



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



January 2013

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 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Morning Service 5 th Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 3 rd Parade Service	St John w St Mark

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 21 & 22)

If you need transport to church
please contact the wardens.

FOLLOW THE STAR

Who has the X-factor?

There so many celebrity programmes to choose from; celebrity come dancing and I'm a celebrity get me out of here, just to name two. It's not inaccurate to say that we live in a celebrity obsessed world. Many people are prepared to make utter fools of themselves just to get on the box and that road to celebrity success. Being a celebrity of course is not all its cracked up to be. Many fall along the wayside to drugs or alcohol. Some plagued with self-doubt even kill themselves. Epiphany is about following stars but of the celestial and divine type.

The wise men or were they kings or astrologers or philosophers, were there 3 or more who knows. They would probably have been the equivalent of the A-list celebrity in their own culture. People sought after by the unwashed as well as the great and the good. Yet they leave all this behind drawn by a portentous star. They take a journey into the unknown. Who knows the ups and downs of that journey? It would make a good piece of fiction.

All we know is that they were seeking something precious which they didn't find in a royal palace but in a lean to, maybe used to house animals, next to a pub in a little suburban town of Jerusalem called Bethlehem. A bit like Bury compared to Manchester. And it is here that the Christ is revealed, here is the epiphany. God is revealed in human form but not as a ready formed Roman or Greek celebrity god but as a babe.

So much revolves around this tiny scarp of humanity. So much rests on his shoulders for as we know he is born to carry a cross to redeem the whole world.

So who are you following into the new year? Are you caught up in the celebrity frenzy or just in your own lives. Or are you caught up by that revelation of God with us in the babe of Bethlehem. With those worshipping star gazers let us come and adore him, Christ the Lord!

Have a happy and fulfilled New Year as you go about your Christian lives in 2013 to love and serve the Lord.

Amen
Paul



Apologies from this month's editor but a combination of computer problems and the Christmas break resulted in this 'home-produced copy. Hopefully the content remains just as 'readable'!



Please make a new year's resolution to contribute to the magazine in 2013 – the team can only do the best it can with what it is given!!

Barbara

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 22 NOVEMBER 2012

Our main topic was around the annual Charitable giving. Traditionally we give 10% of our Planned Giving to 10 different Charities, ranging from Overseas Mission, Relief & Development & UK Mission & Secular. Following a varied discussion it was agreed to more or less retain the same Charities as 2011, however we will now include PORCH in our giving.

Ongoing issues that required discussion were the decorating of the Church, which is now complete (barring the tidying up), and the Interregnum. The PCC were handed a copy of the glossy Parish Profile which looks outstanding. A vote of thanks was given to everybody from both ends of the Benefice who had contributed to this document.

Elizabeth also informed us that our list of Lay Assistants needs renewing before the end of 2012, and an idea was passed around the PCC for a new fundraising initiative. Hopefully we can have an update on this in the New Year!!

CHRIST CHURCH PCC MEETING OF 27 NOVEMBER 2012

Members were updated on the latest position regarding the possible sale of the field and of the application for Village Green status which has been submitted by the Friends of Walmersley Village.

All were thanked for the hard work involved in putting together the parish profile. The vacancy is currently advertised within the diocese and some interest has been shown.

The Chairman confirmed that all lay assistants had been duly authorised and it was agreed that a copy of the list be displayed at the back of church.

The next meeting will be a meeting of the joint PCCs in December.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY

1 NAMING & CIRCUMSION OF JESUS

Numbers 6: 22-end Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21

6 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 1-12 Matthew 2: 1-12

13 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Isaiah 43: 1-7 Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17,
21-22

20 EPIPHANY 3

Isaiah 62: 1-5 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11

27 EPIPHANY 4

Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 12: Luke 4: 14-21
8-10 12-31



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 6 | Mr J Clegg |
| January 13 | Mr & Mrs J McDermott
In memory of their daughter Carol |
| January 20 | In memory of Jack Grindrod |
| January 27 | In memory of Mr & Mrs E Todd |

Hymn of Christ the King

Sing of the King who was born as an outcast
Mother unmarried, his birth far from home.
Born in a stable in occupied country,
Toddler in exile for fear of the throne.

Sing of the King who mixed with life's rejects,
Cared for them, talked with them, welcomed them in;
Hope for the hopeless and love for the loveless,
Moved with compassion when faced with our sin.

Sing of the King whose crown of thorns wounds him,
Whose throne is a cross, his sceptre a reed,
Robed in his torn flesh, without human beauty,
Dying with convicts, abandoned in need.

Sing of the King, now raised from the dark tomb,
In heaven still bearing the scars of his love.
Reigning, yet still the servant and lover,
Raising our frailty to glory above.

(hymn text copyright © 1989 Rosalind Brown)

*Used on 25 November at
Christ Church, this is
printed by request, so
that all may share it.*



Christingle

How do you get your friends to come round to your house and stick 1600 sweets onto cocktail sticks?

Tell them it is a good cause - supporting the work of the Children's Society and offer them home made cake and tea.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Christingle Service at Christ Church. Although the weather prevented the church path being lit with candles there was a great deal of light within the church as 110 Christingles were lit.

A total of £400 has been forwarded to the Children's Society.

A big thank you to all those who made donations to buy the oranges and sweets, those who manfully stuck the sweets on cocktail sticks, to Junior Church for making the Christingles and all those who came on the night to support.

There will be more light in vulnerable children's lives because of you.

Thank you.
Margery

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."



CORE SKILLS FOR CHILDREN'S WORK

DEVELOPING & EXTENDING KEY SKILLS
FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Saturday 16th February 09:30 – 15:00

Saturday 2nd March 09:30 – 15:00

at

The Old Vicarage
St Michael's Church
Tonge-cum-Alkington
Townley Street
Middleton
M24 1BT

Children's work is essential for growing the church. It's vital to equip children's workers and leaders for this ministry, and effective training plays a crucial part. **Core Skills for Children's Work** is an interdenominational modular scheme that is comprehensive and highly accessible.

Cost: **£5 per day** (or £2 per session)
(to cover the venue costs and all course materials)
Bring a packed lunch – tea and coffee provided

R.S.V.P. by Friday 8th February to:

Steve Dixon, Children's Work Officer
Education, Church House, 90 Deansgate,
Manchester M3 2GH

Tel: 0161 828 1433 Email:

StephenDixon@manchester.anglican.org

Happy Birthday

The magazine of the United Benefice of Walmersley Road is one year old!

We thank all who volunteered to be part of the steering committee and of the editorial team. We are grateful also to those who have given us feedback over the past year.

What we would now like to have:

- YOUR views and opinions – on appearance and content
- More contributions each month
- Volunteers to be part of the editorial team – some basic familiarity with Microsoft Word an advantage.
- Suggestions for that elusive logo

If you are able to help in any way, please have a word with one of the team:

Barbara Taylor

Margery Spencer

Patricia Stokes

David Robinson

or e-mail wrub@live.co.uk



So – are you artistic, computer literate, have opinions, or have read something interesting lately?

Please be part of OUR magazine.

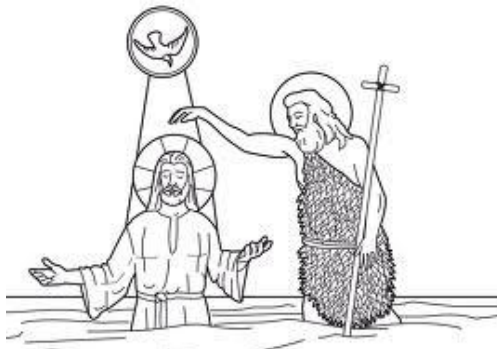
FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week One

Dear Father, just as the Three Wise Men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, to your son, so we celebrate the gift that you gave to us: the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each of us has a special gift that you give us, whether it be the gift of singing, teaching, tongues, etc. We rejoice in these gifts and pray that we may use them wisely and with joy. We rejoice also in the gift of eternal life that you have promised us. We are so blessed to be your children. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Week Two

In this second week of the New Year, we think about the baptism of Christ. Father, this was such an important occasion. May we think back to our baptisms and remember the vows that were made for us by our parents and godparents or by ourselves if we were older. May we renew these vows to you and to ourselves, turning to Christ and renouncing the devil. We thank you that we can constantly turn to you in all aspects of our lives and pray that we never forget our baptism vows. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Week Three



*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.
(Matthew 7.25)*

Lord, you are my foundation
Let me never forget this
When the streams rise
Help me to keep my head above the water
When the wind blows and beats against me
Help me to stand firm
Keep my feet sure and solid in the knowledge
That you are my Lord and Saviour
That you are with me always
Even when I am bruised and beaten.
You, Lord are my rock and my foundation.
Thank you, my precious Father.

Week Four

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me,
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.



Branch members attended Advent services arranged by Mothers' Union both in the Deanery and in the Diocese.

On Advent Sunday our hosts were members of St James' Woolfold where the Reverend Simon Cook led a service of readings and hymns suited to the season. Kathryn Bailey read a lesson on our behalf and prayers were led by Barbara Taylor and Cath Hilton.

Later in the week, at St Ann's in Manchester, Barbara and Bob Taylor led the intercessions and Cath read the final reading. Nigel Ashworth, Rector of St Ann's took the opportunity to thank Barbara for her presidency and Jean Casewell presented her with flowers. This was Barbara's final diocesan event as our president before she steps down at the end of the year.

At both events fellowship was shared over the first mince pies of the year (at St Ann's they come from Slatterys and are highly recommended!) and those who were organised saved postage by handing out Christmas cards!

Patricia Stokes writes:

We started Advent with prayer and meditation to prepare us for the celebration of the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our members were drawn into reflection by prayer candlelight and music. An overwhelming sense of calm was shared by members.

We pray that 2013 may give us the strength to continue our good work in supporting families world-wide and for help us to follow our theme for 2013 "Sow the Seed"

Branch leader report

The Mothers' Union year of events ended with a feast of food, fun and fellowship. We met at the Red Hall Hotel for a delicious meal in comfortable surroundings. Over the meal stories were shared and friendships deepened and we welcomed new faces.

Barbara Taylor took the opportunity of being on 'home ground' to hand over the Diocesan President's badge of office to Cath Hilton, who takes up her new role on January 1st.

For Barbara and Cath, the New Year brings new roles and responsibilities. We thank God for the inspiration and dedication they have brought to their existing roles and commit them in our prayers for this new step of faith.

I take up the role of Branch Leader and look forward to working alongside you all as we reflect on how to serve our local community.

Our **first** meeting of the year will be on **January 16th** when we share Communion and have a Soup supper to follow. **There will not be a meeting on January 2nd.**

In the event of bad weather please ring your Red book holder (the person to whom you give your subs) for a decision on the viability of any meeting. If they are unavailable, then please ring me on 0161 762 9079 or Tricia Stokes 0161 764 2263.

January 30th – Commissioning Service for Cath Hilton as Diocesan President in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m.

We are hoping to provide coach transport from church to the Cathedral to allow as many as possible to attend. Please book your place as soon as possible with Tricia Stokes.

Kathryn Bailey

Random jottings

It had started with “why don’t you?” and then, in those quiet days between Christmas and New Year, it became, “why not?” The realisation that I was about to begin the final 12 months of the most amazing six years of my life so far, led me to think that maybe a blog could be a good idea.

I set myself the target of an average of one post per week and, yes – I failed! Miserably at times, because the times when one has most to say are exactly the times when there is no time whatsoever to say it!

Over the period I have served Mothers’ Union in Manchester, I have had some absolutely amazing times. Consecration of Bishops Mark and Chris, Royal Garden party, Maundy Service, hosting Bishop Isesomo from the Congo, the Worldwide and Provincial Presidents, and visitors from around the Anglican Communion, are wonderful opportunities in what is a very privileged position.

I have been conscious several times as I looked back over my posts that it appears I have a giddy round of services and meetings! What I don’t think I have managed to communicate is the amazing fellowship and prayerful support I have been privileged to enjoy; or the fantastic work being done in the name of Mothers’ Union.

Throughout this time though, I have been very aware of the support from my friends here in Walmersley, from my commissioning in the Cathedral in January 2007, through numerous festivals, celebrations and events. I have often been aware of your prayers – perhaps more than at any other time when I stepped on to Kenyan soil and into the unknown! I thank you all, from the bottom of my heart. I know that we will give Cath that same support and I am sure she will have as great a time as our president as I have. I very much look forward to reading *her* blog.

Barbara

<http://mupresidentmanchester.wordpress.com>

The work of Christmas begins

When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To make peace among the people.

Howard Thurman

Pray-ing

Come along
for the usual relaxed, informal hour
of songs and prayers.

Monday, 14 January at 7.30pm
at 49 Fairlands Road.

Absolute Surrender

Written in 1895 by Andrew Murray this book is considered a classic of Christian Literature. A collection of sermons on the challenging matter of how Christians should properly surrender to God.

The author discusses---- how the fruit of the spirit is love, how what is impossible with man, is possible with God----- and more.



Google Absolute Surrender by Andrew Murray to read more.

If you have a book you would like to recommend please contact.... Jean Slater or the editor of the magazine by e-mail at wrub@live.co.uk



The new pencil

A pencil-maker gave five important lessons to the new pencil before putting it in the box:

1. Everything you do will always leave a mark.
2. You can always correct the mistakes you make.
3. What is important is what is inside you.
4. In life you will undergo painful sharpenings, which will only make you better.
5. To be the best pencil you must allow yourself to be guided by the hand that holds you.

(Seen in a Sheffield magazine)

25th Bury (Christ Church) Guides

In October we joined with Guides from 3 other units in Bury and headed to Motorpoint Arena in Sheffield for the Big Gig. This is a concert for Guides only and we saw acts such as JLS, Scouting for Girls, Lawson, Little Mix, Conor Maynard and many more. There were lots of flashing headbands, screaming, singing and some sore throats the following day.

This term we have been working on our performing arts badge. We spent three weeks planning, writing and practising our performance. The end results, of a talent contest and a pantomime 'Cinderbigfoot', were performed to family and friends along with our District and Division Commissioners. After weeks of issues – 'it was alright on the night'.

Congratulations to Rebecca Lee who completed her Baden Powell Challenge Award and we all wish her luck in her transition from Guides to Rangers.

Ella Walsh made her promise on our final night of the term. In the church hall? NO! In the MIDDLE of Blackburn ice rink, with a number of Guides struggling to stand alongside.

Lots more activities being planned for the next term – if you are 10 – 14 years old why not join us on Friday evenings in the Church Hall?

Rose

"the real frontline of the Church is the local church, the parish church," according to the Rt Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop-elect.

"we" are the ones sent out in mission to this community – we cannot leave it to 'the diocese', 'the Church', 'the PCC' or to others. The responsibility really is OURS.



BRAINS OF WALMERSLEY

A date for your diary!

The annual competition for the prestigious title of "Brains of Walmersley 2013" will take place

in the Church Hall, School Lane,
on Saturday, 26th January
at 7.30 p.m.

This should be a very open competition as two previous winners have moved on - taking their valuable certificates with them.

The format will be as usual for any Tennis Club Quiz; teams of four (if possible), admission £2 per head, bring your own refreshment (liquid and solid) if you are likely to need more than a cup of tea, and all profits to church funds.

We look forward to seeing you on 26th so, to paraphrase Tess Daly - keep swotting!

Stan Parkinson

"BACON BUTTY SUNDAY"

Try a bacon sandwich with your Sunday morning cuppa
after the 10:30am service on Sunday 20 January
in St John's Church Hall.

All proceeds to Church Funds.



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

1	12 noon	THE NAMING & CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS Holy Communion (SJ w SM)
3	2.00 pm	First Thursday Prayers (CC)
6		EPIPHANY Services at the usual times
8	2.00 pm	Tuesday Teatimers (CC)
9	9.15 am 7.30 pm	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM) PCC at Christ Church
13		BAPTISM OF CHRIST Services at the usual times
14	7.30 pm 7.30 pm	Pray-Sing Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee (St John, Birclie)
15	2.00 pm	Tuesday Teatimers (CC)
16	9.15 am 7.30 pm	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM) Mothers' Union Holy Communion and soup supper
17	8.00 pm	PCC at St John w St Mark
20		EPIPHANY 3 Services at the usual times Bacon Butty Sunday (SJ w SM) 3.00 pm Ecumenical Service (All Saints') for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21	7.30 pm	Church Together in Bury – first AGM Tottington Methodist Church

22	2.00 pm	Tuesday Teatimers (CC)
23	9.15 am	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM)
26	7.30 pm	Brains of Walmersley Quiz (CC)
27		EPIPHANY 4 Services at the usual times
28	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod (All Saints')
29	2.00 pm	Tuesday Teatimers (CC)
30	9.15 am 7.30 pm	Coffee Morning & Toddler Group (SJ w SM) Commissioning of Cath Hilton (Cathedral)

The newly united Churches Together group for Bury is holding its first ever service, to mark this week of prayer. Our churches have played a significant role in working with our ecumenical partners over many years, so please try to support this occasion.

Sunday, 20 January at 3 pm
Tottington Methodist Church



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.



*Tuesday Teatimers
celebrate Christmas*