



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



Lent

March 2012

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
9 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion	Christ Church
	2 nd Family and Parade	
	3 rd Holy Communion	
	4 th Morning Service	
	5 th Holy Communion	
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St John w St Mark
	3 rd Parade Service	

Wednesday

10 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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Thursday

2 p.m.	1 st First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Saints days and other services as announced
(see calendar on page 25)

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

<p>To book baptisms, weddings or just to talk call in to Parish Office every Wednesday 6.30-7pm at St. John's Church Hall</p>
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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Lent is a time when we are specially invited to reflect on God, on who and where God is, on our response to God. May I share with you a few thoughts on where we may look for, and find, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Of course God is to be looked for, and found, in the life of the Church – in the Bible, the Sacraments, in public worship and private prayer. But if Church is the only area we think of looking for God, then probably our ‘God is too Small’ – as the title of a book published many years ago has it.

For instance: God is in that warmth you feel when you love another person, and are loved by another person. God is in the happiness you experience when you see your neighbour rejoicing at something you have done for them.

God is in the joy of the good deed you did which no one found out about.

God is in all beauty – natural and man-made.

God is in every gesture of love, every act of kindness, every hand that is open to the good and to another person..

God is there wherever a human being breathes – whether she or he is black or white, poor or rich, innocent or guilty, ill or healthy, free or imprisoned.

God is there wherever and whenever you share something of yourself to serve and love another person – for to serve and love another is to have seen the face of God.

God is at the heart of every hope. Hope can hide itself, as the sun does from time to time, but is never quenched because it is a reflection of the sun, and the sun never dies, because it is the life of God. And God never, ever, closes his eyes to anyone. For if he did he would not be love. And at the heart of the Gospel is the truth: God is love.

So, perhaps, during Lent we might pray for the grace to be ever more aware of God, and open to God, in and through all the changing scenes of our life. We might pray, too, for the grace to respond in the deepest way possible to the God we shall most certainly find in our lives day by day.

Ralph E. Mathison



**Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit within me.**

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCILS

PCC MEETING CHRIST CHURCH 16/02/2012

The Area Dean attended the meeting and went over his report produced after a meeting with the Vicar, George Fryer and Nigel and Barbara Silvester. After some discussion and minor amendments, the report was accepted. The Area dean stayed for the remainder of the meeting. The treasurer gave his report noting a slight increase in giving since the stewardship campaign and showed the draft of the annual financial report which will be submitted to the APCM when the financial examiner has approved the figures. Reports were received from sub-committees. The Ministry Committee requested permission to book the brass band for the Carol Service in December and submitted a plan to remove some pews and parts of pews to create more room for wheelchairs and pushchairs and a larger space at the back of church. This was accepted on a majority vote but costings will have to be established and faculty applied for.

PCC MEETING S. JOHN WITH S. MARK 19/02/2012

Joint Magazine: very favourably received, hoping for increased circulation

Finance: we have received quotations for replacing the remaining outside walls of the hall and corridors – we may have some of the work done. We also need the church redecorating

Panto: thanks were recorded for all those involved - the producer, the cast and those backstage. We will remember the bearded Ugly Sisters for a long time!

Youth Group Proposals from Police: the Community Police would like to run a Community Youth Group on Friday evenings in the Hall. An extraordinary PCC meeting has been called for 23 February to discuss this important matter

Recycling ink cartridges: proposal was accepted that we recycle ink cartridges at church and receive 50p per item for church funds

Stewardship update: when we have our new PCC dates for 2012 we will invite James Emmerson, Stewardship Officer, to speak to us.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

March 4th

LENT 2

Genesis 17.1-7,15,16 Romans 4.13-25 Mark 8. 31-38

March 11th

LENT 3

Exodus 20 1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22

March 18th

LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY

Numbers 21. 4-9 Ephesians 2. 1-10 John . 14-21

March 19th

JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

Exodus 2. 1-10 Romans 4. 13-18 Matthew 1. 18-25

March 25th

LENT 5 PASSION SUNDAY

Jeremiah 31. 31-34 Hebrews 5. 5-10 John 12. 20-33

March 26th

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD TO
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Isaiah 7. 10-14 Hebrews 10. 4-10 Luke 1. 26-38



FROM THE REGISTERS

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

1st February Pamela McDonald

9th February Val Parr

INTERMENT OF ASHES

20th January Donald Frost

We apologise to his family and friends that Donald's name was given incorrectly in last month's magazine.

May they rest gently in the arms of God

For All of You Waiting in Heaven

I thought of you today, but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too.
I think of you in silence, I often speak your name.
All I have are memories and a picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake, from which I'll never part.
God has you in his arms. I have you in my heart.

If you would like to provide a tribute to someone you love, please consider flowers for the church. Donations can be made to clergy or wardens. Please note we do not have flowers during Lent.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

Dear Lord, this week we celebrate the Women's World Day of Prayer. Thank you that on this day women from all around the world will gather specifically to pray for things that trouble them and to give thanks for your great blessings on them. Thank you also for the bond that women feel, that together they can make a difference in the world through prayer and through love for you. Father, in many parts of the world women are regarded as second class citizens. We pray that you will empower women everywhere to know that they are precious in your eyes and worthy of the great love you have for them. In Jesus' name we ask this, Amen.

Week Two

Dear Father, in this season of Lent, we pray for Lent Groups taking place at St. John's with St. Mark's and Christ Church. May those taking part have a richer understanding of your trials in the wilderness and your journey to the Cross. May they be richer for the fellowship they have together. Bless all who are unable to attend groups and pray alone at this time. May their time in prayer be a blessing and source of great comfort. Help them to remember that we are never alone while we have you in our hearts and minds. Amen.



Week Three

Heavenly Father, we thank you on this Mothering Sunday for the gift of motherhood. It is such a joy and privilege to have children. Help mothers everywhere to bring up their children to love and care for those in their families, to know and love you and your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and to live good Christian lives. Father, our children are your children. Help us never to forget that. We pray that you will empower parents through your Holy Spirit to always do what is right for our children, to love, nurture and cherish them unconditionally just as you do all your people. Amen.

Week Four

This week sees the anniversary of the annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Father, Mary was the perfect mother. Her obedience to you was total even though for an unmarried mother it must have been very hard for her in her community. Thank you that Joseph also was obedient to you in taking Mary to be his wife. They then formed the perfect family with the arrival of Jesus. Help our families to be like them, totally loving and obedient to you in every way. Thank you, Father, for their example to us. Amen.

COULD YOU JOIN A SMALL TEAM TO FIND OR WRITE PRAYERS FOR THE MAGAZINE?

For the last few years Margaret Dutton has been providing the prayers for Christ Church but now she would like to find a couple of others to share the work – could you be one? Don't worry if you have never done anything like this before we will be happy to help you get started. If you feel called to this valuable ministry please contact a member of the clergy team.

The first meeting in February was a night of music - everyone enjoyed the wide range. It started with a piano concerto by Rachmaninov and progressed to items of rock, pop, and even an organ sonata taking us down many memory lanes with much laughter, conversation and deep thought. Reminders of times in our teenage years, experiences of life and personal family musical achievements provided a very varied experience. Ann Stamp brought along the Summer of 69 with fond memories of the year she met her husband Ian.

One of the highlights of the evening was when a couple of members got up and danced a brief quick step. The night ended with a surprise piece sung by men in a Russian Orthodox Church.

Our meeting on February 15th was the Annual General Meeting. Here is a copy of my report on the year:

The theme for 2011 was 'Faithful Relationships'. As usual we pulled together and had a very successful year. It often feels in present times as though we need to hold our own and if we can manage that we are doing ok. I believe that we are doing a great deal more than holding our own! We have certainly grown during this year and I hope I am correct to say that we have at least as much enthusiasm for Mothers' Union if not more as time goes on.

I have said before that I feel privileged to be Branch Leader at Christ Church and, although the Committee meetings are few and far between they are always very useful and productive. Everyone works together well and members are always positive and supportive of any ideas we put forward. One of the high points of the beginning of last year was the visit of Bishop Muhindo Ise Somo from Nord Kivu in the Democratic republic of Congo. He was certainly an inspiration to us all and it was a good opportunity to meet up with members of other branches in the Diocese.

We had fun sharing 'Our Favourite Things' and 'Trips of my Life' as well as our Summer meal at Summerseat and our Christmas outing to 'The Pavilion'. Informative meetings included a talk by Dr. Jennifer Cropper about Cochlear Implants and her work with the hearing impaired community; sharing news of what Mothers' Union is doing the Diocese in relation to Action and Outreach from the Coordinator, Rev. Angela Dand and our own Rosemary Taylor's experiences in relation to Away From It All which we have supported recently.

In the few sunny days we had in the Summer we raised money at Cabbage Hall for the Wheels Appeal and provided lunches and cream teas at the Summer Fair. Our recruitment evening which had an Italian theme was a great success and thanks again for all the work that went into it. We have gained seven new members this year. Another enjoyable and fruitful year!

Thank you to everyone for your support. Here's to 2012!

Future Meetings

March 7	Lent	Margery Spencer
March 21	Lent	Ian Stamp
April 4	Holy Week	(No meeting)
April 18	Poetry Evening	Sherry and Shortcake

Watch this space for information about our Day Trip to Beverley Minster on August 15th. Members and non-members welcome.

***Manchester Diocese Mothers' Union Weekend Retreat
Foxhill Spiritual Retreat and Conference Centre
Friday 28th to Sunday 30th September
Places are limited - please speak to
Cath Hilton or Jean Slater.***

LAY ASSISTANTS

Have you ever thought about becoming a Lay Assistant at communion?

Opportunities have arisen for you to join the team at Christ Church or St John's on a rota basis due to the retirement of some of the team. It's not too onerous and full training will be given. If you are wondering what would be expected of you then speak to a member of the clergy or Barbara Silvester.



10 THINGS TO GIVE UP FOR LENT...

1. Speaking without thinking
2. Saying 'I told you so'
3. Saying 'I knew that would happen'
4. Getting a word in edgewise
5. Filling a silence that does not need filling
6. Making excuses
7. Tutting, sighing and tsking
8. In my opinion...
9. Being right all the time
10. Having the last word

LENT
is for
LIFE



10 THINGS TO TAKE UP FOR LENT...

1. Listening
2. Valuing the opinions of others
3. Enjoying silence
4. Watching for the reactions of others
5. Saying please and thank you more often
6. Telling people "well done"
7. Having a bit of patience
8. Waiting your turn
9. Taking time for reflection
10. Realising that sometimes other folk know best

JUNIOR CHURCH & JAM

We would love to have some articles, poems, stories – whatever – from young people. They don't need to be “religious” - just tell us what you think we need to know. Here are a couple of things to get you thinking...

I was hungry ... and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger – Thank you.

I was imprisoned ... and you crept off quietly to your chapel in your cellar, and prayed for my release.

I was naked ... and in your mind you discussed the morality of my appearance.

I was sick ... and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

I was homeless ... and you preached to me about the spirituality of the love of God.

I was lonely ... and you left me alone to pray for me.

Christian ... you seem so holy, so close to God ... But I'm still very hungry, and lonely, and cold ...

Francis Sanderson, aged 14

I had a dream that the world was peaceful,
No fights, no wars.

I had a dream that everyone was friends,
Kind and caring, loving and nurturing.

I had a dream that all people had a purpose,
And if they worked hard enough, that dream would come true.

I had a dream that everyone had respect for others,
And that all were treated with care and love.

I had a dream that everyone made sure that all were safe
And protected others.

I had a dream that nobody was horrible, nobody was mean
All were happy

I had a dream that every person in the world
Had a dream like this one.

Hannah Leyland aged 10

JUBILEE MATTERS

Jubilee Prayer

This prayer which has been written at The Queen's direction by the chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, will be used in the Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in Saint Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday June 5th

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories with ELIZABETH, our beloved and gracious Queen.

In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.



You heard last month about the service for the Borough of Bury which will take place in St Mary the Virgin or Bury Parish Church at 6.30pm on 13th May. I hope many of you will attend this wonderful celebration. Part of the service will be to present tokens of the six decades of the Queen's reign, things that have connections with the civic life of the Borough, tokens of the faith life and important events and maybe links between all three. I guess things like the Metrolink and the Market are important parts the history of the Borough and I suppose we will have to get black puddings in there somewhere.

I have only been around in the Town for a few years whilst many of you have lived your whole life in these parts. I have had some good suggestions already as to what might make up some of the tokens but if you can put your thinking caps on I would welcome some help here. You can jot your suggestions on a scrap of paper and give them to me when you see me or you can e-mail me

25th Bury Rainbows and Brownies



Christ Church Walmersley CELEBRATION

Sunday 13 May 2012

On 2nd March 2012 our Rainbow Group will be 20 years old.
On 6th June 2012 our Brownie Pack will be 70 years old.

We are holding a Lunch in the Church Hall, after Church Parade, for all members of Girlguiding. Also invited are all past members of Christ Church Walmersley Rainbows and Brownies.

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

The Open Group is just what is says – open to anyone who wishes to come along.

The next meeting will be on
Wednesday, 28 March at 7.30
in the Library, Parkinson Street

Revd. Janet Lyssejko will lead
us in a time of quiet and prayer
during Lent.

With a chat over a cup of tea or
coffee afterwards



MEMORIES OF WALMERSEY SCHOOL

David Hall shares his memories of starting school

I begin in September 1947. I had just started school, Miss Greenhalgh (married name Mrs Burton) and Mrs Baldwin were the infant teachers. That winter was very bad; heavy snow persisted cutting off Nangreaves, Buckhurst, Summerseat and Ramsbottom many times, five and six foot drifts were common. I wore clogs with irons on the wooden soles to which the snow stuck and before long you would have “rockers” on your feet a bit like walking on four inch platforms. We used to sledge in Pigslee Brow, if you were good you would avoid ending up in the stream.

School was Ok, we would recite our times tables, I liked Maths and mental arithmetic, reading aloud I struggled with but story time was the best lesson. In Lent, on a Wednesday morning, the partitions between the two classrooms were drawn back and we would have a service for the whole of the school. Throughout Lent the theme was the Catechism.

The other teachers were Miss Boothman (married name Morris), Miss D. Raine and the Headmaster was Mr Gill. Miss Raine was a great teacher, a disciplinarian, when you left her class, you knew your subjects. Every morning she walked to school from The Drive, an unmistakable person, brilliant red hair (henna I think) dressed in a heavy woollen or worsted skirt and jacket wearing brogues on the feet. Children had to run to match her stride if they wanted to keep up. As I entered Mr Gill’s class he retired and a Mr Fell took over - needless to say we did not get on.

Then there was Jack Roberts, I liked him, we would do odd jobs for him, that is David Holland and myself, from shovelling coke into the cellar boiler houses of the school and church, to sweeping up, shifting snow from the lych gate to the church door and polishing

the pews. We would get a penny or so, sometimes black spanish sticks whatever it was we didn't mind. We would spend the money on fresh baked, warm muffins from the Café, now a convenience store and hair salon.

Of course we had sad times at Walmersley School, the deaths of our school friends, Enid Lee of Palatine Drive and Barbara Yates of Tunners estate who died from a severe asthma attack.

I attended Sunday School. Do you remember the stamps depicting religious scenes from the Bible collected in a stamp book for attending?



HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO TELL?

We would love to print more stories of life in and around the two parishes. Perhaps you do have a story waiting to be told but have never written anything before so why not join **THE SEEDFIELD STORY GROUP?**

The group meets at Moorside Community Centre and Library (S. John's Church Hall, Parkinson Street) on the first Thursday of the month 11am – 1pm. Its lots of fun and everyone can join in. At the end of the project the group will be publishing a book of local tales so why not take part? For more information contact the Community Centre on 253 6471

WORDS TO PONDER

"To celebrate growing old" a lady called Regina Brett wrote 45 lessons that life had taught her. Here are a few of them for you to read this month.

- When in doubt, just take the next small step.
- **Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.**
- Save for retirement, starting with your first pay cheque.
- **Cry with someone it's more healing than crying alone.**
- It's ok to get angry with God. He can take it
- **Forgive everyone everything.**
- Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.
- **All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.**
- God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or did not do.

THE DEVIL'S BEATITUDES

Blessed are those who are too tired,
busy or disorganized to meet
with fellow Christians on Sundays
Their hearts are not in it.

Blessed are those who enjoy noticing
the mannerisms of Clergy and choir.
Their hearts are not in it.

Blessed are those Christians who wait
to be asked and expect to be thanked.
I can use them.

Blessed are the touchy.
With a bit of luck they may even
stop going to Church.
They are my missionaries.

Blessed are those who claim to
love God while hating other
They are mine forever.

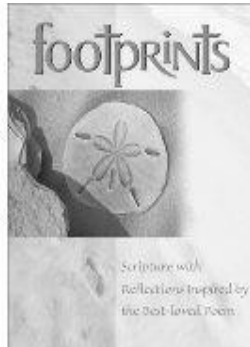
Blessed are the troublemakers.
They shall be called my children.

Blessed are those who have no
time to pray.
They are easy prey for me.

Blessed are you when you read
this and think it is about other
people and not about yourself.
I've got you.

**A TIMELY THOUGHT
FOR LENT?**

Footprints by Margaret Fishback Powers *Scripture with Reflections*



Frank gave me this lovely little book as part of his Christmas gift to me and I want to recommend it to you. You are all familiar with the poem “Footprints” I am sure, and in this book each line from the poem has been paired with scripture verses from the N.I.V. version to encourage and guide us in our daily walk. You’ll also be inspired by the stories of ordinary people whose lives were changed by the truth of “Footprints”. If you do read it I hope you enjoy it as much as I am doing.

If you have an interesting article for “Words to Ponder” or a Christian Book recommendation for *Book Review*, please contact Jean Slater

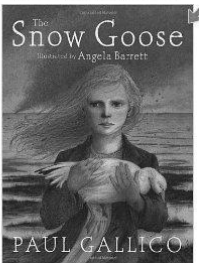
The original poem ‘Footprints in the Sand’ was written in the 1930s by American Mary Stevenson. She wrote it to help friends and family through difficult times. What words have helped you in such times? Why not let us share them in the magazine...

DIFFERENT IDEAS FOR LENTEN READS!

Jean's book review got me thinking about some other books that you might find worthwhile to read over Lent. As a Librarian I am always keen for folk to read but at this time of the year when we are called to reflect on our lives as Christian it is also a really positive Lenten activity. There are a great many books specifically aimed at Lent available and some are excellent and well worth your time. However you could also try a novel; fiction has the power to move and provoke in equal quantities. If you want to try something a little different this Lent how about one of the following? After all, as in the first recommendation it is all about finding the balance...



Joanne Harris CHOCOLAT Opening a chocolate shop during Lent in a town controlled by an overly abstemious count is not the most sensible idea. A story about people finding both balance and hope in their lives – in Lent and beyond.



Paul Gallico THE SNOW GOOSE A short, very moving novel about a man finding redemption when he allows himself to care for an injured bird and girl who brings it to him. If you have tears prepare to shed them.



John Connolly THE GATES Written for teenagers this is a funny, thought provoking look at hell and unlikely friendships which can be enjoyed by adults. Evil is not something we like to think about but this book tackles it head on but leaves us contemplating just who should be casting that first stone?

A VIEW FROM THE STALLS



It might have been freezing outside but the temperature in the church hall at St John with Mark's church hall was far from cold. There was a feeling of excitement as we waited for the curtains to open. Our hopes were not in vain. There was a marvellous set, a brightly dressed chorus of young people singing their hearts out and the first leading actors setting the scene superbly. The story of Cinderella was about to be unfolded.

The wicked stepmother was totally believable, Cinders was sweet, Buttons, the Grand announcer and Mr Forever brought smiles to our faces. We awaited the arrival of the ugly sisters, and when they made their appearance I had to check the programme to make sure it really was Ian Stamp, we may have seen him in a "dress" before but never like this! He and Paul were marvellous entering into the true spirit of pantomime. I especially enjoyed the clapping Sequence. Listeria and Salmonella will never be the same.

The King and Queen were truly regal, Cinderella, The Fairy Godmother, Dandini and the Prince gave us some wonderful singing along with the three young girls in the group. The costumes were absolutely wonderful- accredit to all those involved. There were a lot of people involved backstage who had put in an awful lot of work and our thanks go to them for supporting the young people so ably.

Special thanks must go to Debbie as writer and producer. The church is indeed fortunate to have such a wealth of talent. Well done everyone! I shall be there again next year.

Margery

CHRISTIAN AID

Dear friends

It only seems like yesterday since Christian aid week 2011 but Christian aid week 2012 is fast approaching (Sunday 13th May). The week is an exciting opportunity to join together with thousands of churches and Christians across Britain and Ireland in an amazing act of united Christian witness.

To start Christian aid week of this year as well as your prayer's we are to have a Christian aid lunch in the church hall at S. John's after the morning service (time and cost to be announced).

We are thankful for the people who regularly distribute and collect envelopes during Christian aid week if you feel like you would like to help in this way please let us know.

On the 7th of March at St Margaret's Church in Prestwich 7pm-9pm there is to be an informative evening for Christian aid week collectors if you are interested in going along or would need transport please have a word with John Brennan.

This year's Christian aid week tells the inspiring story of Sierra Leonean communities that are changing their lives for the better, there will be more on this story as the week approaches, there is more information about Christian aid's work in the quarterly magazine at the back of church or you can go online at christianaid.org.uk

Thank you once again for your support in 2011-we couldn't do it without you. Your commitment has helped thousands of people achieve real change in their lives.

Christian Aid Team

LESSONS FROM GEESE

One of the most beautiful sights I ever saw was viewed from the comfort of my bed last autumn. It was one of those wonderful clear nights we sometimes have, a sky full of stars and the moon at its fullest. I was so entranced by the moon hanging, as it seemed, just outside my window that I sat thinking and dreaming (possibly even praying) for quite some time. I was just about to try and get some sleep when I heard a familiar sound – the honking of geese – and then across the moon flew a large skein. It took less than a minute but for that brief time I was totally and absolutely captivated.

I am lucky enough to live within yards of the Lido and if you ever visit you will know that Canada Geese are daily visitors, apart from high summer. And to be honest even if you didn't see a bird you would know they had been there (think about it)! Yes, they are pretty messy creatures but absolutely fascinating. And it seems that I am not the only one to think so. An article called lessons from geese has been going round in various formats for a number of years; the message varies depending on the audience but here are a few of those lessons.

As each goose flap its wings it creates “uplift” for the birds that follow.

People who share a common sense of direction and community can get where they are going quicker and easier

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it

If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

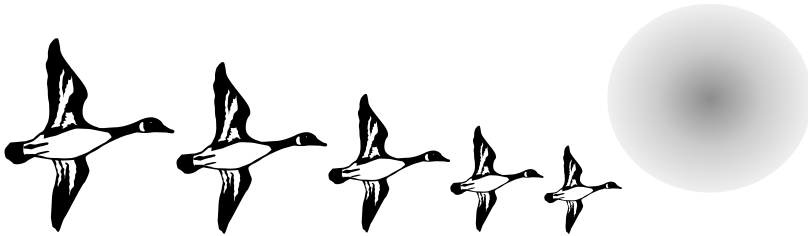
It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership

The gees flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the productivity is much greater

When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it dies or can fly again.

If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.



During Lent we are looking for lessons to help us discover who and what we should be and it easy to find worthy examples that we will never be able to follow. However there are things all around us that could give us more than we could ever imagine so why not take a bit of quiet time this Lent and spend it with the geese?

Elizabeth

“Lead me not into temptation. I can find the way myself.”

Rita Mae Brown

YOUR MAGAZINE – YOUR VIEWS

Thank you to everyone who gave us comments, suggestions and even thanks for the new style magazine. We have tried to incorporate some of them this time and will look at other things in the future. Please continue to give us feedback and don't forget we are always looking for articles, snippets and ideas.

This month your editors have been Elizabeth and Margery and you can let us know what you think by emailing us direct or using the new magazine email address:

wrub@live.co.uk

Of course you can always write a letter or just talk to us...

THIS YEAR'S LENT COURSE – HANDING ON THE TORCH

Sacred words for a secular world

In this very accessible course we consider why while the Church is expanding in the Third World in the West it is struggling. The groups will look at what this might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer.

Session 1 - A Christian Country? Session 2 - A Secular Society?
Session 3 - A Beleaguered Church? Session 4 - Competing Creeds?
Session 5 - Handing on the Torch.

These five sessions will be running at three venues each week in Lent (see calendar on the next page). You can still join a group even if you haven't signed up; just go along to the session.

- | | | | |
|----|--------|--|--|
| 1 | 2.00pm | Lent Group in the Lower Hall CC | |
| 2 | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross SJM | |
| 5 | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 14 Springside Road | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> SUNDAYS AT 7PM
 JAM YOUTH GROUP
 AT SJM </div> |
| 6 | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 150 Walmersley Road | |
| 7 | 7.30pm | Mothers' Union CC | |
| 8 | 2.00pm | Lent Group in the Lower Hall | |
| 9 | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross at S. Joseph's | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> TUESDAYS AT 2PM
 TEATIMERS
 AT CC </div> |
| 12 | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 14 Springside Road | |
| 13 | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 150 Walmersley Road | |
| 15 | 2.00pm | Lent Group in the Lower Hall | |
| 16 | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross SJM | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> THURSDAYS AT
 9.15AM
 ABC PLAYGROUP
 GROUP & COFFEE
 MORNING
 AT SJM </div> |
| 18 | | Setting up Easter Experience CC | |
| 19 | 7.30pm | JOSEPH of NAZARETH SJM | |
| | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 14 Springside Road | |
| 20 | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 150 Walmersley | |
| 21 | 7.30pm | Mothers' Union CC | |
| 22 | 2.00pm | Lent Group in the Lower Hall | |
| 23 | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross at S. Joseph's | |
| 26 | 7.30pm | THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD SJM | |
| | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 14 Springside Road | |
| 27 | 7.30pm | Lent Group at 150 Walmersley Road | |
| 28 | 7.30pm | Ministry Team CC | |
| 29 | 2.00pm | Lent Group in the Lower Hall at Christ Church | |
| 30 | 7.00pm | Stations of the Cross at S. John with S. Mark. | |

**FOR REGULAR SERVICES IN BOTH CHURCHES
PLEASE SEE PAGE 2**

**OH YES THEY
DID!**



**CINDERELLA AT
ST. JOHN WITH S.MARK**