



Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury

in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road



December 2013

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
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 2 nd Parade Service	St John w St Mark

Wednesday

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

2.00 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
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

PLEASE NOTE

that the deadline for material to go in January's magazine is
December 10th (at the very LATEST)
or we shall not be able to have it printed in time.

A Period of Reflection

On the 6th of November I walked into Tesco at about 9pm to discover that Christmas had arrived. Poor Guy Fawkes was still warm in the embers of the bonfire and there to my horror was a massive Christmas tree and Christmas musak assaulted my ears. Seven weeks of unnecessary commercial activity had commenced and still 4 weeks away from Advent let alone Christmas. Each supermarket striving to get the edge on the others. But since they all do it all that happens is we consumers get sick of it. How far in advance do you need mince pies and all the trimmings?

It is a pity to rush so quickly into Christmas. Some people get going so early that by boxing day they are fed up with it and Christmas gets packed away. The church, in its wisdom, has a period of reflection before Christmas which strangely, as we are preparing for a new beginning, focuses on the end times. This season in the Church's year places heavy emphasis on Christ's second advent, when he will come to judge the quick and the dead, as the prayer book puts it. It is a season where churches, in contrast to the world outside, remain stark the only decoration being a simple Advent Wreath, each candle lit on the succeeding Sundays in Advent leading up to Christmas. We reflect on our mortality, and the stark reality that whatever apocalyptic events may occur in the world and the cosmos, we know for certain that our own "personal apocalypse" is at hand: our own death and judgment.

Advent is a time for us to reflect on our human destiny, as we look forward to the coming judgment, to that time when the King will return to set all things right. Fitting therefore that Advent follows on from what we now call the Kingdom season. Fitting also that Advent marks the beginning of the churches year.

It is a good time to reflect on the gravity, the weight of that glory that will be revealed to us in the Heavenly Kingdom and that is revealed in the coming of Christ then, now and in the future. Its beauty is not a sentimental one, but something like the awe we experience when we contemplate massive wonders of nature like

the Grand Canyon or a high mountain. Anyone who has ever experienced such a sight will feel that any sense of their own importance is dispelled immediately.

Which is a good place to start as we prepare to come before that little scrap of humanity, the Christ child, who incomprehensibly is both God and human. Who is both saviour and judge. That little babe who will grow up to be the greatest teacher the world has ever know, the man who is revered by so many of the world religions. The King who reigns above to whom every knee shall bow and every tongue confess to be Lord of all.

For many years I have been interested in the American tradition of shape-note singing. The hymn Idumea, composed by Charles Wesley, provides a challenging reflection on the Advent season's contemplation of our human destiny and the coming judgment. For me it captures the essence of what the Advent season invites us to do i.e. wake up from our spiritual lethargy, and be mindful of our end.

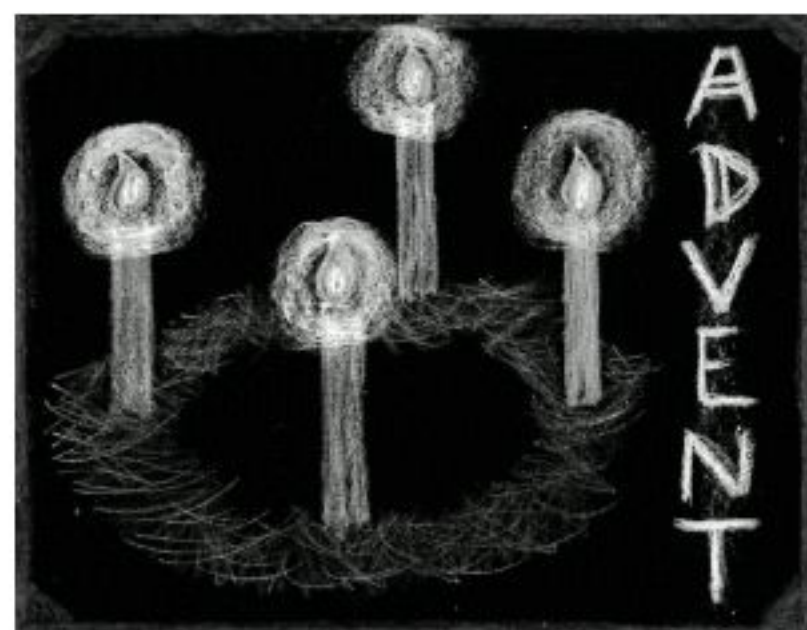
And am I born to die?
To lay this body down!
And must my trembling spirit fly
Into a world unknown?

A land of deepest shade,
Unpierced by human thought;
The dreary regions of the dead,
Where all things are forgot!

Soon as from earth I go,
What will become of me?
Eternal happiness or woe
Must then my portion be!

Waked by the trumpet sound,
I from my grave shall rise;
And see the Judge with glory crowned,
And see the flaming skies!

I wish you all a thoughtful Advent, Paul



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

November 3 Daniel Oliver Ivings
November 10 Rachel Jane Reith
November 17 Isla Rose Turner

We welcome them into the Lord's family

Weddings

November 23 Timothy Hargreaves & Vicky Greenwood

Those who God has joined together let no one put asunder

Funerals

November 19 Susan Gerrie

I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

December 1 In memory of Jennifer Melling and Mary Illesley
December 8 Vacant
December 15 Mr and Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
December 22 The Congregation
December 29 In memory of Mr and Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK FLOWER ARRANGERS

Is there someone who would like to join our numbers? Please see the clergy, wardens or Rosemarie Ashworth if you think you might like to try this job.

Thank You, Rosemarie

FROM THE VICARAGE

* From this month the 8.00 am & 9.00 am services at St.John with St.Mark will be replaced a single service at 8.30 am. All other services across the Benefice will remain the same.

* The 2014 church diary is now available. They cost £1 and are available at the back of both churches.

* During Advent there will be a service at 6.30 pm on Sunday evenings. Beginning with Evensong at Christ Church on Advent Sunday, Evening Prayer will then alternate between St.John with St.Mark and Christ Church, culminating with the Carol Service on 22 December at St.John with St.Mark. It will be good to see as many people as possible at these services.

* A celebration of the Chinese New Year will take place on Friday 31 January with a Chinese buffet in St.John with St.Mark's Church Hall, beginning at 7.30 pm. Further details nearer the time.

* The next Messy Church will take place at Christ Church on the morning of Saturday 7 December and as always, help is required on the day. The service lasts from 9.30-11.30 am.

* Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the 175 anniversary celebrations at Christ Church at the end of October. It was a very special occasion and it was good to see the church so full for the service.

* The outcome of last month's Public Enquiry into the application by the Friends of Walmersley Village for Village Green status for the church land at Christ Church should be known early in the New Year. Please continue to pray for this situation and its effect on both Christ Church and the parish.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meets every month - usually on the first Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please have a word with me.

* Please let one of our Ministry Team know if there any people you want us to pray for amongst the sick. But please also let us know if they can be removed from the list. Similarly, please contact us if you know of anyone requiring a visit or if someone enters hospital.

* Evening Prayer is said every Monday - Thursday at 5pm in St.John with St.Mark's Church. Everyone is welcome to join me there in this short service.



FIRST THURSDAY

A very informal gathering with time for tea & a chat before "Exploring our Faith", time for prayers and communion.

When The first Thursday of each month

Where The lower room in the Church Hall of Christ Church

Time 2pm - 3pm

Everyone welcome, do come and join in.

Transport can be arranged.

For more information please speak to or contact Revd Don Altham
tel. 0161 761 1603

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

1	First of Advent	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Romans 13: 11-14	Matthew 24: 36-44
8	Second of Advent	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Romans 15: 4-13	Matthew 3: 1-12
15	Third of Advent	Isaiah 25: 1-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11
22	Fourth of Advent	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Hebrews 1: 1-14	John 1: 1-14
25	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
26	St Stephen	2 Chronicles 24: 20-22	Acts 7: 51-60	Matthew 10: 17-22
27	St John the Apostle	Exodus 33: 7-11a	1 John 1	John 21: 19b-25
28	Holy Innocents	Jeremiah 31: 15-17	1 Corinthians 1: 26-29	Matthew 2: 13-18
29	First of Christmas	Isaiah 63: 7-9	Hebrews 2: 10-end	Matthew 2: 13-end

I ALMOST WENT TO CHURCH.....



We are sure that this does not apply to YOU, but maybe you know someone who would value an invitation to join you at one of our Christmas services. Bring a friend to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

I almost went to church last month, but couldn't find the time;
So much to do about the house, 'twas full of dust and grime
So I dusted and I polished and then went back to bed
But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church next week, but then an old friend came.
To close the door on her would really be a shame.
So we chatted and we reminisced until goodbyes were said,
But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I almost went to church last week, but the preacher who was there
Is known for the kind of sermon that I simply cannot bear.
So I curled up by the fireside, took up my book and read,
But I made a resolution to go next week instead.

I *did* go to church this week - alas, it was too late
The church was locked - with 'For Sale' upon the gate.
And then I felt remorse to think our little church was dead
And it was I who killed it 'cause I went next week instead.

If you are aware that someone is unable to come to church and would like to receive Holy Communion in their own home, please contact one of the clergy or readers.

Please let one of the Ministry Team know if you are aware that one of our church members is sick or enters hospital and may require a visit.



FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week 1

The season of Advent begins - the time of preparation for Christmas. Also the start of the church's year, so it seems appropriate to place the church at the centre of our thoughts.

We remember before God the worldwide church especially the churches currently facing violent opposition; the churches in Syria, in Egypt and Pakistan. May the members of these churches remain strong in their faith and receive help and support to overcome the difficult situations they face.

We pray for the church in this country, asking God's blessing on its leaders, that through their service the church may grow and the good news of Christ be spread.

We pray for the churches in our Benefice, that they may be Christ-centred, seeking always to do God's work and serving the needs of the whole community.

Lord, inspire us that your church may be holy, vibrant and compassionate.

Week Two A Children's prayer for Advent

Lord Jesus, in this Advent season we wait eagerly for your arrival. Come fill us with your hope, your peace, your love, and your joy. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

The world isn't like you wanted it to be. We don't love each other as you love us. So come and help us change. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**



The world is full of fighting and wars. We even find it difficult to get on with our friends and family sometimes. We need you, Jesus. Come show us how to live in peace. **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

Week Three

Hustling, bustling, buying, packing, have you time for me?
Writing, signing, stamping, posting, have you time for me?
Making, rolling, steaming, baking, have you time for me?
Icing, stuffing, decorating, have you time for me?



Because of me you're celebrating, lighting up the tree.
Because of me there's carol singing, crackers, fun and spree.
Because of me the star was shining, wise men there were three,
Because of me the sheep were bleating, shepherds came to see,
I am Jesus Christ your Saviour Please make room for me.

Iris Lewis



Week Four

A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every
greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and
Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Christmas Services



FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS

Sunday, 22 December
6.30 p.m.
at St John w St Mark

with brass band

CHRISTMAS EVE

Crib Service	5 pm	St John w St Mark
Family Celebration	6 pm	Christ Church



First Communion of Christmas

11.30 pm
in both churches

CHRISTMAS DAY



Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

10 am

in both churches

St JOHN, APOSTLE and EVANGELIST

Patronal Festival

at St John w St Mark

Friday 27 December

at 10.00am

NEW YEAR

Watchnight Service

at St John w St Mark

on 31 December

at 11.45pm



Holy Communion

at St John w St Mark

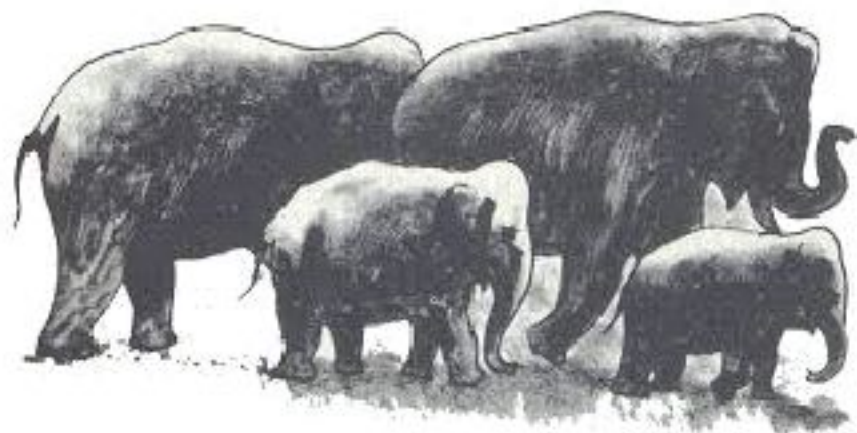
on Wednesday 1 January

at 10.00am

Inspiring, Emotional, Spiritual, Fun, Informative, Thought Provoking, Enthusing and Thankful were just a few of the words spinning in my head after attending Manchester Diocesan Mothers' Union Autumn Council meeting in Ardwick on November 2nd.

INFORMATIVE because we heard from all the various co-ordinators of the work that is taking place throughout the Diocese and beyond.

INSPIRING From Margaret Fairclough and her husband we heard about the progress in education that they saw in Namibia in Southern Africa where they had helped to build a school a few years ago.



FUN with Christine Sharp who gave her presentation using a cartoon character called Susie the Elephant to get her message over to us about "Passionate about Parenting". As we know, elephants

live in herds and nurture their young so well and look after each other's young too. A good example of parenting which Mothers' Union is passionate about.

EMOTIONAL Areas of the Diocese have been identified where there are no Mothers' Union branches. One of the most deprived areas of the country is Collyhurst. Cath, our Diocesan President, told us about a project to be started in 2014 called "Just Up Your Street". After identifying needs it can be seen where Mothers' Union can help and make a difference. On visiting Collyhurst she met Revd. Sian Gasson who attended the meeting and gave us much to think about as she shared stories of the deprivation and the needs in that part of Manchester.

THOUGHT PROVOKING Revd. Roy Chow, the co-ordinator for Faith and Policy made us think, when he asked us to write down

- "What does spirituality mean to you?"
- "What activity has developed your relationship with God?"
- "Who or what was involved?"

Perhaps you may like to answer them!!

SPIRITUAL The meeting was interwoven from start to finish with prayers, led by Revd. Sandra Kearney, Chaplain for Salford Archdeaconry.

ENTHUSIASING Cath ended the meeting by encouraging us to be enthusiastic by -----

- *Being Passionate about what we do.*
- *Being Grateful and Thankful*
- *Looking at the silver lining*
- *Being creative*
- *Making things happen*
- *Being patient, realistic and understanding*

and much more besides.

THANKFUL for all that the Mothers' Union does throughout the world and for making a difference to people's lives.



Local News On November 6th at Christ Church branch the Vicar celebrated Holy Communion before we enjoyed a Pie and Pea supper. The winner of this year's Postcard Competition was voted for - Claire and Don Altham won with a photograph entitled "Reflections of Alnwick Castle."

December 1 Deanery Advent Service, at Emmanuel Centre

December 4 Advent Meditation - please come and join in.

Jean Slater

CAPTION COMPETITION



Could you submit a caption for this photograph?

Entries to wrub@live.co.uk or hand to any member of the clergy, no later than Christmas Eve, please.

In true *Church Times* tradition there will be a Fair-trade prize for the winner. The judges' decision is final! The winning entry (and maybe a few more) will be published in February's magazine.

Photographers! If you have a suitable photograph for future months please email to wrub@live.co.uk





A picture to colour for Christmas



"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

The Open Group welcomed back Carol Hartley on 6 November to talk about her work in providing Shoeboxes for the poor people of Romania. Carol has been travelling to Romania for many years and has seen and experienced the extreme forms of poverty that large scale social deprivation and mass unemployment bring, with many families and children struggling daily to find food, clean water and suitable clothing.

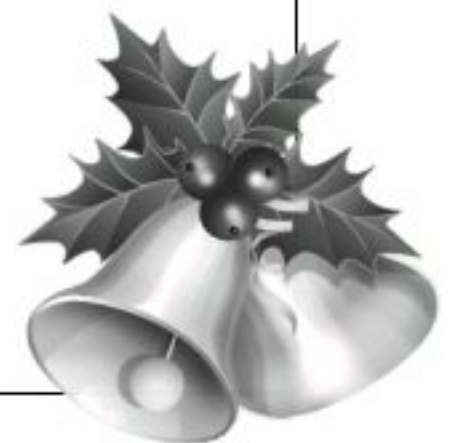
Carol explained that through the work of many aid agencies, things are now slowly improving and the group saw a large collection of photographs of people and places that Carol has been involved with in helping and supporting towards a better quality of life.



The Shoeboxes collected in the annual Christmas Appeal provide these families and orphaned children with small gifts that they can open and enjoy on Christmas Day. The kind of poverty that Carol ably described in her work with Romanian people is alien to the Western world and puts your own problems into perspective and also how important it is the Shoebox Appeal continues to prosper and grow.

THE OPEN GROUP THANK EVERYONE
FOR THEIR SUPPORT DURING 2013

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at our meetings in 2014.



Christ Church Autumn Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our Autumn Fair. The event raised over £1200 for church funds - of which 10% was donated to the Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People.

Over 100 people bought a programme which included a general knowledge quiz. The answers are as follows -

- 1- Blue
- 2- Sarah
- 3- Tea
- 4- 155
- 5- Bloomers
- 6- Magazine
- 7- Yellow/brown
- 8- Cambridge
- 9- Dodo
- 10- Silverstone
- 11- China
- 12- Alexander the Great
- 13- Wensleydale
- 14- Rutland Water
- 15- Bunting

No one got them all correct.

There were four entries which got just one wrong. They all went into the 'hat' and the lucky winner was Joan Riggs who received the prize - and now has lots of chocs to eat (or share!)





The Band & Corps of Drums of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

In concert at Christ Church Walmersley
7.30pm Saturday 14th December
Tickets £5 (inc light refreshments)

Further information contact Nigel Silvester 0161 761 5645

MUSLIM CHRISTIAN FORUM

invite you to

A FAMILY PARTY

Family fun, games and food.



This year's Christmas/Eid party will be held
at The Jinnah Centre, Bury
on Sunday 5th January, 6.30 p.m. for 7 - 9p.m.

Entrance FREE.

Tickets from Gillian Smith 0161 764 3563



'Little Voice' Stamps

Our collective response to the appeal for used stamps, both old and new, British and foreign, continues to be magnificent!

All stamps are collected and then sorted and sold to raise funds to support a charity called 'Little Voice', which aids a project working with children who live on the streets of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. A small school and a home for children who have known only the streets as their home has been set up to provide food, clothing, health care, a basic education and recreational activities for them.

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



The box to put them in is, as usual, at the back of Christ Church.

Many thanks again,
David Peters



COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

St John with St Mark Church Hall
Saturday 14th December from 10.00am

BOOKS

BRIC A BRAC

CAKES

BACON SANDWICHES

TEA & COFFEE

OTHER STALLS



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

1		First of Advent Services as usual (NB 8.30 am at SJSM) Evensong (CC) 6.30 pm 2.30 pm
2	6.30 pm	Christingle Service (CC)
4	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union - Advent Meditation
5	8.00 pm	PCC (SJSM)
8		Second of Advent Service times as usual 10.30 am Junior Church Celebration (CC) 10.30 am Christingle (SJSM) 6.30 pm Evening Prayer (SJSM)
11		Mothers' Union Christmas Meal
14	10.00 am 7.30 pm	Coffee Morning and Book Fair (SJSM) Band Concert (CC)
15		Third of Advent Services as usual 6.30 pm Evening Prayer (CC)
17		Joint PCC (SJSM)
22		Fourth of Advent Services as usual 6.30 pm Festival of Carols (SJSM)
		For Christmas Services see centre pages
29		First of Christmas Services as usual
31		Family Party, free admission (SJSM)



MESSY CHURCH

Christ Church Walmersley

Saturday 7th December

Worship

14

Craft

16

For all the family

18

19

Food

21

22

23

Children must be accompanied by an adult

11

10

6