



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



**December 2015 – January 2016**



**50p**



## ***REGULAR SERVICES***

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### **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 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Family and Parade 3 <sup>rd</sup> Holy Communion 4 <sup>th</sup> Service of the Word 5 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parade Service	St John w St Mark

**Monday** Monday@2 49 Fairlands Road

### **First Monday**

7.30 p.m. Listening Prayer 150 Walmersley Road

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday**

2.00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



Both churches have the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



## ***DEAR FRIENDS***

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“Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine;  
Love was born at Christmas  
Star and angels gave the sign”

Those words of the popular carol by Christina Rossetti, sum up the essential message of Christmas. That “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

Amidst the seemingly endless commercialism, the overspending and overeating, the presents and the parties; within the stories of donkeys, stables, angels, shepherds and wise men etc, the essential and simple truth of Christmas is that God is Love and Jesus – the son of God – shows that love to the world.

Sadly that message is usually forgotten in our contemporary Christmas. The true meaning is neglected and overlooked to our detriment and shame.

Why not take some time at this season to concentrate on the real Christmas – a Christmas based on Love.

“Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men  
Love for plea and gift and sign.”

May the God of Love bless you this Christmas time and may that Love guide and inspire you throughout 2016.

Dave



## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY***

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Dec 6 2<sup>nd</sup> of ADVENT

Malachi 3: 1-4      Philippians 1: 3-11      Luke 3: 1-6

Dec 13 3<sup>rd</sup> of ADVENT

Zephaniah 3: 14-20      Philippians 4: 4-7      Luke 3: 7-18

Dec 20 4<sup>th</sup> of ADVENT

Micah 5: 2-5a      Hebrews 10: 5-10      Luke 1: 39-55

Dec 27 ST.JOHN'S DAY

Exodus 33: 7-11a      1 John 1      John 21: 19b-25

Jan 3 2<sup>nd</sup> of CHRISTMAS

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

Jan 10 BAPTISM OF  
CHRIST

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

Jan 17 2<sup>nd</sup> of EPIPHANY

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

Jan 24 3<sup>rd</sup> of EPIPHANY

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

Jan 31 CANDLEMAS

Malachi 3: 1-5      Hebrews 2: 14-18      Luke 2: 22-40

THE PRIORY Highbank CENTRE  
 2015 Christmas Service  
 Wednesday 16 December: 2.30pm  
 ALL WELCOME



## ***ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2015***

Mon, 7 Dec	6.30pm	Christingle Services	CCW & JMB
Sun, 20 Dec	6.30pm	Benefice Carol Service	JMB
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib Service	JMB
	6.00pm	Family Service	CCW
	11.30pm	Parish Communion	CCW & JMB
Christmas Day	10.00am	Family Communion	CCW & JMB
Sun, 27 Dec	10.30am	Joint Benefice Service	JMB
		No 8.30 am service at SJM	

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

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### **Baptisms**

October 18                      Lydia Helena Rose Wade  
   Zak Christopher Stephen Wade  
November 1                     Niamh Alice Ogdon  
   Karen Louise Ogdon

*"In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit....."*

### **Blessing of marriage vows**

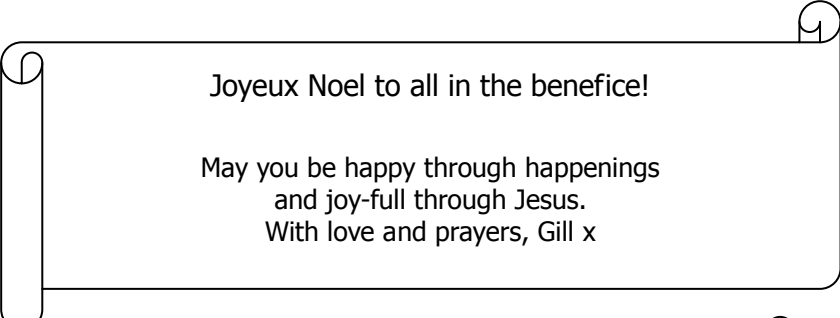
November 14                  Scott Margrave & Zoe Buckley

*"Those who God has joined together let no one put asunder"*

### **Funerals**

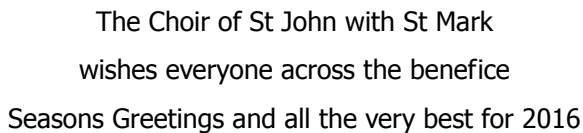
November 9                     Dorothy Spencer

*"I am the resurrection and the life....."*



Joyeux Noel to all in the benefice!

May you be happy through happenings  
and joy-full through Jesus.  
With love and prayers, Gill x



The Choir of St John with St Mark  
wishes everyone across the benefice  
Seasons Greetings and all the very best for 2016

## OVERWHELMED

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“Thank you” is just not adequate enough to say how much my ministry and last services in the United Benefice have meant to me.

I was called by God to serve in this benefice and, for me, that it just what I have been doing over the last 8 years. I was brought up with the ethos of “If a job is there to be done Janet, get on with it and give it your all”. Hopefully that is just what I have done - just got on with what I was called to do - serve.

As I led my last services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November in the benefice, I have been overwhelmed by everyone. The lovely messages of thanks, support, good wishes and love. I have been totally blown away by the gorgeous gifts that I have received – totally so not deserved, but Thank You and it means that you will always be with me wherever I am. Apparently Vicar Dave went shopping, so in his spare time, he will make a great Personal Shopper!

Thank you so, so much for all that we have been together, for the support and for letting me walk alongside you, the privilege has been all mine.

Once again, “Thank you” and may you all be “Blessed” as you travel on in your journeys.

Always in my prayers and heart.

Your friend,  
Janet

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* Thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful Choir Concert by the Choir of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, at the end of October. Special thanks to Cath and Dennis Hilton for all their organization; also to those who hosted the choristers on the Saturday night and ensured they got to the Cathedral in time on the Sunday morning. A total of £600 was raised on at the event which was shared equally between the Choir and Christ Church.

\* 'Table Talk for Christmas' is an all-age family game that explores the spirit and meaning of the Christmas story. It is an ideal gift for anyone wishing to spread the good news of the birth of God's Son. It is available free on iOS and GooglePlay. For details of how the scheme works go to the [www.uglyduckling.company.com](http://www.uglyduckling.company.com) and follow the links.

\* Janet Lyssejko moved to the Roch Valley Parish last month and her last services as an Ordained Local Minister in the Benefice were marked appropriately at both Christ Church and St.John with St.Mark. Thanks to all those who contributed to Janet's leaving gifts and offered their best wishes and prayers. We pray that Janet will be blessed in her new ministry as Associate Priest (NSM) in our neighbouring parish.

\* Our Advent Study Groups looking at the book of 1 Peter are meeting at two venues across the benefice. Monday evenings at 150 Walmersley Road beginning at 7.30pm and Thursday afternoons at Christ Church Hall starting at 2.00pm. All are welcome.

\* There will be no MOB (Men Of the Benefice) meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Monday 25 January.



\* The Porch project are currently struggling to meet demand and asking for more foodstuff. Both churches have a box at the back of church to support this worthy cause.

\* I have recently been informed of another initiative to help the homeless, called The Rucksack Project. Part of the publicity states: "It isn't a charity but an informal idea involving anyone in need on the streets. The idea is that individuals or groups of people get a rucksack and pack it with stuff to help if you're on the streets - eg sleeping bag, snacks, fleece, socks, toiletries etc. Not money. Churches or church groups could do it, or a class of children at school, etc., or an individual. It's suggested you buy contents from charity shops, which will also help those in need. You take the rucksack to Piccadilly Gardens on 19th December for distribution." The project has been running for a couple of years or so and is now gaining momentum. If you are interested in helping, please have a word with me.

\*Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the wardens.

\* Both of our Church Halls are available for a whole range of activities for use by church and community groups. Please however check with the bookings officers if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged. The contact details are at the back of this magazine.

\* Tuesday December 1st 8pm at Maqam (The Women's Centre) Fletcher Street Bury (Behind Noor ul-Ilsm Mosque, Yarwood Street). *Questions and Answers:* ask the things you always wanted to ask our Muslim, Christian and Jewish panel.

**Dave and Linda**  
**wish you every blessing this Christmas**



## ***ADVENT***

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The season of Advent marks the Church's preparation for Christmas. The four Sundays of the season act as a countdown to the great celebration of our Lord's birth and is an important time in our spiritual lives. The colour of the season is purple which reflects the solemnity of this time in the Church Year.

Traditionally churches use an Advent wreath to symbolize the passage of the season. A candle is lit each week as the liturgy reflects the coming of Jesus as a child and in time as Lord and Judge. On Christmas Day, the central candle - coloured white – is lit to signal the fulfilment of Advent and the arrival of the Son of God.

### Advent Prayer

God our Father, Master of both light and darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces  
to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways  
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

## ***FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### **Report of Christ Church November PCC meeting**

There was a letter from Nigel and Barbara Silvester requesting permission to make repairs to the garden of remembrance. This was to be carried out by Barbara and Nigel and others at no cost to the PCC. The PCC voted unanimously and gratefully to support this.

A letter was received from Dawn Fidler of the Joshua Wilson brain tumour trust, thanking the children of Christ Church for the donation of £100 from their copper collections in church. The church and the sale of the field were again discussed at some length.

The vicar reported on his meeting with the Friends of Walmersley and said it had been a good discussion.

It was noted that Byrom Clark Roberts did not recommend closing the church for a period during the winter to save heating and lighting costs.

It was noted that there was a trip hazard in church as people who had been up for communion were leaving the front at the left hand side. This to be looked at by the property committee. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December there will be a themed Christmas tea in aid of fund raising.

The vicar noted that we had completed the first two points on our Mission Action Plan.

It was Revd. Janet Lyssejko's last PCC meeting and the vicar on behalf of the PCC thanked her for all she had done for Christ Church. In response Janet wished to thank everyone for all the support and encouragement she had been given over the years she had been with us.

## ***FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### **Report of St John with St Mark October PCC meeting**

The faculty has now been received for the West Window, so we were now in a position to discuss quotes for the work. The PCC were advised that we had applied for five quotes and three had been received back. Of those, two were considered suitable. After a discussion it was decided to accept the quote offered by Allan Lever, who previously worked on the hall windows for us. We are now in a position to discuss the next stages of this work. The four unused pews at the back of Church are to be removed shortly and will be taken to Ashworth Valley Scout Camp, giving us considerably more space at the back of Church (NB - the pews were removed on Monday 26th October).

Arrangements for the firework and karaoke party on Friday 6th November were discussed. Ticket sales were going well and people are looking forward to the event.

It has been suggested that Chesham primary school be invited to sing at our Christmas Fair on Saturday 28th November along with our own day school, as well as the possibility of one or both of the schools opening the fair.

Ian again provided us with more stats from the Website; ie which sections are visited more often and how long the average 'visitor' spends on the site. Please remember to keep sending your contributions to the Website, to keep this fresh and up to date.

The PCC were asked to discuss a questionnaire on local poverty, which the Diocese had circulated to all PCCs. It was felt that the issue was relevant to many parts of our Parish and was particularly topical in light of recent developments with tax

credit cuts. The PCC were asked to think about what poverty meant to them, what groups of people in our Parish would be most affected and if our Church had any ideas to help those affected by poverty. We were also asked what is stopping us from undertaking the ideas, and it was felt that finances, time and numbers of volunteers were big factors.

The Vicar's report reminded us of vocations and ministry available to us and of the importance of work with other local churches.

The Carol Service this year will be on Sunday 20th December at St. John with St. Mark.

Dave also informed us that this would be Janet's last PCC meeting before she takes up her new position as Non Stipendiary Minister in the Parish of Roch Valley. Dave thanked Janet for her ministry amongst us, both here and at Christ Church. Her final services with us will be during November.

Our next PCC meeting will be on Thursday 3rd December, followed by a joint PCC meeting on Tuesday 8th December, when we will discuss our Mission Action Plan Questionnaire.

## **CHRISTINGLE SERVICES**

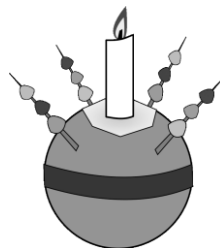
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER

6.30pm

At both CHRIST CHURCH  
& ST.JOHN with ST.MARK

Collections to The Children's Society

Please bring a toy for a local child in need



## ***FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH***

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- Dec 6 Mrs M Booth in memory of the Booth family
- Dec 13 Mr. & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
- Dec 20 Congregation
- Jan 3 Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
- Jan 10 In memory of Jack Grindrod
- Jan 17 Mrs June Houghton in memory of Geoff
- Jan 24 In memory of Fred Williams
- Jan 31 In memory of the Ronson family



### **Christmas Afternoon Tea**

Where? Christ Church Hall

When? Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> 2 – 4pm

How much? £2.50

For a plated tea consisting of  
sandwich, sausage roll, bun, mince pie or Christmas cake  
Tea or Coffee  
Glass of sherry for a donation

## ***CHURCHES MAY OPEN ONLY AT FESTIVALS***

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A recent report by a Church of England review group has suggested that hundreds of historic rural churches should only be open for services at Christmas and Easter.

The report – by the church buildings review group – has proposed that for some of the places of worship across the country should close to cut running costs and also relieve pressure on clergy.

A quarter of churches in England have a weekly average attendance of fewer than 16 and the report has recommended that some of these be closed and sold off. Some of these buildings – regarded as “festival churches” – would be open on holy days and holidays, such as Christmas and Easter as well as being available for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Some of these historic churches could also be used to host a range of community activities such as village shops, post offices, food banks and libraries etc. Similar initiatives are being piloted in the dioceses of Lincoln, Norwich and Exeter. The Chairman of the Church Buildings Council, Sir Tony Baldry said that it was important to ensure that buildings were “blessings and not burdens” on church communities.

*“Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives  
by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church  
that finds new roads, that is able to step outside itself  
and go to those who do not attend Mass,  
to those who have quit or are indifferent”  
Pope Francis*

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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**Week One** *A prayer from John Wesley  
which gives us all room for thought*

Do all the good you can ,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.

**Week Two** *As we wait for the coming of Christ*

God of the waiting,  
give us courage to wait with those in the most broken  
places of the world,  
and with all those who struggle to be bearers of hope  
there. We pray with those who wait for wars to stop,  
for violence to cease.

God of the waiting, turn conflict into peace.  
And we pray for those who have given up on the  
coming of hope, because they feel they wait in vain  
at checkpoints, at borders, for jobs, for food,  
and for all those whose lives are crushed under the  
structures and systems of injustice.

God of the waiting, wait with your world.  
Turn anger into reconciliation,  
and our lack of hope into courage,  
so that our waiting may be over  
and all the things of darkness shall be no more.



contents.pauline.or.kr



### **Week Three**

### *Christmas Gifts (author unknown)*



To your enemy	- forgiveness
To your opponent	- tolerance
To your friend	- trust
To a stranger	- a smile
To all men	- charity
To every child	- a good example
To yourself	- respect
To Christ	- your heart

### **Week Four** *Please make room for me (Iris Lewis)*

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.



**Week Five**    *For a New Year*

Lord, You make all things new  
You bring hope alive in our hearts  
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year  
For all the potential it holds.  
Come and kindle in us  
A mighty flame  
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God  
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.        Amen

**Week Six**    *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 the flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal those broken in spirit,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the oppressed,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
to make a little music with the heart...



And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.  
Then the work of Christmas begins."

- *Howard Thurman, adapted*

## Week Seven

*A prayer based on the vegetable patch*

First plant a row of peas



Patience, Promptness, Preparation, Perseverance



Next plant three rows of squash

Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference.

Then five rows of lettuce

Let us be faithful, Let us be unselfish, Let us be loyal, Let us be true to our obligations, Let us love one another.



And no garden is complete without turnips!



Turn up for important meetings, Turn up with a smile, Turn up with a good idea, Turn up with determination to make things better.

## Week Eight

*A Prayer for Christian Unity*

Lord, you made all people equal in your sight. Give us the grace to accept those who worship in different ways to us; celebrating the things we have in common rather than the things which separate us. Help us to realise that we are all children of the same loving Father. Amen.

**Autumn Council** took place at the end of Oct and this is the first opportunity to highlight some of the information for our members.

### **Action and Outreach**

Welcome week - giving out the goody bags to the students was another successful occasion and the Chaplain, Rev Terry Biddington said it should be considered a 'major piece of outreach and mission'. Thank you to all who contributed with mugs, all the goodies to go inside the bags and time to pack them up.



Wednesday soup at the Chaplaincy - a special plea for volunteers to keep this a regular event during term time.

### **Finance and administration**

Do you shop online? If you do, please consider visiting [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mothersunionmanchester](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mothersunionmanchester) You only have to register once and there are 3000 retailers for you to choose from, many recognised High Street names. You then shop as normal and the company will send a percentage to Mothers' Union Manchester. You don't have to claim anything and it doesn't cost you a penny. That's it! Sorted! Easy! Flyers with the details will be available from the office

Want to send a donation to Mothers' Union Manchester? Don't have your cheque book handy or an envelope or stamp? We have made it even easier for you! Mobile phones at the ready! Now Text; MARY21 £(enter the amount here) and send to 70070. (E.g. MARY21 £10)  
So simple!

## Subscriptions 2016



These will remain at just £20.00 per member. The central Mothers' Union has raised its portion of the subscription by 30 pence but the Manchester Trustee Board has decided to absorb this increase, so keeping the total subscription at the same level as last year.

## Branch news

We anticipate the festive season with our Advent Meditation led by Rev Gill Barnett on Dec 2nd and our Christmas meal at the Red Hall Hotel on Dec 16th. Remember to bring Secret Santa presents to go into a 'ladies only' sack or a 'general' sack - suitable for male or female.

Can I take this opportunity of reminding everyone that in the event of bad weather or other exceptional circumstance when meeting has to be cancelled, members should receive a telephone call or text message cascaded from the contact person in their local area. They are as follows:

Ribble Drive - Tricia Stokes  
Springside Road area - Miriam Hamilton  
Oaklands Estate - Joan Riggs  
Rivers Estate - Pam Hoyle  
Top of Burnley Road area- Claire Altham  
Limefield /Seedfield area - Barbara Silvester



If you have changed your contact details particularly phone number please inform Tricia, and do provide a mobile number if possible.

## Looking ahead to 2016

Our theme for the year is 'Celebration of faith' as Mothers' Union will be celebrating 140 years since its creation.

Our branch will welcome in 2016 on January 6th with an Epiphany Communion in the Church hall preceded by Soup and rolls.

January 20th we are 'Getting to know you, getting to know all about you' with a light heated true and false quiz evening.

Our Branch AGM is Feb 3rd so do put that date in your diaries now. It's important we have our members present to reflect, consider and vote on the way our branch operates.

To recap:

Dec 2 - Advent meditation

Dec 16 - Red Hall meal

2016

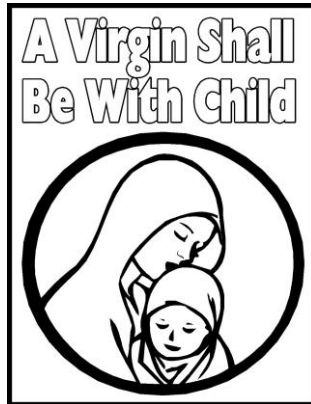
Jan 6 - Epiphany Communion service

Jan 20 - 'Getting to know you'

Feb 3 - AGM

May I take this opportunity to wish our members, together with our Church family, a very happy Christmas and invite you all to join with us in celebrating our faith in 2016.

Kathryn Bailey  
Branch leader





## ***EPIPHANY***

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The season of Epiphany begins after the twelve days of Christmas and highlights the revelation of Jesus Christ – the Son of God – to the world.

The word Epiphany means “appearing” or “manifestation” and is characterised by the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus; the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan and also his first miracle – the changing of the water into wine.

These “appearances” in a variety of ways fulfil the prophetic view that the Promised Messiah will arrive and is intended to confirm Jesus as the Chosen One.

### Epiphany Prayer

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Darkness covers the earth and its people,  
but the radiance of God's Light  
burns away its shadows,  
illuminates the smallest corner,  
and heralds in the start  
of a new dawn,  
where hearts no longer fear,  
souls might be set free,  
and sister shall follow brother,  
nation shall follow nation,  
and kings and princes bow down in awe  
before the one who comes to reign.

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Alleluia

*Read by Janet at her final service on 15 November*

And now, the end is here;  
and I have led my final service.  
To my family and friends, I'll say it clear;  
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.

I've lived my ministry in this parish with you all,  
It has been full and I've travelled each and every highway;  
And more, much more than this,  
I did it my way.

Regrets, I've had a few;  
But then again, too few to mention.  
I did what I had to do  
and seen it through without exception.

God planned each charted course;  
each careful step along my journey,  
and more, much more than this,  
I did it my way.

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew  
When I bit off more than I could chew.  
But through it all, when there was doubt,  
I ate it up and spit it out.  
I faced it all and I've stood tall;  
and I did it my way.

I've loved, I've laughed and cried.  
I've had my fill; my share of losing.  
And now, as the tears subside,  
and I have led my final service.  
To my family and friends, I'll say it clear;  
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.



God planned each charted course;  
each careful step along my journey,  
and more, much more than this, I did it my way.

I've loved, I've laughed and cried.  
I've had my fill; my share of losing.  
And now, as the tears subside,  
I find it all so amusing.  
To think I did all that;  
and may I say - not in a shy way,  
"Oh no, oh no not me,  
I did it my way".

For what am I, what have I gained?  
Through God I've gained friends and family.

I have not done all this my way nor have I done it all on my own, I  
have done it as God called me to do, as he called me for being who I  
am. I have done all I have done with you all by my side. Without God  
and you all by my side I would have not got this far.

If we've not got God, friends and family then we have naught.  
So as I say my prayers upon my knees.  
And as I say good-bye I give thanks for all Gods' blessing that he's  
bestowed on me.

I really couldn't have done it all without you by my side.  
So, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart and to let you know  
that distance may separate us, but we will always be together as I  
take a little piece of you all with me in my heart.

May God bless you all in everything you do. All my love and good-bye  
for now.

Janet

David Robinson wishes all across  
the United Benefice of Walmersley Road  
a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year

## ***THE WOOD STREET MISSION***

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The Mission provides practical help to children and their families throughout Manchester and Salford and has been in existence since 1869.

We help children and families living in Manchester and Salford with everyday items most of us take for granted. All the families we support are affected by poverty.

Wood Street's vision is that all children in Manchester and Salford should live a life free from poverty and we offer practical help and services as well as ensuring children engage in education.

### **THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT:**



At Christmas we provide children up to the age of 12 with new toys and books. The presents are new as we want the child to feel no different from any other children opening their gifts on Christmas morning.

We also give each family a large food hamper full of everyday food items as well as including a few extra luxuries to help them enjoy the Christmas holidays. Extended school holidays really can be a stressful time for many parents who may struggle with the extra costs of providing meals for their children, when they might normally receive free school meals during the week.

The Christmas presents we give the families are not wrapped as they are given to the parents to present to their own children. We do not want anyone thinking their gift is a charity.

## How can I help?

- Donate a new toy or book suitable for a child up to 12 years old. Suggested value £10. No high value items please and do remember older children!
- Donate non-perishable food suitable for families. We are looking for donations of tinned fish, meat, beans, fruit, vegetables, soup, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, long life juice or milk, biscuits, confectionery. All food should have an expiry date of no earlier than January 2016.



Please do not wrap any presents as we will have to remove any wrapping paper before distributing your kind gifts. If you wish you can donate a sheet or roll of wrapping paper which we can distribute to families to help them with the costs of these.

## **Donations to the Christmas Project are being accepted until Monday 21 December.**

*The families we help at Wood Street Mission are referred to us for lots of different reasons. Some are refugees or asylum seekers and have little or no possessions of their own. Others have suffered domestic violence and have had to flee with their children, leaving clothes, toys and belongings behind. Many are simply victims of poverty and are unable to afford 'luxuries' such as winter coats, school shoes or toys at Christmas for their children. Some families need our support over the long term, whilst others just need a little help until they get back on their feet again.*



If you are able to help at all, please contact the Vicar.

## A FAMILY QUIZ

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The first letter of each answer, reading down the page will give you a clue.

A song for Christmas	C _____
A bush for Christmas	H _____
A bird for Christmas	R _____
A plant for Christmas	I _____
A Saint for Christmas	S _____
A cuddly toy for Christmas	T _____
A bed for Jesus	M _____
A messenger for Mary	A _____
The men in the fields	S _____

It comes to give us a white Christmas	S _____
How many Kings came to worship	T _____
----- in Royal David's city	O _____
The reindeer that joined the story	R _____
The old name for Christmas	Y _____

*"Christ was born in the first century,  
yet he belongs to all centuries.  
He was born a Jew,  
yet He belongs to all races.  
He was born in Bethlehem,  
yet He belongs to all countries."*

– George W. Truett"



## ***FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER***

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From "The Supreme Macaroni Company" by Adriana Trigiani

" The family was crammed around the dining table extended to the maximum with three leaves and covered with white linen.

My sister and I, as always took the worst seats, near the kitchen - we'd be up and down serving the food and clearing the dishes between courses. The seat levels of the extra chairs around the table varied wildly from piano stool to garden chair making my family look like a row of animated tombstones, those on proper dining chairs looming over the rest of us. My sister had set the table with every piece of her wedding crystal, so for most of the meal, from my low ottoman seat, I was looking at my family through goblets that distorted their features like an abstract landscape by Wassily Kandinsky."

Does it sound familiar to you? It may have been in the Italian district of New York but in Accrington Lancashire, my memory is of being at my grandma's house and sitting high up on the piano stool until the next youngest cousin graduated to the stool and I was transferred to a low seat near the kitchen and told that a big girl like me was needed to help Auntie serve the food!



Been there? Done that?

Alison Fewtrell



## **SATURDAY WALKING GROUP**

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It was thought that the Winter months would be ideal for less demanding challenges therefore on 7th November we began a three stage exploration of the Irwell Sculpture Trail. Our first sector covered the route from Salford to Bury. Five of us made our way to Manchester on the Metrolink, arriving at Manchester Victoria around 9.30am. The Trail actually starts at Salford Quays however we joined the route at the Chapel Street cluster. Before beginning our walk we spent a few short minutes in St John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Cathedral on Chapel Street.

Passing the University of Salford we then made our way through Peel Park, which is home to two of the sculptures. Unable to follow the entire route of the river, we journeyed through some of the more urban areas of the walk including Kersal, before rejoining the trail at Clifton, where we stopped for elevenses.

We continued our way along the trail for a few miles before arriving at the quiet setting of the former Outwood Railway Station, having lunch on the remains of the platform.

Continuing towards Radcliffe, we then joined the former Bury and Bolton Canal, walking past the site of the former Farmer's Arms and completing our walk in Bury Town Centre around 3.00pm.

Despite a wet forecast, we were blessed with only experiencing one heavy rain shower the whole day. We only witnessed a small number of the sculptures on this sector however we did dedicate one or two other features that we felt could have been 'Unofficial Sculptures'.

Overall, another enjoyable day and the trail will continue on Saturday 12th December when we cover the route from Burrs Country Park to Rawtenstall. Anybody is welcome to join us, meeting at St John's Church Hall at 9.30am. Please bring a packed lunch, sensible footwear and waterproofs. If you would like further information, please speak to Paul.

The last leg will be on Saturday 9th January 2016 from Rawtenstall to Clough Head at Bacup, meeting time to be announced.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

### NEXT WALKS - **EXPLORE THE IRWELL SCULPTURE TRAIL**

The second and third stages of this Autumn & Winter Walk

Saturday 12 December – Burrs Country Park to Rawtenstall  
Meet St John's Church Hall at 9.30am  
Saturday 9 January – Rawtenstall to Clough Head, Bacup  
Meeting time TBA

### **OCTOBER 2015 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Wendy Keir

2nd Prize ~ Vicky Senior

3rd Prize ~ S Tanner



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



## ***ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP***

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On the 14th October a well-attended Open Group welcomed back Linda Thomson to present 'Another Crafty Night'. Linda's theme for the evening was to show the group the art of making personal Christmas cards.



Each member of the group was provided with a range of card-making materials to make a Christmas card with a large motif of Father Christmas on the front. In following step by step instructions members were able to produce and create a festive card. Linda made the exercise both interesting and quite simple and it was evident to see members were well chuffed with their efforts. Interestingly as members were kept busy with their craftwork there was plenty of camaraderie across the tables showing the fun and humour that such an activity can create. So with a little inspiration and imagination it is not just the experts or even celebrities who can produce their own Christmas cards. There is nothing more satisfying than receiving a nice handmade card at Christmas filled with the sender's wishes. It is a special thought.

Linda was thanked by the group for the work she had put in to present the 'Crafty Evening' and as a mark of appreciation she was presented with flowers.

Open Group members, please remember that our **Christmas Party** will be held in the Library on Wednesday 2nd 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 2016.





## ***MORE FROM THE OPEN GROUP***

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On 11th November a well attended Open Group welcomed Ian Banks to give a most interesting talk entitled 'The Story of Coffee'

In preparation Ian had set out an impressive stall full of a wide range of assorted types of coffee and coffee making equipment that has been used throughout the ages, right up to modern times.



Supported by an illustrated background Ian described 'The History of Coffee' as a fascinating story that covered a period of over a thousand years. This was not a simple timeline of events but the journey of coffee throughout many countries across the world. Such issues of religious differences, changes in international trade, vast social changes and even political intrigue generating as much fear as enjoyment along its path.

The journey began with Ian's illustration of an Ethiopian called Kaldi in the 9th Century discovering coffee berries. Consequently over time the berries were then mixed with water and the first 'brew' was formed. Enter the barista! What could be described as the birth of literature on coffee emerged in the 11th Century as Academics, Physicians and Philosophers began to write of the medicinal properties of coffee.

Ian then gave a potted history over the next few hundred years with enterprising international traders, particularly Turkish, introducing endless ranges of concoctions to add to the coffee as the commodity slowly spread across the globe. The first coffee shops then opened in the 15th Century in Constantinople becoming hotspots for lively discussions and political debates.



By the 17th Century the first coffee shops opened in London. All were welcome across a mix of social classes – that is except women! Many academics question whether this was the predecessor of the Women's Movement for Equality?

In conclusion Ian described modern day coffee providers such as global company Starbucks, of their juggernaut development and expansion throughout the world and their influence and social impact on society.

Members were invited to sample a wide range of coffee products to round off a very enjoyable evening. The group thanked Ian for his splendid presentation and acknowledgment of the work he had presented.



**The Bible Society has been granted permission to print Bibles in China**

The printing presses are ready to roll and they paper on which to print. Please consider making an immediate donation to the Bible Society to make best use of what may be a short window of opportunity. Donations can be handed to any of the clergy.

Christian Aid would like to thank all who have supported us throughout 2015, and wish everyone a Happy and Joyful Christmas.

For details of our Christmas Appeal please look under the Get Involved section of website and select Christmas

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE CHURCH FAMILY SOCIAL**

In St John with St Mark Church Hall, Parkinson Street  
7.30pm till Midnight.

No agenda. Just come along and enjoy the last hours  
of 2015 for some food, fun and games.

**ADMISSION FREE**

For further details, please speak to June Banks



**Churches Together in Bury**

## **CAROL SINGING**

Bury Market (behind Othello's)

10.30-12.30 Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December

Please join us to sing about  
the real meaning of Christmas  
amidst the bustle of Christmas shopping

**THANK YOU**



## ***For all families***

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Some ideas for an Advent Bucket List to help us have more of Christ in our celebrations this CHRISTmas – you may start a new family tradition!

- ❖ Using *nativity biscuit cutters* have fun with friends decorating biscuits to share.
- ❖ Give *groceries to a needy family* – maybe through Porch boxes.
- ❖ Create *an advent wreath* and light candles each night of Advent.
- ❖ *Donate toys* to a local charity – and *buy one* to bring to the Christingle or Wood Street Mission.
- ❖ Make *a Jesse tree* – lots of info online.
- ❖ *Take Christmas* to someone you know who is housebound.
- ❖ Read the *Christmas story* together.
- ❖ Take part in the *Posada* journey.
- ❖ Join Churches Together in Bury for the annual *carol singing*.
- ❖ Have *a manger scene* in your home – maybe the wise men could travel around the house before they arrive in the manger at Epiphany.
- ❖ Be *a secret Jesus* – bless others without telling anyone.
- ❖ Use every opportunity to *share with others* the true meaning of Christmas

HAVE A HAPPY CHRIST-FILLED CHRISTMAS

## ***WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER/JANUARY***

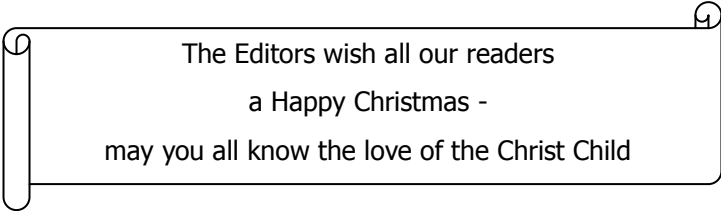
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Tues 1	8.00pm	Christian Muslim Forum Study
Wed 2	6.30pm 7.30pm	Open Group (SJM) Mothers' Union (CC)
Thur 3	2.00pm 3.00pm 8.00pm	Study Group (CC) Christingle preparation 5 Thames Close PCC (SJM)
Sun 6		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Services as usual
Mon 7	6.30pm 7.30pm	Christingle Service (CC & SJM) Study Group 150 Walmersley Road
Tues 8	2.00pm 7.30pm	Afternoon Tea (CC) Joint PCC
Thu 10	2.00 pm	Study Group (CC)
Sat 12	9.30am	Walking Group
Sun 13		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Services as usual
Mon 14	7.30pm	Study Group 150 Walmersley Road
Wed 16	2.30pm 7.00pm	Service at Priory Highbank Mothers' Union - Red Hall
Thu 18	2.00 pm	Study Group (CC)
Sun 20		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Services as usual
	6.30 pm	Joint Carol Service (SJM)
Mon 21	7.30pm	Study Group 150 Walmersley Road
Thu 24	5.00pm	Crib Service (SJM)

Thu 24	6.00pm	Family Celebration (CC)
	11.30pm	Parish Communion (CC, SJM)
Fri 25	10.00am	Family Communion (CC,SJM)
Sun 27		<b>St John the Evangelist</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Benefice Service
Thu 31	7.30pm	New Year Eve Social

## January

Sun 3		<b>Second Sunday of Christmas</b> Services as usual
Wed 6	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sat 9		Walking Group
Sun 10		<b>Baptism of Christ</b> Services as usual (CC)
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
Sun 17		<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b> Services as usual
Wed 20	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sun 24		<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b> Services as usual
Mon 25		Men of the Benefice
Sun 31		<b>Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)</b> Services as usual



The Editors wish all our readers  
a Happy Christmas -  
may you all know the love of the Christ Child

Does Christmas start  
with the nativity?



Yes, actually!

Christmas  
starts with  
Christ

[christmasstarts.com](http://christmasstarts.com)

