bought one (or more) of the sparkly scarves which I have been knitting.

As a result I have been able to make a donation to the maintenance of the church hall (toward the cost of bringing the gent's toilets up to the standard of the ladies') and to the Mothers' Union "Wheels Appeal"

I still have one or two scarves in stock and am working on a new design. Alan says that the knitting has kept me occupied and quiet for many evenings – so he offers his thanks!



Margery

What's on in Walmersley

January

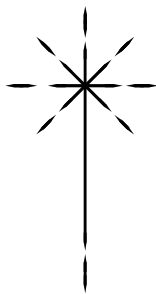
- Wed 5 Mothers' Union: Candlelit Poetry Evening
- Thu 6 Thursday Prayers 2.00 p.m.
- Sun 9 Muslim Christian Forum new year event
- Sun 9 Service to mark 400 yrs King James Bible & 200 yrs Bible Society - URC Church at 6.30 p.m.
- Mon 17 P.C.C.
- Tue 18 Bishop's Certificate St John with St Mark 7.00 p.m.
- Wed 19 Mothers' Union: Holy Communion and supper
- Thu 20 Churches Together – Bury East (8.15 p.m.)

February

- Wed 2 Candlemas Service
At All Saints Stand 2 p.m. organised by Mothers' Union
- Wed 2 Mothers' Union: Annual General Meeting

Winter blessing

When sleet blinds you,
 hail drowns out voices,
 and snow hides your path,
 may you discern in each flake
 a star, image of the one
 that guided the magi,
 and find that in the pain
 of birth, death or change
 there is a light to guide you.



Mary Palmer

Who's Who

Did you guess?

Janet Lyssejko, OLM deacon