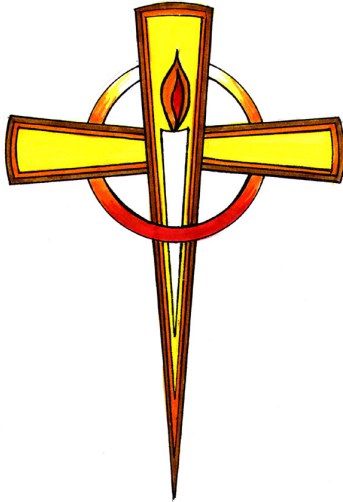


Christ Church  
Walmersley



Magazine

*Spreading the Word*

January 2010

## Thought for the month

As we have to send the magazine to the printers sooner than usual this month I am writing this in early December. I am not sure when you will be reading it, whether before or after December 25<sup>th</sup> so I don't know whether to wish you a happy Christmas or a happy new year. So I will play safe and wish you both.

The end of a year, and in this case a decade, is often a time for looking at events past and also of looking forward to the future. It is hard to believe that it is ten years since the millennium with all the dispute about the dome and the concerns as to whether computers would be able to cope with the change in the date, sending all systems into chaos. All the prophets of doom were proved wrong and life carried on as normal.



The last ten years have seen massive changes, particularly in technology – how many more people are walking round with i-phones clamped to their ears, how many are tapping out texts or searching the net on their “blackberries”. We have all had to change to digital TV with varying degrees of success (our bedroom telly is now non-functioning, so I can no longer escape from Doctor Who or repeats of Mash to watch Strictly Come Dancing.) However, I am assured that a digibox will solve the problem, but I will have to wait until our daughter comes home to fix that.



Regrettably, the last decade has seen escalation of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the biggest world-wide financial depression since the nineteen thirties. But it has also seen the election of the first Afro- American president of the United States and three very successful Olympic Games. As with most decades, there have been good and bad times.

In our personal lives there will have been good and bad times, times of great joy and times of sadness. In the last year I

seem to have spent more time in the out patients department at Fairfield hospital than ever before – I think that happens when you reach a certain age - but there have been some marvellous moments with family and friends. We had a wonderful holiday in the Scilly Isles and only last week I sat with friends in the Lowry theatre singing along to White Christmas as “snow” descended upon us. It was magical.

So what of the future? What are you looking forward to in 2010? For my holidays, am anticipating a River Cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg and in church life looking forward to closer links with our friends at St. John with St. Marks.



2000 years ago the people of Israel were expecting the arrival of the Messiah and the wise men had been eagerly awaiting the birth of the King of the Jews for many years. They set out on a long and difficult journey to find him and it must have been with considerable surprise that they encountered him as part of a humble family. It certainly was not what they were expecting.

We may not be expecting to meet Jesus as we go on with our lives in the coming year, but like the wise men, we may be surprised, where we may find him. Perhaps our prayer for the coming year should be taken from the carol:

*As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright  
So most gracious Lord may we  
Ever more be led to Thee.*

We may have no star to guide us but if we are open minded we can find Jesus in the most unexpected places. May you be richly blessed by meeting Him in 2010.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margery". The script is cursive and elegant, with a large, flowing 'M' and 'y'.



## **SERVICES AND READINGS FOR JANUARY**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>      **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

January 10<sup>th</sup>      **First Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ**

9.00 a.m.      Holy Communion (BCP)  
Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21, 22

10.30 a.m.      Family and Parade Service  
Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21, 22

January 17<sup>th</sup>      **Second Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00 a.m.      Holy Communion (BCP)  
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

10.30 a.m.      Holy Communion (CW)  
1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

January 24<sup>th</sup>      **Third Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00 a.m.      Holy Communion (BCP)  
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21

10.30 a.m.      Holy Communion (CW)  
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21

January 31<sup>st</sup> **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; Luke 1: 22-40

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; Luke 1: 22-40



**FLOWERS**

Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Barcroft Wolstenholme

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> Mr. J. Clegg

Jan 17<sup>th</sup> In memory of Mr. & Mrs. E. Todd

Mr. & Mrs J. McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> In memory of Mr. J. Grindrod

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> In memory of Mrs. D. Ronson

**The Feast of the Epiphany**

Twelve days after Christmas we celebrate the presentation of Jesus to the Gentiles, as represented by the visit of the Wise Men. They are often pictured in the stable but it is more likely that they arrived even a couple of years later.

To celebrate this feast there will be a service at St John with St Mark's at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> to which all are invited.

# ARE YOU ON DUTY?

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

## READINGS

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Alison Fewtrell
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Church
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ian Riddick
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Noble
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Jean Slater

## INTERCESSIONS

Barbara Taylor
Brownies
Joe McDermott
Margaret Schofield
Alan Spencer

## SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Geoff Hamilton	Bob Taylor	Chris Standring
Jan 10 <sup>th</sup>	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Alan Spencer
Jan 24 <sup>th</sup>	Roy Warburton	Shelagh Beetson	Sybil Fryer
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Bill Noble	Bob Taylor	David Thew

## LAY ASSISTANTS

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jennifer Wood	Barbara Silvester
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup>	Margery Spencer	Tricia Stokes
Jan 31 <sup>st</sup>	Cath Hilton	Jean Slater

Happy New Year to everyone!

2009 was a very hectic year for us with our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. We enjoyed every bit of everything we experienced and I feel that we had a very successful year with the Branch continuing to be strong and lively both in action and spirit.

Our Advent Meditation at the first meeting in December was calming and helped us to focus on the real meaning of Christmas plus the Christmas Meal at Greenmount Golf Club proved to be as lovely as we expected and was a great way to end the year.

2010 promises to be equally exciting, especially as the Diocese is looking forward to the visit of Rosemary Kempshall who is the Worldwide President. Please make a note of the Lady Day Service at the Cathedral on March 25<sup>th</sup> when we will be able to hear her speak. (I'm also looking for singers to form a choir for this event!)

The theme for this year is Relationships Not Rules. If you can, please have a look at the MU website which has a great deal of information together with prayers and readings on this theme.

Diary dates:

January 20<sup>th</sup>                      Holy Communion  
   followed by 'Souper 'Supper

February 3<sup>rd</sup>                      AGM

Cath Hilton  
Branch Leader

## Mothers' Union Special Report

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Barbara Taylor presented a fascinating insight into the work of the Mothers' Union when she spoke to us about her trip to Kenya.

She and Jennifer White travelled together and witnessed both the everyday life and the ongoing struggles faced by our members in Kenya, particularly Maseno West.

We always try to stress that Mothers' Union is a worldwide organisation and it was wonderful to feel that we were face to face with the people who are regularly in our prayers. In my introduction I commented that Barbara's reminiscences would be emotional for her and equally we were humbled to see the amazing resilience and enthusiasm of the people she introduced to us in pictures.

Most moving and impressive was the amazing welcome that was apparent at every turn. Gifts were in abundance. Lovely handmade goods that were given with pride and a generosity that belied the poverty and hardship suffered continually. Barbara pointed out, with humour, the determination to feed them at every opportunity, but also pointed out that when there is food available the local people eat heartily because they are never sure when they will be without. There were also amusing anecdotes about the transport – roads being basic!

We saw photographs of many different standards of housing ranging from makeshift hovels through typical local dwellings to sophisticated detached houses but were reminded that in spite of the apparent sophistication there was no running water piped into them. We take so much for granted!

The visits made to schools bring home the need for our support. They are in need of every basic resource – from school uniforms to books – and we must continue to raise money to help. It was also obvious that they greatly value our prayers.



Barbara brought many of the gifts she had received and we saw photographs of presentations that were made during the trip, including a hand-knitted woollen blanket that Barbara remembered with amusement in view of the intense heat! (Of course she had to be wrapped in it at the time!)

All members of the Mothers' Union had dresses to denote their membership and they were obviously very proud to be members. Barbara took badges for them and they were delighted. The formal dress that she was given, worn, if I remember correctly, by Branch Leaders and other leaders, is beautiful and elegant.

All in all, the talk was fascinating and informative.

Two things from Barbara's presentation remain foremost in my mind. Firstly, the immense pride they have in their membership of the Mothers' Union and secondly their amazing hospitality and generosity in spite of the hardships they suffer.

Cath Hilton  
Branch Leader

On Saturday, 30 January 2010 Mothers' Union members will commit to God the work of the coming three years. Members and all who would like this opportunity are invited to come along.

Church will be open from 10 a.m. until noon for people to stay for as long or short a period as they wish. The focus will be the feast of Candlemas.

On Tuesday, February 2 (The Feast of Candlemas) there will be a service arranged by Bolton Archdeaconry Mothers' Union, at All Saints' Stand, starting at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is most welcome.





an exhibition  
celebrating marriage  
across the faith  
communities

February 6 – 14, 2010 at Manchester Cathedral  
FREE entry

- **Opening Ceremony**  
with the Bishop of Middleton and civic leaders  
on Monday, 8 February at 7 p.m.
- Bring your Questions to the  
Multi Faiths Made in Heaven **Q & A Panel**  
on Thursday 11 February at 7 p.m.  
chaired by the Bishop of Bolton
- Participate in the **Forums** each day at 11 a.m.
- Join in a multi-religious act of  
**Thanksgiving and Celebration**  
led by the Bishop of Manchester  
with leaders of other faith groups  
in the presence of civic leaders  
on Sunday, 14 February at 3 p.m.



For more details visit:  
[www.mothersunionmanchester.org](http://www.mothersunionmanchester.org)

# Prayer Mat

## Week One

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 Two



Lord Jesus, for this new year, let us start anew our relationship with you. May we be ever more prayerful and loving, both to you and our neighbours and friends. As we remember your baptism this week, so we remember our baptism and the baptism vows. For most of us those vows were made on our behalf. May we remember them in our prayers and renew them for ourselves, turning to you and renouncing sin and the devil. We thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are there for us, our Saviour and our friend. Amen.

### **Week Three**

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous,  
to serve you as you deserve to be served;  
to give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek for rest;  
to labour and to ask for no rewards  
save that of knowing that I do your holy will.

*(Open to God by Joyce Huggett)*

### **Week Four**

We are mindful, O God, that you dwell among the lowliest people of the earth, that you sit on the dust-heap among those in the slums and those in prison, that you are present with the juvenile delinquents and the homeless, that you throng with the beggars seeking bread, that you suffer with the sick, and that you stand in line with the unemployed. May we be mindful that when we forget the unemployed, we forget you.

*Toyohiko Kagawa 1888-1960) Church Times 2 Nov.*

# The Gift



An almost capacity audience was in place as the choir of ninety singers entered the church to begin the performance of **The Gift** by Graham Kendrick. Within minutes, the sound of their voices filled the church as they sang an exciting opening number.

*"Tonight, while all the world was sleeping  
A light exploded in the sky."*

The United Christian Singers went on to tell the story in words and music of the coming of Jesus into the world bringing the gifts of

*Love, Light, Joy, Life and Peace.*

It was a joyous celebration, at times provoking smiles and at others heart - moving emotion. The presence of the children from Potter's House School singing the Candle Song and joining in dance in the aisles added to the occasion.

Our thanks go to those who moved furniture, baked cakes, brewed coffee or helped in any way to the success of the evening. Thanks also go to Springside School for the loan of the staging.

The profits from the evening will be shared between the church and the United Christian Singers.

It was an uplifting start to our Christmas celebrations, reminding us that,

*Heaven invites you to a party, to celebrate the birth of a son;  
angels rejoicing in the starlight, singing  
"Christ your saviour has come."*



**What does it take  
to really forgive?**

re:Lent

**re:Lent** is a creative worship event for young and old to explore Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan together and to think about the role of forgiveness and reconciliation today.

Each event has been timed to enable children to attend as well as young people and adults.

Led by the Bishop of Middleton, each session will include food, bible study and interactive creative activities. Please bring a packed tea and we will provide cake and drinks.

The project will culminate in an Easter celebration at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday 24 April when the fruit of the creative work will be revealed and put on display in the cathedral.

The nearest event to us is on Friday 29 January at St Mary, Rawtenstall 6pm for tea, 6:30pm – 9pm *Details of other locations and dates are available at the back of church or at [www.manchester.anglican.org](http://www.manchester.anglican.org)*

Call 0161 828 1435 to book places in advance – tickets are **FREE**.

# Children's Corner



## A Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for all the great hobbies and games we can play.

Please help all the people who are not as fortunate as us.

Please help them to live their lives as happily as they can,

let them not worry about starvation, let them have warm clothes.

Thanks for all our friends and family.

Amen.

Eryn

## Winter Anagram

### Word List

cold, crisp, evergreen, frost,

mittens, penguin, scarf, skates, sleigh, snow

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arcfs \_\_\_\_\_

mensitt \_\_\_\_\_

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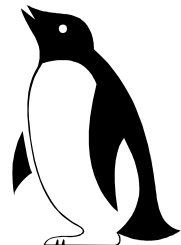
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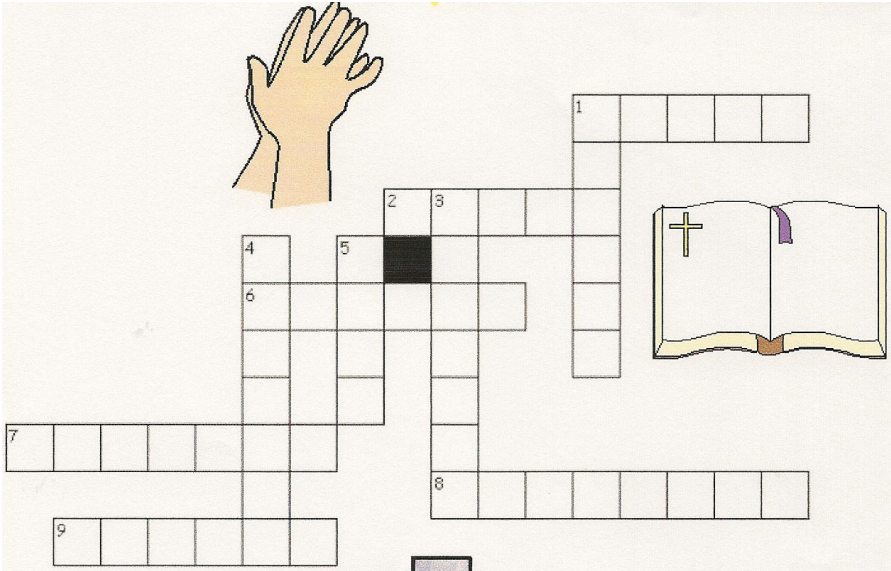
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# Respect in Church Crossword



## Across

1. At church we meet with others to worship and also to study or \_\_\_\_\_ about God.
2. The way we \_\_\_\_\_ can show respect on the outside of us.
6. When we \_\_\_\_\_ God we are telling him how much we love him.
7. When we sing and pray to God it is the way we do this for God
8. These people care about you and help you to learn.
9. The church isn't just the building but the \_\_\_\_\_ we meet there.

## Down

1. You must do this to hear what God is saying to you.
2. Showing \_\_\_\_\_ is treating others as you would like to be treated.
3. Church is a \_\_\_\_\_ place to worship God no matter where it is.
5. Instead of running about it is better if you \_\_\_\_\_ and speak nicely to others.



# Thank You

It was a cold November night but the atmosphere in Christ Church was decidedly warm as 80 children and over 100 adults gathered for the Christingle service. To make sure that no-one fell asleep we bobbed up and down as we sang Allelu, Alleluia and clapped our hands vigorously as we went out with joy.

The brilliantly coloured banner made by the children in Junior Church informed everyone that "Jesus is the Light of the World." As various signs were displayed in the talk, we had the best description of how traffic lights work I've ever heard by a six year old and there was some debate as to whether the sign was for men's or ladies toilets. Eventually, 100 Christingles were lit, the church lights extinguished and in the glow of the candles we sang,

"Sing Christingle, Sing Christingle, Sing Christingle

Over £315 was raised for the work of the Children's Society in caring for young people who run away from home and are living on the streets of Manchester. The Society knows that they have to find a child within one week of them running away before he or she will fall into danger. Our money will help to fund workers on the streets, provide shelter and clothing for runaways and give them counselling so that they can return to their homes.

A very big thank you to all those who donated sweets and oranges, helped to make the Christingles and supported the service.

Light the candle, hold out the globe  
Here in the darkness the light of the World.

We have helped to shine light into some young people's lives.

Thank you Margery Spencer



# Jottings

The following is a witty re-writing of the Ten Commandments including extenuating circumstances get-out clauses for each of them.

## **The Latest Decalogue**

By Arthur Hugh Clough [1819 – 1861]

Thou shalt have one God only, who would be at the expense of  
two?

No graven images may be worshipped, except the currency.

Swear not at all; for, for thy curse thine enemy is none the worse.

At Church on Sunday to attend will serve to keep the world thy  
friend.

Honour thy parents; that is, all from whom advancement may befall.

Thou shalt not kill; but needs not strive officiously to keep alive.

Do not adultery commit; advantage rarely comes of it.

Thou shalt not steal; an empty feat when it's so lucrative to cheat.

Bear not false witness; let the lie have time on its own wings to fly.

Thou shalt not covet, but tradition approves all forms of  
competition.

Do we bend the rules sometimes!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you to this month's contributor.



## Book Review



### Books by *Jean Vanier*

A few weeks ago Rev. Don Altham mentioned Jean Vanier in his sermon and I asked him if he would do a review for this article. Don says.....Jean Vanier born in 1928 founded an international organisation called L'Arche – the Ark – the boat of salvation. He created communities of people with developmental disabilities to share life with those who assisted them. He remained leader of L'Arche in Trosly-Breuil until 1981. He still lives there.

There are now over 130 establishments throughout the world [11 in the UK] promoting the enlightened care of the mentally disabled. Vanier challenges us to examine our inhumane treatment of people with disabilities and pushes us towards acceptance, integration and recognition of the value of people. His work is based on a living faith:

Those we lock away and think worthless have the power to teach us and even heal us.

When you live with people with disabilities you discover a whole lot of things about yourself.

To be human is to be bonded together each with our own weaknesses and strengths because we need each other.

WHY we feel uncomfortable with them – embarrassed in their presence not because they might drool over us or wet themselves but because they expose our greatest limitation – **THE POVERTY OF OUR COMPASSION.**

**Disabled are victims of a society that celebrates the triumph of the strong over the weak, rather than compassion and unity.**

## **Titles by Jean Vanier.....**

*"In Weakness, Strength", "Tears of Silence", "Be not afraid",  
"I walk with Jesus".*

Many more can be found on the internet.

Thank you Don for this review

If you have a Christian book that you would like to be included in *Book Review* please send details to Jean Slater

## **FIRST THURSDAY PRAYERS**

January 7th will be the first meeting of Thursday Prayers for 2010.

We meet in the bottom room of the church hall from 2pm – 3pm for an informal gathering where we enjoy a cuppa and a chat, hear The Word from scripture, reflect on it and end with prayers which focus on the reflection and include prayers for Christ Church and its ministry and any concerns that we have for the world, our country, our local community and ourselves.

Why not come and join us? You need not make a regular commitment if this is difficult for you, just come when you can, a warm welcome is guaranteed.

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



For more information please speak to Rev. Don Altham

## What's on in Walmersley

### January

Sun 3	PCC at 12.15 p.m.
Thu 7	Churches Together – Bury East Meeting at St John with St Mark at 8.15 p.m.
Mon 11	Ministry committee
Wed 20	Mothers' Union Holy Communion followed by supper
Thu 21	Bury Deanery Pastoral Committee
Tue 26	PCC
Fri 29	re: Lent, St Mary Rawtenstall
Sat 30	Mothers' Union Quiet Morning CCW – 10 a.m. until 12 noon

### Future dates

May 5	Archdeacon's visitation, St Mary the Virgin, Bury
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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.



# Looking back at 2009

