



**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury
in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



December 2014 and January 2015



50p



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

Saturday

4.00 p.m.	1 st Messy Church	Christ Church
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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.



Both churches have the Child Friendly Church award

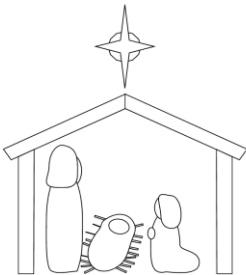
Both churches have Fairtrade status



A Seasonal Reflection

'So this is Christmas and what have you done? Another year over and a new one just begun.'

So sang John Lennon in his Christmas song in 1971. The song wishes us a fun Christmas but also reflects that there are those who, Christmas or not, won't be having such a fun filled time. Those for whom the daily troubles continue – the struggle with war, hunger; the weak and the poor. It also reminds us that another year is drawing to a close and poses the question 'what have you done?' and, I think, prompts us to have a reflective moment as we consider, in the light of answering that question, doing things differently in the new year which is approaching.



As Christians our prime focus at Christmas is the celebration that some two thousand years ago Jesus was born into this world. A celebration that God came in human form to re-establish the relationship with us – to save us from our sins – to save us from ourselves! So it should be a time of fun; a time of joy; a time to celebrate the good things of life. Also to be mindful of all the blessings God provides. No better reason to enjoy the celebration! The difficulty these days is that the celebration has been taken over by those who no longer know the real reason for the celebration. We are urged to eat, drink and be merry – to over indulge and over spend – because if you don't then you are a party-pooper. It is hard not to get drawn into the knees-up; swept along by the retail and media pressure.

However, while many are going over the top, many are going under. One thing which can help to pull us back to our prime focus is to remember that Jesus came for *all* mankind – not just those fortunate enough to be able to celebrate in style. He came for everyone. In John Lennon's words, *'For weak and for strong, for rich and for the poor one, the world is so wrong.'*

At Christmas we remember those facing the daily struggle in so many places, including our own country. We remember them in our prayers and by our action - as we give money and goods to help those less fortunate. It is no coincidence that charities make a particular plea to us at Christmas. They are fully aware that even those who have little or no knowledge of Jesus still have that echo in their hearts which speaks of goodwill, justice and peace for all mankind which the angels sang about when they proclaimed the birth of Jesus all those years ago.

As we count down the days of 2014 toward 2015 we will be looking back and then looking forward. What will we be taking from the old into the new? I feel it is a bit like that moment when we move house. Packing up the old with its memories and deciding what will move with us and what will be left to be disposed of in the wheelie bin of history. Some things we really want to take with us, things we can't bear to be without. Some things we realise we need to put down and leave behind. A new year beckons full of possibilities, full of adventure. We pray for each other that we enter into it in confidence knowing that God is with us – born a babe in Bethlehem to be with us where ever life may lead us.

I leave you with the final words from John Lennon's song, *'A very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Let's hope it's a good one without any fear.'*

Nigel

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER

7 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11 2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mark 1: 1-8

14 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 John 1: 6-8, 19-28

21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16 Romans 16, 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38

25 Christmas Day

28 First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Galatians 4: 4-7 Luke 2: 15-21

JANUARY

4 Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31: 7-14 Ephesians 1: 3-14 John 1: 10-18

11 The Baptism of Christ

Genesis 1: 1-5 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11

18 Second Sunday of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Revelation 5: 1-10 John 1: 43-51

25 Conversion of St Paul

Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Acts 9: 1-22 Matt 19: 27-30





FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Nov 2 Ellis Jacob Fishwick

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Funerals

Nov 10 Muriel Stothard

Nov 18 Jennifer Jones

Nov 20 Derek Fish

'I am the resurrection and the life' says the Lord



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

- December 7 Mrs. M. Booth in memory of the Booth family
- December 14 Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
- December 21 Congregation
- December 28 In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme
- January 4 Mr. J Clegg
- January 11 Mr & Mrs J McDermott
in memory of their daughter Carol
- January 18 In memory of Mr & Mrs E. Todd

ADVENT – a season of hope



Advent is a word that means “coming” or “visit”. In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the “advent” of Christ at Christmas. Our preparation includes many things:

- We remember Israel’s hope for the coming of God’s Messiah to save, to forgive, and to restore.
- We remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus.
- We remember our need for a Savior to save us from our sins.
- We prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas into our world . . . and into our hearts.

As you open the windows of your (Real Christmas) Advent calendar, and eat the chocolate, why not use this new resource too.

It is a small booklet with a simple prayer activity for children and families to do together, every day of December

– just £1.50 Please have a word with any of the ministers if you would like to obtain a copy.



Check out the diary for Advent services or meditations – not Christmas ‘come too soon’ but worship with a very special focus.



NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 16 OCTOBER 2014

A slightly smaller than usual PCC gathered, and the main focus for this meeting was around our charitable giving. Each year we traditionally vote to donate 10% of our previous year's planned giving to a number of 10 charities, varying from overseas mission, overseas relief and development, UK mission and UK secular. It was agreed in principle to continue with this and various charities were discussed and some PCC members gave their reasons for their choices. A balance across all of the above 4 categories was reached.

Dave updated us on the arrangements for the 50th Anniversary meal on Friday 5th December. Invites have been sent to former Clergy members and some have already accepted. The meal will be known as the Golden Jubilee Meal and will include 3 courses plus tea or coffee.

The feedback on the recent Parade/Family services was looked at. Overall it was thought that the services were enjoyable and the experiment with the nave altar had been a success, however the administration of Holy Communion needs to be looked at due to minor problems.

Dave thanked people for their donations of Harvest gifts for the Booth Centre and advised that he had recently visited their centre in Manchester.

There were no current updates on the west window.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Thursday 11th December at 8.00pm and a joint Benefice PCC day will take place on Saturday 31st January 2015.

NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

CHRIST CHURCH MEETING ON 27 OCTOBER

The fund raising event for the 10th of January 2015 has now been moved to the 17th of January 2015

The faculty for new ladders in the church tower is still under review at the diocese. It was proposed to go ahead with temporary repairs to the opening in the roof of the tower by obtaining permission from the chancellor at the diocese

The parish share amount that has been paid to date is £20,000. The total asked for this year is £34,471

It was decided that we will keep a wreath for the war memorial to be used each year and we will obtain a poppy box for sale in church prior to the remembrance service.

In previous minutes it was discussed whether we should build a new church or modify the existing church. The vicar stated that he had thought very long about the previous discussions regarding modifying the existing church or building a new one and he had come to the conclusion that we would be better putting our efforts into building a new church. The vicar and some PCC members felt that a new church would be better in the position of the old church and some members proposed that we should modify the existing church. It was proposed that we would visit 4 new churches in the area and discuss the position further. It was decided to make a future date for a meeting with certain members of the PCC and the congregation also for a discussion on the subject. The vicar commented that he hoped by the time of the next AGM that we are in a position to say what we want to do with the church, firstly with the congregation and secondly with the community.

Due to the poor condition of the stage and the fact that it is not used it was decided to remove it rather than carry out expensive repairs.

Messy church will be on the 11th of January 2015 the parade service will be Messy Sunday.

It was decided to provide paper towel holders, toilet roll holders, and soap dispensers

Reports were received from Synod, Fund raising and property committees.

Ian Riddick PCC secretary.

Christmas starts with Christ



Christmas Services

FESTIVAL OF READINGS AND CAROLS

Sunday, 21 December
6.30 p.m.
at Christ Church

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
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CHRISTMAS DAY



Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ
10 am in both churches

SUPPORTING THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

In 1899 three commercial travellers in the USA formed an association of Christian businessmen to encourage each other in their Christian faith and to spread knowledge of God through personal evangelism and united service for the Lord Jesus Christ.

They chose the name Gideons after an Old Testament leader who, with a few chosen men, did a great work for God. (Judges 6)

Toda, the Gideons International works in almost 200 countries placing over 80 million Bibles in places every year.

Locally, the Bury Branch of the Gideons, visit the High Schools in the area as well as promoting the work of the Gideons within the community.

They would ask us to support them in these specific requests:

- A firm contact to be established into ALL the local high schools. (At present two schools do not encourage access.)
- There is an urgent need for new younger members to join the Gideons to continue the work of distribution of God's work locally.
- Whenever Christians from the United Benefice of Walmersley Road go on holiday and stay in a hotel or guest house, please inquire if a Gideons Bible is available. If a Bible is present, please compliment the management on their policy.

The Gideons are a non-denominational extended missionary arm of the Christian church. They work closely with Christian churches, through whom they draw their membership, prayer and financial support.

Further information can be obtained at www.gideons.org.uk



FROM THE VICARAGE

* The recent Craft Fair at Christ Church raised a total of £763.45. Thanks to all those who helped and supported this event.

* If you have not already obtained your 2015 benefice diaries, please do so before they run out! They are free of charge but a donation of £1 is suggested if you wish to contribute in this way.

* We have had a letter from the Booth Centre in Manchester, thanking us for the food donations sent by St.John with St.Mark from the Harvest Service. Part of the letter states that: "As a small charity that works directly with homeless people your donations of food will help us to provide hot, cooked meals to over 170 people each week. We can only continue to provide this help to those who need it most with the support of people like yourselves in our community." Earlier this year the Booth Centre moved from a small room in the Cathedral to a new building on Pimblett Street, close to Victoria Station. This has enabled them to increase their role of providing activities, advice and support for homeless people.

In a similar vein, the Victoria House Night Shelter, in Openshaw – supported by Christ Church as part of their Harvest giving – is always in need of food, bedding, clothing toiletries etc. Please let me know if you can help.

* Our newly formed Walking Group arranges a Saturday walk each month in the local area. Recent treks have been to Waugh's Well and Simpson Clough. For further information speak to Paul Sanderson, Ralph Mallinson or Geoff Hamilton.

* Advent Study Groups are taking place at the moment – on Thursdays at 2pm at Christ Church in the hall and on Tuesday evenings at St.John with St.Mark at the home of Ian & June Banks – 150 Walmersley Road. All are welcome.

* Material for editions of this parish magazine should be given in by the 14th of the preceding month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk

* Please note that my e-mail address is now **dvjt@outlook.com** Items sent to my old address will not reach me but continue to float around the ether.

* The Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's every Wednesday evening arranges baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or is an opportunity perhaps for a chat with one of the clergy. We meet between 6.30pm-7.00pm.

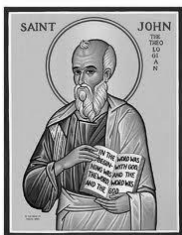
* We are still in need of a Treasurer at Christ Church. If you are interested in this post or would like further information about it, please have a word with me or one of the wardens. If by the end of 2014, no-one takes over the role, it may be necessary to pay a local accountant to be our Treasurer.

Saturday 27 December 2014

ST.JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Patronal Festival

Holy Communion - 10.00am



FOR QUIET MOMENTS

Week 1

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.



God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

Week 2

Advent God, we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King,
ears attuned to the song of angels,
eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.

Forgive us
if on our journey
if we are distracted
by the tempting offers
of this world.

Keep our hearts aflame
with the hope of Christmas,
and the promise of a Saviour.



Week 3 A Poem by Tim Carter



It was Christmas Eve
And the world stood still
Just for a moment

Waiting
Wondering
Hoping

Might it be that this time
This time of all times
The promise would be fulfilled
And the wars would end
And the crying cease
And the people join hands in unity?

Waiting
Wondering
Hoping

Might it be this time
This time of all times?

Week 4

Christmas Day;
Angels and stars,
shepherds and travellers,
a new born child.

An old story
Full of love and danger,
laying bare the beauty
of an amazing God.

Ruth Burgess



Week 5

At the beginning of the New Year, Lord may we resolve to
love mercy
act justly
and walk humbly with you our God.

Help us to be a forward looking people
ready to respond to each new vision you give us;
ready to act on your word to us,
ready to love our neighbours as ourselves and
ready to walk boldly into the future with Christ.

and **WHAT** *Lord* require of you?
DOES THE
To act **JUSTLY** and
To love **MERCY** and
To walk **HUMBLY**
with your *God*
MICAH 6:8

Week Six

The wise men brought their gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. We cannot match the richness of their offerings but the words of this hymn tell us what our gift should be.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him -
Give my heart.



Christina Rosetti

Week Seven



As we remember the baptism of Jesus, we pray for all those baptised in our churches.

We pray that the children may have homes which are loving and caring and that they will grow in faith. Help us to value the children in our care whether as parents, grandparents, godparents or friends.

As Jesus welcomed the children into his presence, so may we welcome them into church family.

Week 8 A prayer for Christian unity

Lord Jesus you prayed that your disciples might be one as you are one with the Father.

Help us, divided as we are, to grieve for our unfaithfulness. Give us the honesty to acknowledge and the courage to reject our apathy, our mistrust, and our intolerance.

Make us one in heart and mind in your love, that being bound together in true fellowship we may present a united witness to the world, according to your will and for the glory of your name.



We welcome all contributions for these pages – Editors

Junior Church Presentation Service

This year the special service celebrating all our Christ Church Junior Church members and their leaders will be held at 10.30 am on Sunday December 14th – Family and Parade Service

It is a very important date in Junior Church's calendar and we hope that every member and their family will come to church to see each child receive a special certificate to commemorate their attendance during the past year, to give out attendance badges and for some to receive a gift of a bible.

It is hoped that the children will play a part in the service and that there will be a good turnout of congregation to support them.

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ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CHURCH

ECUMENICAL SERVICE
to mark the beginning of the

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY 2015

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY

2.30pm

ALL WELCOME



Shoe Box Appeal 2014

WOW!!

A total of 210 boxes were made up from your contributions, so a huge thank you to all who donated items.



The boxes, in aid of Samaritan's Purse were collected from St. John with St. Mark on 10 November.



We do collect all year round, and this year we found it really hard to get shoe boxes, small soft toys, and knitted goods, so if you have any now then we are starting the collection again.

Once again, thank you so much.

Kelly Watson

What is our 2015 target?

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



The Vicar and Linda
wish everyone
a Happy and Blessed Christmas

Mona Haworth wishes you all,
"Joy and Peace at Christmas
and throughout the New Year"



THE CHOIR AT ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK
WISHES EVERYBODY SEASONS GREETINGS
AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2015

Barbara & Bob
Taylor and family
wish you all a
peaceful and joyful
Christmas



"Lord be born in
our hearts and
come alive in us
this Christmas."

From members of
Mothers' Union

More than Christmas wreaths
Hanging on our doors
Is Jesus Christ's wondrous birth.
Christmas Blessings from
Catherine and Dennis Hilton and family.





David Robinson wishes all across the
 United Benefice of Walmersley Road
 a peaceful and happy Christmas
 and all the best for 2015.

May your
 Christmas be
 wrapped in the
 blessings of his
 love.
 Jean & Frank
 Slater



Have a Happy,
 Happy
 Christmastime
 from Junior
 Church and
 Sunday School



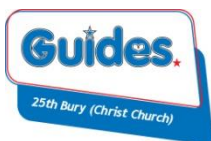
With love at
 Christmas, from
 Margery and
 Alan Spencer



Wishing a joyful and peaceful Christmas
 to all our friends in the Benefice.
 Love and best wishes, June and Ian Banks xx



Archdeacon David and Kathryn
 send their love and prayers
 to the church family,
 and may each one of you
 know the peace of the Christ child.



A year in the life of....

January

999? Call the Guides instead! They have learnt CPR, recovery position and a number of ways to tie bandages.

GONG XI FA CHI! We celebrated Chinese New Year and the Year of the Horse with a variety of food, games and crafts.

February

Flipping fantastic.....well one pancake was. The rest were a bit of a mess but still tasted good once covered with lemon, sugar or chocolate!

March

We completed our fire safety badge. We talked about safety at home and at Guides, made posters regarding fires and finished off with an amazing visit to Bury fire station. Green Watch were very kind and dressed Ella up in a uniform, took us for a ride in the fire engine with sirens and we finished off by soaking each other with fire hoses before being presented with our badges.



April

We decorated our own Easter bonnets and had a parade, and in true Guide form – chocolate crispy cake nests.

To finish off the term we had a trip to Bolton and went roller skating. We all had a great time skating with disco music and lights and even led our own conga!

May

"The Big Gig at the Echo Arena was an amazing event for all the guides who attended. The lineup was brilliant and included big stars such as Pixie Lott and Tinie Tempah. The atmosphere was electric and there were lots of bright lights and screaming! The thing I enjoyed most was the songs because I've never heard anyone play live before and it was awesome." Molly

June

We spent a night learning how to do a clove hitch and reef knot and square lashing. We then used our skills to build mini rafts from doweling and string. Our plan for a future meeting was to walk to Burrs and race the rafts along the river but in true British weather this never happened!

July

At the start of the month we went on camp with St Stephen's Guides. We went to Waddow Hall in Clitheroe and our theme was the Commonwealth Games. We did lots of activities including archery, climbing and our own version of the Commonwealth Games. We had to do synchronised swimming on land, javelin with a straw, discus with a paper plate and shooting water balloons with nerf guns. On the Saturday night we had a campfire, sang songs and toasted marshmallows to make smores. We were then presented with the 'Ready, Steady, Glasgow' challenge badge.



To finish off the term we had a games night on the church field playing rounders and frizbee and ate burgers and sausages off the BBQ and toasted more marshmallows to eat more smores!

August

Summer holidays for the guides ☺

Leaders' planning meeting for next term ☺!

September

When we started back after the summer holiday we spent a few weeks completing our science badge. We completed 9 different experiments. These included carrot racing, building towers to hold a tin of beans, picking up tin foil with a balloon, reaction and balance tests and floating a paper clip on water.

October

To celebrate the end of the Brownies 100 years celebration Bury Division organised a silent disco. This involved us all wearing our own headphones and picking which channel we wanted to listen to. We left the Frozen channel to the Brownies and we listened and danced to some proper music.

November



With Remembrance Day falling in this month we spent one evening thinking about this and based our craft on poppies. We used sequins to stick onto our existing poppy to make it nice and shiny. Then we used a variety of craft materials to make lots of poppies to construct a wreath which was in church on Remembrance Sunday.

December

In the lead up we will be getting ready for Christmas. We have planned to make Christmas cards, candy cane decorations and will be making a candle flower table arrangement.

To finish off the year we will be having a trip to Jump Nation trampoline centre at Trafford where there are 139 trampolines including ones on the walls. While we are there 6 Guides will be making their promise.

2015

Next year will be another fun, action packed year for all involved!

COPPER COLLECTION

It is now almost a year since we introduced a Copper Collection for charity at the end of our 10.30am Service at St. John with St. Mark and we thought we would give you an update.

The charities are mainly chosen by the young people of our Church and as well as being a worthwhile way to rid our purses and pockets of small change, we have also seen the following charities benefit from this collection:



Cancer Research – received £81.00

Barnados – received £66.00

Children’s Society – received £92.00

We have also recently supported Ronald McDonald House, Ward 84 at Manchester Children’s Hospital and our current nominated charity is Children’s Relief Bethlehem UK.

We wish to thank everybody who has contributed to these collections.



From Advent Sunday, a copper collection will be held during the last hymn at Christ Church, This will be collected by members of our Junior Church. Please bring along any loose copper for this collection. The donations will be sent to various charities – the first one being Children’s Relief Bethlehem UK.



Getting ready

That is what we shall be doing

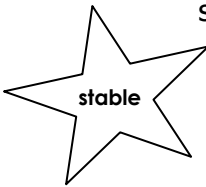
On **Saturday, 6 December**

4 to 6 p.m.

In the **Church Hall, School Lane**

All the usual Messy things –

songs and stories,
sticking, threading and colouring,
eating



and simply having fun together

Messy Church is for everyone. Children
need to be with an adult – but adults
on their own will be welcome!



Why not just come along?

Help, take part, just watch!

And bring some friends – there may not
have been room at the inn but there is
plenty in the Church Hall.

A great opportunity to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

After all



Baptism of Christ



water
dove
cross
light
are symbols of
baptism we
shall use

Do you know
the date you
were baptised
(christened)?

There will be
an opportunity
for us all to
renew or
make our
commitment
to Christ

Family and Parade Service

At Christ Church

on 11 January

will be different and exciting

– we do hope that you will be
there to share in the
experience.

1. We shall meet in the Hall
2. It will have a more
informal style
3. Tea and coffee will be
served throughout
4. It is for everyone –
however young or not so
young
5. We shall finish by 12 noon
6. and have a simple FREE
lunch afterwards

PLEASE COME AND BRING
A FRIEND TOO

News from our Church School

* The choir of St.John with St.Mark CE School appeared on BBC Television's Children in Need programme on Friday 14 November live from the Blackpool Tower Circus. The children were wonderful ambassadors for the school.

* The Choir will also be singing at the Carol Service on Sunday 21 December at Christ Church, beginning at 6.30pm.

* **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

Wednesday 3 December:	2.00pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 9 December		Christmas Dinner
Thursday 11 December	9.05am	Nursery Nativity
Friday 12 December	9.30am	Reception Nativity
Monday 15 December	1.30pm	Song for Christmas
Friday 19 December		End of Term
Monday 5 January		Spring Term starts

* "This is a good school. Parents and carers express full confidence in its work. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding."

OfSTED Inspection: April 2012



PLEASE PRAY FOR MRS MOORE
AND ALL THE CHILDREN,
FAMILIES, STAFF
& GOVERNORS
CONNECTED WITH
THE SCHOOL



COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

St John with St Mark Church Hall
Saturday 13th December from 10.00am

BOOKS

BRIC A BRAC

CAKES

BACON SANDWICHES

TEA & COFFEE

OTHER STALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS

GOLDEN JUBILEE MEAL

Friday, 5 December

7.30 p.m.

Celebrating 50 years of the consecration of our
church building 1964 – 2014

£5.00

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

STUART & ROSEMARIE ASHWORTH



If you want to get ahead, get a hat!!

1. Sounds like our home townBeret
2. Hide of a woolly animalBearskin
3. This one is a canalPanama
4. One who takes to the waterBoater
5. A Junction not ruralTurban
6. This one is definitely the highestTop Hat
7. A race for donkeysDerby
8. Eat this with picklePork pie
9. Good French female at junctionBonnet
10. Altered Indian starter.....Hijab
11. Protects young plantsCloche
12. Sad with ROSombrero
13. One who is enchantingFascinator
14. A Prime ministerAnthony Eden
15. A novel oneTrilby
16. Keep your tablets inPill box
17. Keep the same boyStetson
18. A Robert Burns PoemTam O Shanter
19. Group and a girlBandanna
20. Something to cook on, something to smoke... Stovepipe

Fourteen entries were received with three totally correct answers. The names were put into a hat and the winner is Denise Ives.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES



MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

6.30pm

at both CHRIST CHURCH
& St.JOHN with St.MARK



ALL WELCOME
Bring a toy for
a local child in need

Christmas cards



Christmas cards
with a view of Christ Church,
painted by Sue Walker,
are available in church or from
Margery Spencer
5 cards in a pack for £2.50
Proceeds to Christ Church
funds.



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

A well attended Open Group on Wednesday 12th November welcomed back Ian Banks to give an illustrated talk on 'Inspirational Artists'. Ian began by describing the different works of many famous painters of Russian, Japanese, French & British origins from the 15th Century to modern times.

Ian described examples of painter Gaugin, recognised as one of the most fascinating figures in the history of painting; of Rubens, described as a prolific painter travelling the world taking orders from wealthy and important clients; the striking and bizarre works of Salvador Dali in surreal form and of Picasso, both sculptor and painter, to name but a few of his skills.

In addition, Ian also presented a few of his own collection of paintings and illustrated books, which together created an interesting question put to the group – 'When seeing a painting, do you see it as a joy or complaint?' Interestingly, there was much varied response and opinions from group members as to what paintings actually mean to the observer, that no painting means the same thing to all people.

As a swansong, Ian amusingly brought to the group the works of artist Banksy, a person or persons whose real name and identity remains unknown? Originating from the Bristol underground scene, he became increasingly popular as a graffiti artist, political activist, film director and painter. Banksy displays his street art on public walls and remains a controversial character in the modern art world.

A thorough entertaining evening was enjoyed by everyone with Ian being invited back again next year by popular demand.

Open Group members, please remember that our Christmas Party will be held in the Library on Wednesday 3rd December at 6.30pm for those of you who have booked.



In the meantime, we wish everybody across the United Benefice a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2015.

'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

At our meeting on 5th November amidst the noise of the fireworks outside we joined in Holy Communion led by Janet Lyssejko, where we found our own inner peace in prayer and worship. This was followed with our annual pie and pea supper and home made parkin - thoroughly enjoyed by our members. An additional celebration took place singing happy birthday to Pat Mongey who brought some very tasty chocolate Florentines to add to the celebrations.

Our notices this month are to remind you all of our forthcoming events.

Deanery Advent Service at St Peter's Church, Manchester Road on Sunday 30th November 2.30pm. Please bring donations of any warm hats, gloves, scarves and socks to this service so that these can be given to the street sleepers and homeless in Bury who we are supporting in our Up Your Street project.

In December

- Weds 3rd Dec CCW branch meeting 7.30 pm Advent Thoughts - led by the male members of our branch.
- Thurs 4th Dec 1.30pm Diocesan Advent Service at St Ann, Manchester
- Our annual Christmas meal is on Weds 10th December meeting at 7pm, eating 7.30pm, at The Red Hall Hotel. Please remember to bring your gifts for Santa's sack.

In love and fellowship Tricia Stokes

Sanctuary from the Trenches

On Monday 27th October a group of Mothers' Union members and friends gathered at School Lane Walmersley to set off to Dunham Massey in Cheshire to visit the recreation of the First World War hospital for wounded service men – Stamford Hospital. It was a good job we had pre-booked as a group as when we arrived there was a long queue to get in, so popular and half term! Tickets distributed we went our separate ways till it was our turn to enter the exhibition – strange but nearly everyone decided it was time for a coffee first! We set about to explore the grounds and gardens – magnificent even in October.

When it was our turn to go into the house we were told that you could touch objects but not to try and interact with the actors who were giving short scenes of every day life in the hospital. Most of the ground floor had been changed back to 1917. It was a real eye opener to medicine in that era, facilities we take for granted today just didn't exist. The soldiers that were sent back there from the trenches had various medical complaints ranging from shell shock and shrapnel wounds to trench foot and fever. Things like transfusions were in their infancy then, it was very much fresh air and rest. But they were constantly being harried to send the soldiers back to the front as we heard in one of the many re- enactments.

Their day was strictly regulated and visitors were only allowed for 2 hours on a Wednesday and Sunday, if you could get there.

The best thing was you could go round at your own pace, which was good as there was so much to take in, I think I would have been thrown out at closing time if it were not for my companions wanting a late lunch!- which was very good by the way- the National Trust does make good food.

We set off home about 3pm to avoid the rush hour round Manchester. The exhibition and House has now closed for the winter but due to great demand the exhibition is being retained for 2015 opening again around Easter. I would certainly recommend it to anyone.

Barbara Silvester

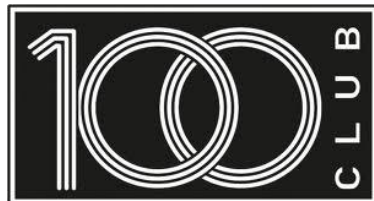
SATURDAY JANUARY 17TH
10AM –1PM
AT CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY
IN AID OF CHURCH REPAIRS
CAKE STALL, BRIC A BRAC and BOOKS
MORNING COFFEE & BACON SANDWICHES
ADDMISSION FREE
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT US

OCTOBER 2014 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ David Robinson

2nd Prize ~ Mary Howarth

3rd Prize ~ Wendy Keir



NOVEMBER 2014 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ Vicky Senior

2nd Prize ~ John Peat

3rd Prize ~ Sandra Anderton

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

1	6.30 pm	Christingle Service (both)
3	6.30 pm 7.30 pm	Open Group Christmas Party (SJM) Mothers' Union – Advent Thoughts (CC)
5	7.30 pm	Golden Jubilee Meal (SJM)
6	4.00 pm	Messy Christmas (CC)
7		Second Sunday of Advent Services as usual
10	7 for 7.30 pm	Mothers' Union Christmas Meal
11	8.00pm	PCC Meeting (SJM)
13	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and Book Fair (SJM)
14		Third Sunday of Advent Services as usual
	10.30.am	Junior Church Presentation Service (CC)
21		Fourth Sunday of Advent Services as usual
	6.30 pm	Carol Service
24		Christmas Eve
	5.00 pm	Crib Service (SJM)
	6.00 pm	Family Celebration (CC)
	11.30 pm	Holy Communion (both)
25		Christmas Day
	10.00 am	Holy Communion (both)

- 27 10.00 am **St John, Apostle & Evangelist**
Patronal Festival Eucharist (SJM)
- 28 **First Sunday of Christmas**
Services as usual
- JANUARY
- 4 **Second Sunday of Christmas**
Services as usual
- 11 **Baptism of Christ**
Services as usual
(10.30 am at CC in Hall)
- 17 10.00 am Coffee Morning (CC)
- 18 **Second Sunday of Epiphany**
Services as usual
- 25 **Conversion of St Paul**
Services as usual
- 31 Joint PCC away day



JOINT SOCIAL EVENT

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CHURCH, HALL

Friday 20 February 7.30pm £7

CHINESE BUFFET & entertainment
to celebrate the Chinese New Year

For
Unto
us a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!

Isaiah 9:6