



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



Lest We Forget

November 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 & 26)

If you need transport to church please contact the
wardens.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Well, it's a month since Ian left, a month since we began the interregnum and what an 'interesting' month it has been. We began with a meeting with Archdeacon David who outlined what we had to do, in what seemed a frighteningly short timescale, to start the process of finding our new vicar.

I don't think that I was the only one who came out of that meeting with a slight feeling of panic and yet we seem to have managed to pull everything together. The benefice profile is well underway and I think everyone involved knows our benefice rather better than they did previously. It has certainly been a busy time but also a time of reflection, thought and (hopefully) prayer. Of course it really is just the start of the process - and it's a process that we all have to be involved in. Yes, each and every one of us must take part in the search to find the right person and, far more importantly, the right path for God's church in our community.



Of course we all have our own ideas of what the church is there for and it would be unrealistic to think that we will always agree. For some it will be all about worship. Others will want the church to teach the truths and values that have underpinned our society to adults and children alike. Some may see that the church needs to be a house of prayer and bring the needs of the world before God. There will be others who see the potential for the church to be a practical force for good in our community, helping people by bringing care and compassion to all. Others may just want the church open and available for them and their family to mark significant events

such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. All of these aims are crucial and these few sentences do no justice to the rich, varied and important work that the church should seek to undertake (although we had to try with the profile)!

The problem is that in trying to do all things we may end up managing to do nothing well. In trying to please the expectations of all we can end up failing not only those around us but our heavenly Father as well. It is vital therefore that our benefice tries to see where and how God is calling us to work. Above all we are human beings and not human doings. Our real identity comes from being loved by God and not what we achieve. It is in resting in His grace and love that we find the strength and power to take on some of the tasks that He sets before us. We are called to be the people of God who seek to follow Jesus Christ and if we fail in that we fail in everything.

As we look to the future we need to be clear about our aims and goals and how we are going to achieve them. In Church we need to be always aware of trying to seek out what God wants for each of us. There is no single blueprint for church life. We are not meant to be just another outlet of a one size fits all convenience store. There are some factors, like those above, that we hope will always be present. But we all need to spend time searching for God's will for how our resources and energy should be channelled and directed and we all need to put God's love into action.

May God bless us all and go with us as we journey into our future.

Yours in Christ
Elizabeth

Thank You

Hello Friends

First of all we would like to thank everyone for the wonderful send off you gave us it will be long in our memory. It was quite an emotional occasion and perhaps in the tears and laughter of the night we didn't get the chance to say everything we wanted to say to everyone.

We have been reading the many cards and greetings and we will again. Before long we will get round to buying something with the collection you made; something as a lasting treasure to remind us of you all and something of practical use, perhaps a greenhouse. I don't know who organised the collection but they must have worn a black mask it was unbelievable.



We are getting used to retirement, it is quite strange not having a routine to settle in to but we have not really had chance to think much. The house is not finished, some of the appliances decided to pack in as we moved and some of the services in the house had to be tweaked to our liking. I am typing this on a laptop because we have not yet sorted out the computer and our e-mails. All this stuff takes time particularly when you have to speak to the call centres of big telecom companies. We should begin to enjoy a relaxed retirement sometime around Christmas (2014).

What more is there to say except an enormous thanks for the leaving and more than that for the privilege of working and playing with a wonderful bunch of clergy and laity.

With love

Ian & Ann

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCILS

CHRIST CHURCH PCC October meeting

Following a joint meeting of the two PCCs and Archdeacon David, we met to appoint two parish representatives, Margery Spencer and Barbara Taylor, who will be involved in the interviewing of any prospective candidates.

All members were encouraged to contribute to the Parish Profile and a small group established to begin work on this.

Members were updated on discussions regarding the sale of the field, with local planning officers and with representatives from Manchester Diocese and the Registrar.

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC meeting, 4 October 2012

This was a meeting arranged at short notice to allow us to discuss our part of the Benefice Profile in readiness for our prospective new Incumbent. A varied discussion followed on the sections of the Profile including the local community, Church based groups & organisations, the spiritual & social aspects of our Church and a particular focus on mission. The PCC were asked to consider this Profile and to offer any comments and views before the next meeting on Tuesday 16 October.

Away from the Profile, we were also updated on forthcoming maintenance work taking place; the repairs to the exterior of the Hall wall by the Crèche, and the redecorating of the interior of the Church. Both these jobs will take place during October and early November.

BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

1 ALL SAINTS DAY

Isaiah 25: 6-9 Revelation 21: 1-6a John 11: 32-44

4 4 BEFORE ADVENT

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9 Hebrews 9: 11-14 Mark 12: 28-34

11 3 BEFORE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Hebrews 9: 24-28 Mark 1: 14-20

Isaiah 2: 1-5 John 15: 9-17 (CC)

18 2 BEFORE ADVENT

Daniel 12: 1-3 Hebrews 10: 11-25 Mark 13: 1-8

25 CHRIST THE KING NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

Daniel 7: 9-10,13-14 Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33-37

30 ST ANDREW

Isaiah 52: 7-10 Romans 10: 12-18 Matthew 4: 18-22

**“Greater love has no one than this,
that he lay down his life for his friends”
John 15 v.13**

FROM THE REGISTERS

Christian Funeral

October 4th - Dean John Mawdsley (Deano)

Interment of Ashes

October 11th – Elaine Minshull

May they rest gently in the arms of God

Holy Baptism

Sep 9th - Luke David Howarth

Sep 9th - Harry George Charlton Stratford

Oct 14th - Noah John William Parry

Oct 21st - Connor James Alexander Carter

We welcome them into the Lord's family

FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

November 4

November 11 In memory of Past MU members

November 18 In memory of Mrs. V Howorth

November 25 Mrs. M Booth in memory of the Booth family



HEADS AND SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES

For the last 30 weeks, members of 'Teatimers' have been enjoying easy exercises at their weekly meetings.



Members have used balls and elastic bands to assist in making muscles in arms, legs, shoulders, knees, wrists, fingers and ankles work more efficiently. The exercises have taken place whilst sitting down and although we may not be in the running for gold medals, they have had a beneficial effect. There has been much laughter.

Some of the leaders have chickened out of the exercises, others who bravely took part found aches and pains in muscles they never knew they had!

These sessions have been led by Ros and Naomi who have always been cheerful, encouraging and supportive. They have got to know the members as individuals and responded to their needs.

Unfortunately, the funding for this activity has ended and there will be no more sessions. We would like to thank Ros and Naomi for all their efforts as they leave a fitter group of 'Teatimers'.

We shall miss you.

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

Next meeting:
Wednesday 21 November @ 7:30pm in the Library

A **Silent Auction** in aid of Church Funds.

Please bring article or articles for sale.
These should be anything that is saleable
but not too expensive.

Please also give us an idea of the price required.



Christingle



The Christingle Service at Christ Church will be held on Monday December 3rd at 6.30 p.m. Please come and support this informal service at which Christingles will be distributed and the church path illuminated with candles (weather permitting).

All proceeds from the service will be given to the Children's Society to support the "Safe in the City" project which helps to protect young people who have run away from home and find themselves on the streets of our cities, including Manchester. Last year over £400 was raised to support this project. Please help us to continue this work.

Margery



For two years we have collected used postage stamps in a box at the back of Christ Church to support a charity called 'Little Voice'.

This small charity aids a project working with children in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. A small school and a home for orphaned children who have been living on the streets have been set up to providing a safe community with food, clothing, health care, a basic education and recreational activities for them. The children consider themselves lucky to have been found and cared for by the staff who run the home and the family of other children who live there. The hope is that they will grow up in safety to become confident and responsible adults.

All stamps, British and foreign, are collected and then sorted and sold to collectors to raise funds.

Please keep collecting and removing any stamps from your post, leaving one cm. (or half an inch) of envelope around them, and search out any stamps you may have tucked away in a drawer or an old album. Also, as Christmas approaches, please keep all those stamps off the cards you receive!

Our collective response at CCW to the appeal for used stamps, both old and new, British and foreign, has been magnificent and I would like to extend this appeal to the congregation at St. John with St. Mark's also.

I hope that you will continue, or begin, to support this worthwhile scheme for children in need of our help.

Many thanks again,

David Peters

P.S. Little Voice's web page gives more details.
<http://www.littlevoice.ca>

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

WEEK ONE

Lord of all, we thank you for all the saints who have gone before us. We thank you for their dedication and steadfastness, often in the face of great adversity and pain.



We thank you for their love for you and hope that we can be like them in all ways, proclaiming your holy name whenever we can, even in difficult circumstances. Father, grant us the serenity of your saints and their fortitude. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WEEK TWO

Dear Father, on this Remembrance Sunday we pray for the fallen soldiers of all wars, and thank you that they died so that we might live our lives in freedom. We pray especially today for those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan and remember all those who are living with terrible injuries and scars, both physical and mental. May we as a society help all those who are still suffering from the loss of loved ones, may we help them in practical ways. Bless our serving armed forces wherever they may be based and protect them from all harm. May we see an end to wars and unrest, particularly in Syria at the moment, and see an outbreak of peace. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.

WEEK THREE

David's Prayer

David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly saying,

"Praise be to you O LORD,
God of our father Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendour,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom,
you are exalted as head over all.
Wealth and honour come from you,
you are the ruler of all things.
In your hands are strength and power
to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks,
and praise your glorious name."

(1 Chronicles, Chap 29, vs, 10-13)

WEEK FOUR

You call me to Yourself; you draw me into Your presence,
to where even angels tread softly
and await Your word with bated breath;
so I run to you Lord, believing in Your love,
relying on Your grace, trusting in Jesus' blood –
and I find that You have come to meet me
with arms open wide, and have embraced me
before I am even halfway there.

Catherine Aldis (a Mothers' Union Anthology of Poetry)

We have had a rather busy few weeks with a number of reports from other members this month. We are fortunate to have a first hand account of the Mothers' Union Retreat at Foxhill from Jean Slater (p.19) and, as I was at sea (literally) during the second part of September, Tricia Stokes has kindly written about the Hat Night (p.21). Judging from the photos the evening looked very entertaining! Many thanks to both parties.

The Greek Night, which was intended to give us an opportunity to entertain non-members, failed to attract great numbers, however, we had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with delicious food – tsatziki, moussaka and greek salad, greek yoghurt and honey with kourambiethes - and good fellowship. Many thanks to all those who made it possible.



On October 11th, the Celebration 2012 was held at the Albert Halls in Bolton. It was a tremendous evening! A varied programme included first hand accounts from those for whom the Mothers' Union

in Manchester provides support and resources. Virtual babies are having a great impact on youngsters in Langley and hospital items including memory boxes for mothers who have lost babies are being treasured and greatly appreciated. I have mentioned previously that work is beginning in HMP Manchester to support prisoners and their families. The project is about to take off! Watch this space!

Our second meeting in October was led by David Andrew on the subject of Personal Prayer. He encouraged us to learn and listen when considering prayers and made us realise what a wealth of prayers we already know off by heart, reminding many of us of those we used in childhood. We spent time reflecting on what kind of prayers we could use and why. Thank you, David.

Our new Branch Leader is going to be Kathryn Bailey and we all look forward to welcoming her.

Dates for diaries

Nov 7	Communion Service followed by postcard competition and pie and peas
Nov 21	Peter Smith – Galapagos Islands
Dec 5	Advent Preparation
Dec 12	Christmas Meal at The Red Hall

Further ahead

Dec 2	Deanery Advent Service at St James' Woolfold 2.30 pm
Dec 6	Diocesan Advent Service at St Ann's Manchester 1.15 pm
Jan 30	Commissioning of Diocesan President Cath Hilton) at Manchester Cathedral 7.30 pm
May 17	Commissioning of Provincial President (Barbara Taylor) at York Minster 11 am

Catherine Hilton
Branch Leader

CONFIRMATION

If any young person in Year 6 or above or any adult in either church wishes to be confirmed next year, please contact the Clergy or the Readers and we will arrange for preparation.

WORDS TO PONDER

During the recent retreat organised by Mothers' Union at Foxhill, Frodsham I read this poem which perfectly expressed the essence of my time there.

Jean Slater

From a book called "Offerings" by Myrtle Hall.

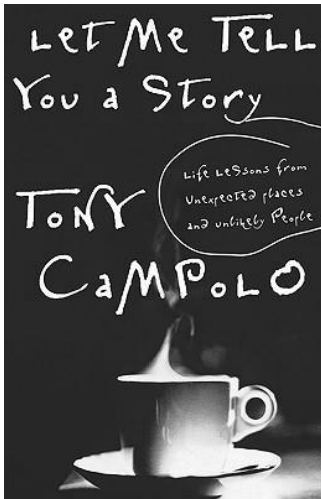
I Stepped into Silence

I stepped into silence yesterday,
I left the busy street, the friendly neighbours,
the intrusive telephone and stepped through the door
into silence.

I let go yesterday,
let arms drop limp, hands stop their feverish busyness,
let mind pause and absorb,
let tired body relax and again know
the tingling vibrancy of a new purpose—
let heart rest in God
the one with outstretched arms—
the one who is creator, the beginning and the end
the one in whom eternity exists.

I stepped into the presence of the forgiving,
receiving Son of God.
I step into the presence of the forgiving,
receiving, accepting Son of God.

BOOK REVIEW



These are stories of hope, doubt, faith, failure and triumph. Of people standing up for justice, showing mercy and living for God.

You will be thrilled by "Sunday's coming" sermon and be moved to learn of the childhood event that caused Bishop Tutu to become a priest.

Book recommended by Frank Slater

Pray-ing

This month's meeting is a special men-only get together
– sorry ladies!!

An opportunity for the masculine side of our church to
come together on their own for the usual relaxed,
informal hour of songs and prayers.

(No football talk - unless, of course, it is felt that any
local clubs need praying for!!)

Thursday 8th November 7.30pm
at 49 Fairlands Road.



RETREAT AT FOXHILL

Foxhill is a retreat and conference centre located in beautiful countryside near Frodsham in Cheshire and in September I and twenty two members from Manchester Diocese attended a retreat there. It was led by Revd. Alison Hardy who is the chaplain to the Mothers' Union in the Bolton Archdeaconry and Rector of All Saints Church, Stand. and also Revd. Denise Smith, assistant curate for the Joint Benefice of St. Mary and All Saints, Goodshaw and St. John the Evangelist, Crawshawbooth.

The theme for the weekend was "Your Gift? Discover and Celebrate" and Alison and Denise enabled us to explore this by the talks that were given, illustrated with scripture from both the old and new testaments, by prayer stations, by acts of worship, all in the peaceful setting of Foxhill. When not meeting together we were able to spend time either meditating on what we had heard, reading, praying, exploring the extensive grounds or whatever we wanted to do. Most of the time was spent in silence but during meal times we talked and made new friends.

One young member, on her first retreat, told us that before she came she was rather anxious about the thought of being silent for periods of time during the day but having now experienced this she realised what a blessing being silent and still before God could be.

The hospitality and the accommodation was first class and we left being both physically and spiritually enriched.

Jean Slater

TREE FESTIVAL

At TOTTINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

A 3-day Christmas Tree Festival

Friday November 30th,
Saturday and Sunday
1st & 2nd December.
Also on Sunday, 3rd December at
10.30am, a special Advent and Festival
Family Service.



The Festival will have upwards of 30 Christmas Trees throughout the Church building, decorated to a specific theme and sponsored by local businesses, organisations and individuals. There will also be Craft and other Stalls, Music, and a Café serving a range of refreshments.

We are looking forward to a “Glorious display of light and colour to herald the beginning of Advent and the coming of Christmas”.

Proceeds from the event will be shared by the Church for its ongoing mission and work, and the charity, “Porch Boxes” which provides crisis packs for those in need in the Bury, Bolton and Rochdale areas.

Why not support this event and at the same time the Charity which we have supported at our Harvest Festivals, and about which you read in October’s magazine?

(or should we say on?) at Mothers Union

Denise brought a top hat and talked about putting on the Ritz. The hat had been used many times for shows and dancing and had given great pleasure with the children dressing up.

Pat brought her father's Rover Scout hat and told us how he started a band whilst Sheila wore a Merry Christmas bobble hat as Christmas is her favourite time of year, and Chrissie wore a hat belonging to her late mother which she cherished.

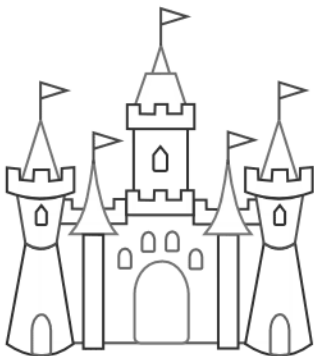
Jean with her walking hat, spoke of memories of walks and fell-climbing on visits to the Lake District, especially Langdale Pikes near Windermere. Jess brought a balaclava which could be changed to wear in different ways and made us laugh about the cold wet weather and the use of Sloane's liniment.

David Andrew and Geoff Stokes also brought hats. David's were hats for all occasions, taxi, Israeli hat, church hat etc. Geoff's was a hat from Fort William when he was convalescing after glandular fever in his fifties. Miriam wore her pink hat and read a poem about her grandchildren and dressing up with their granddad

Margery wore a hat which her mother made in 1968 in one week for her to attend a wedding and Kathryn Bailey brought a hat that she wore on a day the Queen visited Beverly Minister. Jean Smith and Margaret Noble brought holiday hats.

The highlight of the evening was stolen by Jill Smith who came with a fur bobble from her favourite hat as she couldn't find the rest of it.

We had a great night and a lot of laughs thanks to everyone who came. There was also a quick game of Bingo thrown in at the start just for fun.



AUTUMN FAIR

In Christ Church Hall

Saturday November 3rd

starting at 10.30am

FREE Entry

- morning coffee - bacon sandwiches- light lunches
- cakes - preserves – handicrafts- toys and jigsaws - books - bric-a-brac – fabrics, wool, patterns
- lucky dip - raffle - treasure trove - bag-a-bag - quiz – Falshaw's ice-cream – art exhibition

**Come and meet up with friends
and support our church**

(10% of proceeds to be donated to the local
Probation Service- who look after our Church yard.)

Help welcome
from 7.30 p.m. Friday, 2 November
to set up.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURY

It *was* the Walmersley Road Group of Churches but opened wide its ecumenical arms, to welcome first the parish of St Paul, Bury and then that of St Thomas and was renamed Churches Together – Bury North and East.

Recently, St Thomas's being joined with St Peter Bury, and St Joseph's and St Marie's sharing a priest, it was decided to join with Churches Together – Bury Central and South.

An approach was then received from the West Bury group and it has been agreed that we should form Churches Together in Bury. (Minor details still to be worked out but a clear intention.) An approach is also being made to the Ramsbottom Group.

This is about sharing with more of our ecumenical partners and together giving the community of Bury a message that the Christian churches are united, in the love we have for our Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is exciting that we are undertaking this process at the same time as our umbrella group, Greater Manchester Churches Together, is looking at new ways of working also.

Our first joint event will be in January when we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Please watch out for details and be part of this great new initiative. If we are all enthusiastic then we can achieve so much.

If you are interested in being more involved – planning, keeping in touch, hearing of some great initiatives taking place, why not come along to the next meeting of the new group? It is to be held at Guardian Angels RC Church on 19 November at 8 p.m.



St. John with St. Mark Christmas Fair

Saturday 24th November 2012

11am- 2pm

Tradecraft ethically traded gifts

Cake stall

Bottle Tombola

Cards and Gifts

and many more stalls



Hot Lunches

Visit Santa in his Grotto



Please support this event
and enjoy our fellowship



VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS DRAMA

Bolton Christian Community Cohesion is looking for volunteers for its Christmas drama with song in Bolton on 10 December

"The Passion for Christmas in Drama and Song" is to be held at the Reebok Centre, Bolton on 10 December and will be recorded by Tower FM to be broadcast on Christmas morning.

This will be a most exhilarating experience for both the audience and those taking part.

The organisers urgently need more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for either the drama or choir side of the production please read on and contact Mary Millard on 01204 546138 or mary@bolton.gmim.orguk for further details.

The rehearsals for the Drama are every Monday evening at 8pm at St Paul's Peel Church Hall, Little Hulton.

The rehearsals for the choir are scheduled for:- Sunday 2nd December 2-5pm and Wednesday 5th December 7.30-10pm - both rehearsals are in St Mary's Church, Horwich. There will also be a brief run-through before the concert itself on 10 December.



AND CLOSER TO HOME

Will you be part of the service on Christmas Eve at Christ Church? Rosemary Taylor is looking for volunteers (of all ages) to be involved in a SUPERHEROES version of the Christmas story.

Intrigued? Why not contact Rosemary?

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

1	2.00pm 7.30pm	ALL SAINTS' First Thursday Prayer in the Hall (CC) Holy Communion (St J w St M)
2		Bonfire Party at St J w St M
3	10.30am	Autumn Fair (CC)
4		4th before ADVENT Services at the usual times
6	7.30pm	Listening Prayer Group 150 Walmersley Road
6	7.30pm	Christian Muslim Forum – Saints Noor Ul Islam Ladies Centre
7	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM)
7	7.30pm	Mothers' Union – Holy Communion in church Pie & peas, postcards, in Hall
8	7.30pm	Pray-Sing
11		3rd before ADVENT Services at the usual times
	10.30am	Remembrance Services
14	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM)
15	7.30pm	Deanery Synod, St Mary the Virgin
16	10.00am	Quiet Day in Cathedral

18		2nd before ADVENT Services at the usual times
19	8.00pm	Churches Together, at Guardian Angels
21	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM)
21	7.30pm	Mothers' Union – "The Galapagos Islands"
	7.30pm	Open Group – Silent Auction
22	8.00pm	PCC at St J w St M
24	11.00am	Christmas Fair (St J w St M)
25		CHRIST THE KING Services at the usual times
	6.30 pm	Diocesan Farewell to Bishop Nigel
27	7.30pm	PCC at CC
28	9.15am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM)
30		ST ANDREW Holy Communion (St J w St M)
	7.30pm	

INTERREGNUM MATTERS



If you have any queries during the interregnum please call in at the office at St John with St Mark on Wednesday evening - 6.30 p.m. to 7.30.p.m or contact the wardens, clergy or readers.



**hats,
hats
and
more
hats**

