



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



**February 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



## TELLING THE STORY

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So Christmas has come and gone (again) and all the decorations are down and you've cleaned all those nooks and crannies that won't be cleaned again until after Christmas next year (well, at least in my house)!



Was it worth it? How do you think Mary and Joseph were feeling four weeks in; were the shepherds still revelling in the glory of the angels; had the angels got over their amazement at being sent to announce the birth of God incarnate to the roughest, smelliest group on earth; had the wise men found the answer to their greatest prophecy and worked out just what 'Frank had sent'; had the inn-keeper got over the need to let out his stable as a matter of urgency only to have it turned into a birthing room?

Is God still incarnate in your life today?

I sometimes think that the weeks immediately following Advent, Christmas and Epiphany feel a bit like a Biblical 'Where's Wally?'

All the excitement, wonder and glory have gone the way of the After Eights, sprouts and crackers and we need to find God in the everyday because He's not always so obvious as at Christmas-time and can easily be hidden or forgotten in the mundane, the ordinary and the necessary.

But it's the role of the church to make God obvious. God is already here, as Jeremiah says:

"Am I not a God near at hand" - GOD's Decree - "and not a God far off?"

Can anyone hide out in a corner where I can't see him?" GOD's Decree.

"Am I not present everywhere, whether seen or unseen?"  
GOD's Decree.

Jeremiah 23 v23-24

We are a missionary body. We are to open eyes and hearts and minds to the love, the truth and the grace of the gospel not just to the bling and the excitement of Christmas.

The URC minister, Lawrence Moore, writes that the church is a "community of disciples of Jesus that *intentionally join in* with God's mission to transform this world into the Kingdom of God... We are a community whose primary aim is to make a *Jesus-shaped difference* to our community and to society."

How many times do you think the shepherds and the wise men told their stories during the rest of their lives? I suspect they never stopped telling them: may we never stop telling the story, either.

And may God who came to us and lives with us make us bold in our witness and faithful to our calling. Amen.

Every blessing, Gill x

*What a difference a word makes!*

*Not "What are you giving up for Lent?" but*

*"What are you giving for Lent?"*





## ***BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY***

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Feb 7 **Next before Lent**

Exodus 34: 29-35    2 Corinthians 3:12-    Luke 9: 28-36  
4:2

Feb 10 **Ash Wednesday**

To be arranged

Feb 14 **First of Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:    Romans 10: 8b-13    Luke 4: 1-13  
1-11

Feb 21 **Second of Lent**

Genesis 15: 1-12,    Philippians 3: 17-    Luke 13: 31-35  
17-18    4:1

Feb 28 **Third of Lent**

Isaiah 55: 1-9    1 Corinthians 10:    Luke 13: 1-9  
1-13



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY 6 MARCH

10.30am



## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **Baptisms**

Nov 29      Molly Grace Carden  
Dec 20      Georgia Mai Linaker,      Dolcie Leah Conway.

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

### **Funerals**

Dec 23      Joan Dighton  
Jan 8      Jimmy Hamer  
Jan 12      Alex Farnworth

### **Interment of ashes in the garden of remembrance:**

Nov 29      Frank Evans

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



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

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There will be no flowers in church during Lent.

## ***FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### **ST JOHN W ST MARK PCC MEETING, 3 DECEMBER 2015**

Allan Lever commenced work on the West Window on 30 November. It has begun with the bricking up of the inside bottom blocks and boarding up of the top blocks. It is hoped that the whole work will be completed by the New Year. The Wardens and Health & Safety co-ordinator are to look at tidying up the area

around the window at the end of each week, in readiness for Sunday services. It is likely that a full tidy and clean up of the flooring area will be undertaken once the job is done.

It was advised that the Christmas Fair had made just short of £1800. Feedback was given with regards to the school choirs at the Fair and when was the best time for them to sing i.e. at the beginning or later in the event. Thanks were given to all who had helped. It was felt that the firework party in November was attended by considerably more people than were expected. Therefore the ticket sales for events such as this will be reviewed for future. The next upcoming social events in the Hall are the New Years Eve party and the Chinese New Year celebration on Friday 5th February.

More facts about the website; Ian advised that he is now able to determine where in the world people are viewing our website (12 people in South Korea) and on what devices people are viewing the website from.

The main focal point of the meeting centred on our charitable giving. The PCC once again agreed to donate 10% of our previous years Planned Giving to various charities. The charities range from categories including Overseas Mission, Overseas Relief & Development, UK Mission and UK Secular. A discussion took place and PCC members spoke out about particular charities they would like us to support this year. It was also agreed to donate the loose collection from the forthcoming Christmas services and magazine greetings to CRISIS.

Dave advised us he was hoping to work with other Churches in the area regarding next year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Three Cafe Church events will take place in 2016; 10th January, 22nd May & 25th September. These would be at 10.30am in the Church Hall.

The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 1st March. The APCM next year will once again be held after the Sunday service on 24th April.

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* We have been sent a letter from Wood Street Mission thanking us for our "generous donation" of toys and food towards their Christmas appeal. They point out that such donations have helped them provide support for 4, 506 children from 2082 local families referred to them in Manchester and Salford. Children were given new toys to open on Christmas Day and families received a large bag of everyday food items to help with the cost of Christmas, equivalent to a day's food for each family.

Thanks also to those who contributed toys at our Christingle services for the Key 103 Toy Appeal which was distributed via Chesham School.

\* In addition to the Benefice Lent Groups on Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons - mentioned elsewhere in this edition - there will also be a separate Lent Group with Seedfield Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings during the season. These begin on Tuesday 16 February at Seedfield starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



\* A reminder that we still have a Parish Pass to Westminster Abbey in London enabling up to 4 people free entry up to six times. This pass run out in May this year. Visitors are usually charged £20 for entry into the building unless attending worship. If anyone would like to make use of this concession in the next three months, please have a word with me. Many thanks to Nigel & Barbara for obtaining this pass for our use.



\* 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.

\* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet 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.

\* Any enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc should be made at the Parish Office at St.John with St.Mark's Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00.

\*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.

\* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)

MOB GROUP  
(MEN OF the BENEFICE)

Meets on the last Monday of each month at 8.00pm.  
(except Bank Holidays)

*NEXT MEETING: February 29 at The Sundial*

## ***IN MEMORIAM: Joan Dighton***

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Joan Dighton died in Fairfield Hospital on 14 December 2015 – at the time of her death one of the oldest members of Christ Church, Walmersley. Joan was baptised, confirmed and married at Christ Church. She attended the church school and for her whole lifetime worshipped there. Christ Church was in Joan's DNA – in her very being.

During her life she had been a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School secretary, a member of the Parochial Church Council, Mothers Union secretary and Social Committee secretary. She was a member of the Church Tennis club and a flower arranger.

A regular at the church services, in recent years she was a faithful communicant at the 9.00am Book of Common Prayer service. When she could no longer attend church she received the sacrament in her own home.

Throughout her life, Joan lived in only two houses – within 100 yards of each other. She grew up on Walmersley Road – at the corner of Wolstenholme Avenue – before moving to Sefton Street after her marriage to Whit in 1951. She was an excellent home maker. A keen cook, knitter and needlewoman, her skills were such that Whit, Hazel and John felt safe and secure in the family home. In time, as a mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother those skills extended to the whole of her family.

With the help of Hazel and John she was able to remain in Sefton Street until October last year when she moved into the BUPA Nursing Home in Heywood.

Joan was a strong, friendly character with a great sense of humour and a captivating smile. Her life was devoted to her family and her church.

We give thanks to God for the life of Joan Dighton.  
May She Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

## Looking Forward

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I hope you had a fantastic Christmas 2015 – with all the trimmings. I did (beautifully cooked for me by my son). But it became clear that there are more and more people who are spending Christmas Day alone. So we are wondering if it would be possible for us to spend it together.

I'm sure we could all nominate someone who would like company, food and frivolity on Christmas Day but we can't offer it if we don't have the volunteers to run it. It doesn't have to



be a drudge – *you can still sing and pull a cracker* but do it in company of others. The first thing we need to do is to find out whether we have the people to staff such an event.

If you are in the slightest bit interested (*there will be no arm-twisting*) please speak to Gill in the next few weeks and we'll try to work out how big a turkey we might need.



Thank you, Gill.

## Christ Church – Christmas Eve 2015

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Thank you to all who took part, especially to those who came into church not having the faintest idea what was going to happen. Your surprise was at least as great as the shepherds' on that first Christmas night.

We read through the Christmas story and stopped at each stage to build up the crib scene ourselves, quite literally, until all the congregation was in the manger – the heart of our celebration being the gift of the baby Jesus. (*see back page*)

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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### Week One

*The words of Simeon when he recognised the infant Jesus*

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace,  
your word has been fulfilled:  
My own eyes have seen the salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.



Simeon and Anna Thank God  
(Luk 2)

### Week Two

It is customary, Lord, to give something up during the season of Lent.

What would you have me do without? I who have so much.  
Chocolate? Cream cakes? Cigarettes? Sweets? Swearing?

The list is endless and I could give up all those things  
for the span of 40 days quite easily and almost painlessly.  
But what difference would it make other than making me feel 'holier'  
than my friend who makes no such sacrifice?

What would you have me do without? I who have so much.  
Selfishness? Conceit? Envy? Pride?

I fear before I ask, that the answer might be 'yes'  
and the giving up would be all too real, Lord.  
It would be difficult, painful, sacrificial,  
a real cross to carry for 40 days,

and more?



## Week Three

*A Prayer on our Christian Journey*

### Heavenly Father we pray



For those who have gone before us;  
for those who travel with us;  
for those whose journey intersects with ours for a while;  
for those who will come after us;  
for those whose footsteps have made a deep impression;  
for those whose presence was gently felt;  
for our own contribution to the journey;  
for the continuing presence of Jesus, Emmanuel;  
and the assurance that God is always with us;  
thanks be to God! Amen.



## Week Four

### A Prayer for Guidance

O God, our strength and our Guide,  
When the way ahead is unclear  
When the way ahead is costly  
When the way ahead is lonely  
When the way ahead is dark  
When the way ahead is painful  
When the way ahead is tiring  
When the way ahead is risky  
When the way ahead is **your** way

- grant us clarity
- grant us courage
- grant us companionship
- grant us hope
- grant us comfort
- grant us energy
- grant us daring.
- grant us joy, peace and steadfastness.

For our first meeting of the New Year we gathered as a branch to enjoy homemade soup and crusty rolls, and appreciate the company of our friends before we celebrated, as part of the Christian family, a Holy Communion service.

We anticipate a fun evening later in January where we are 'Getting to know you' with a lighthearted true and false quiz. What will we learn about each other!

A significant date for the diary is March 2nd when Cath Hilton will be recommissioned for a further 3 years as our Diocesan President along with the new trustees. This will take place at the Cathedral at 7.30pm. More details will be announced in due course but do let us support Cath, one of our branch members, as she undertakes a further period of service.

With Easter being early this year Mothering Sunday is on March 6th. The Mothers' Union has developed its own special resources to enable individuals to 'treat' Mum and benefit others at the same time. Mary Sumner house have produced this history of 'Make a Mother's day'.

## **Make a Mother's Day**

**Buy a Mothering Sunday gift and help transform a life**

2007 saw the launch of Make a Mother's Day – an ethical gift catalogue for mum, grandmother, or anyone really, to receive a Mothering Sunday card knowing that the family had also given to a cause dear to their heart – Mothers' Union. The gifts then, as now, covered a broad price-range from a £5 mosquito net to £100 to support a community trainer.

Many people find Mothering Sunday extremely difficult. So the idea of an "in memory card" was born. Over the years this simple ministry has not only brought comfort to many hundreds of families, but has also raised additional funds for the charity.

The aim that first year was to raise £30,000, so you can imagine the excitement when it raised over £50,000!. This year will mark the tenth time valuable funds have been raised by promoting 'Make a Mother's Day' ethical giving. Not only do the gifts and cards raise vital funds for the work, but the provision of resources to churches for services and children's ministry enable a wider understanding of the work of Mothers' Union. To date thousands of lives have been transformed – so the message is that this is a Mothering Sunday gift which truly makes a difference. Since its inception over £1 million has been raised– a staggering result. Yet even more staggering is the thousands of lives it has changed for the better.

Yet more can be done. Have you heard of Make a Mother's Day? Has your Mum had one of the beautiful cards designed uniquely for Mothers' Union? Your help is needed to make this, the 10th MAMD in Mothers' Union's 140th year, one which really gives cause to celebrate and enables the membership to put their faith into action wherever there are families in need. It could be £6 to help a person to take part in a Bible-study course, or £100 to help establish a self-help group in the Church. This year's catalogue and resources are a great way to promote Mothers' Union right at the parish level. Please help to reach the target of £185,000 this year by making a mother's day. Visit [www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org) for online ordering. Not seen the catalogue yet? They will be available at the back of our churches this month. Do take a look.

Dates for the diary:

February 3      Branch AGM

Feb 17            Lent meditation led by Archdeacon David

We welcome everyone to our branch meetings which are held in the Church hall at 7.30pm. Do join us.

Kathryn Bailey  
Branch Leader

## *The Baptism of Christ*

This was celebrated a little differently from usual this year at St John with St Mark. To start with we met in the Church Hall. Then there was no service sheet handed out – just the large screen on the stage with the bidding:

“Please help yourself to a bacon sandwich”



Most unusual! Sitting around tables, there was an opportunity to chat to someone we didn't know very well over coffee or tea.

“Longing for light” was a song unknown to some – so a chance to learn it.

surely one drinks tea with bacon butties!



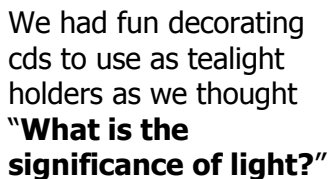
Then worship opened with “Will you come and follow me?” A reading about John the Baptist followed, then the first question of the morning –

**“What does the cross mean to you?”**

The lists we came up with between us formed the basis of this word cloud. Some of us made pipe-cleaner crosses to take home. “When Jesus came to Jordan” may not have been familiar – but the tune was!



was the next question. We all had the opportunity to pour a small amount of water into a bowl, and if we wished, to sign ourselves with a cross.



We used the  
Methodist Covenant

BRILLIANT!!

Can we have  
crispier bacon next  
time?

## ***Carols at the Priory***

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The sounds of Christmas resounded at the Priory in December when members of the congregation and Dave joined with residents and staff to sing carols and hear the Christmas readings. Our singers were described as the "choir" from Christ Church – not strictly true - but for an "ad hoc" collection of singers we did extremely well. The residents and staff appreciated the service and I found the experience very moving. We were welcomed warmly and provided with good refreshments. It was a good start to the Christmas celebrations.

Alan Spencer

## ***Christingle***

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A huge "thank you" to everyone who supported the Christingle Service:

Those who gave donations

Those who stuck sweets on cocktail sticks

Those who made the Christingles

Those who lit the path and the trees

Those who counted the money

And everyone who attended,

We have sent £380 to the Children's Society and an additional £80 from collecting boxes.

You have brought life into some young people's lives.

Thank you Margery





## ***SATURDAY WALKING GROUP***

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I could have summed up this month's walk in three words. IT WAS WET!! The second leg of our journey along the Irwell Valley Sculpture Trail took place on 12th December. Our day started with rain, and the forecast was sadly for rain all day. Therefore Paul decided it would be wise to shorten the walk, and as such we omitted our intended starting point of Burrs Country Park and drove the few short miles to Stubbins. Despite the forecast, five intrepid walkers set off armed with waterproofs, hot coffee and the odd umbrella.

We shortly encountered 'The Picture Frame' designed by the artist Richard Caink, which captures remarkably well the view along the Irwell Valley. Our journey continued to Irwell Vale station, where we were greeted with the arrival of the extremely busy East Lancs Railway 'Santa Special'. Santa himself was on board, and gave us a wave from his carriage.



We continued our walk along the River Irwell, taking shelter at 11.00am for some much needed hot coffee.

We are all aware of the recent weather conditions we have endured, and this became apparent as we noticed how strong the torrent of water was flowing down the river. It was obvious how high the river had been with rubbish and debris strewn across the river bank and wrapped around tree stumps. We encountered a small land slip at one point. Of course, this is nothing compared to the people of Cumbria and surrounding areas, who have really felt the full force of the elements, and we continue to remember them as they come to terms with the devastation.

Our walk continued into Rawtenstall and to Waterfoot, where we boarded the 483 bus service to take us back to Walmersley. Another cup of hot coffee was enjoyed on the journey home. Despite the weather, we all enjoyed each other's company, and it was a chance to get out in the middle of what can sometimes seem a busy month.

Best foot forward,  
David Robinson

### ***MORE FROM THE SATURDAY WALKING GROUP***

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Our final stage of the Irwell Sculpture Trail on 9th January actually veered off the trail, as we made our way to the source of the River Irwell, just north of Bacup.

Four of us, led as capably as ever by Paul Sanderson, gathered on Walmersley Road to catch a bus to Waterfoot, where we ended our previous stage. It was quite a wet start, as we set off on our way to Bacup, firstly through a disused former railway tunnel (mobile phone lights at the ready), which formed part of the Rawtenstall to Bacup railway line and then through the Stacksteads Riverside Park. We arrived in the centre of Bacup at 11.00am and paused briefly for coffee.

As we left Bacup the rain stopped, and thankfully did not return for the remainder of the day. However it soon became quite clear how much the routes and landscape have been affected by the recent weather conditions as from then on we fought ankle deep water, boggy footpaths, slippery stiles and a collapsed bridge.



We located The Sentinel, which is one of the Sculptures on the trail. Walking just over a mile north of Bacup we reached the source of the river at Irwell Springs on Deerplay Moor.

Continuing along the Rossendale Way, this proved to be tricky with a few routes closed off, meaning we had to negotiate blocked gates, fences and thick mud.

We did manage to find a quiet place to enjoy lunch, overlooking Haslingden Moors.

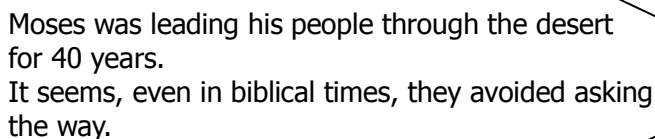
Our last leg of the journey took us along the Pennine Bridleway through the village of Lumb, and then back to Waterfoot for our return bus home at 4.00pm.

Despite the difficulties we encountered, the four of us enjoyed our day out and the places we had visited.

Next month, due to other commitments we will stage a shorter 6 mile walk, taking in the Kirklees Valley. If you prefer a shorter walk, this may be for you. It will take place on Saturday 13th February. Meet at St. John with St. Mark Church Hall at 9.30am. All welcome.

From then on, we will walk on the first Saturday of each month this year. If you would like to join us for the first time, and can suggest a walk you may wish to lead or complete, please speak to Paul Sanderson.

Best foot forward,  
David Robinson



Moses was leading his people through the desert for 40 years.  
It seems, even in biblical times, they avoided asking the way.

## ***London Underground Quiz***

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Thank you to everyone who bought and submitted answers to the quiz. A total of £44 was raised. Jean Smith and Bob Taylor had all correct answers; their names were placed in a hat and Jean Smith was the winner. People who entered will have been given their "marked" papers and the answers can be seen at the back of Christ Church. Thank you again.

Margaret Noble



## ***Lent Groups***

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Do you want to learn more about your faith in the company of fellow Christians?

Meetings will take place in the bottom room of the church hall at Christ Church on Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 3pm on 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> of February and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Meetings will also be held on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at 150 Walmersley Road on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March.

More information can be found on the church notice boards, weekly news sheets or speak to Dave Thompson or Ian Banks.

Everyone welcome to all or as many sessions as you are able to attend.

## **November 2015 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ David Robinson

2nd Prize ~ Kelly Watson

3rd Prize ~ Rosemarie Ashworth



## **December 2015 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Kelly Watson

2nd Prize ~ Betty Roe

3rd Prize ~ Maureen Nuttall

## **Christmas Draw**

1st Prize ~ Jackie Yates

2nd Prize ~ Archie Wardle

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



### **COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR**

St John with St Mark Church Hall  
Saturday 27th February from 10.00am

BOOKS

BRIC A BRAC

CAKES

BACON SANDWICHES

TEA & COFFEE

OTHER STALLS

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS

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*These words were read at the  
Songs of Praise service at  
Christ Church on Advent Sunday and  
are reproduced here by request.*



If you woke up this morning with more health than illness,  
you are more blessed than the millions  
who won't survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle,  
the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture  
or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people.

If you attend a church meeting without fear  
of harassment, arrest, torture or death,  
you are more blessed than almost three billion people.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back,  
a roof over your head and a place to sleep,  
you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet,  
and small change in a dish somewhere,  
you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are alive and still married, you are very rare.  
If you hold up your head with a smile on your face  
and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can,  
but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand,  
hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed  
because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you can read this you are more blessed than over two billion  
people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

**You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.**



## ***ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS***

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St.John with St.Mark:      Sunday April 24      11.45pm

Christ Church:      Monday 25 April      7.30pm

### **COME ALONG & INFLUENCE THE WAY YOUR CHURCH OPERATES**

In preparation for these meetings, the church electoral roll needs updating. If you are already on the electoral roll, you don't need to do anything unless you have changed address.

If you have been a regular worshipper for at least 6 months, please consider filling in a form to join the electoral roll. These can be found at the back of both churches.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: please also use the form above to give us your new address.

#### **Please note:**

Only those on the Church's Electoral Roll may vote  
at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

## ***Café Church 2016***

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13 March	Christ Church
22 May	St.John with St.Mark
3 July	Christ Church
11 Sept	Christ Church
25 Sept	St.John with St.Mark
27 Nov	Christ Church



## ***THE REAL EASTER EGG***

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### *The Egg that shares the Easter story*

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story booklet in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from its sales.

This is the seventh year that the Meaningful Chocolate Company has issued this product, having first being launched in 2010. This year The Real Easter Egg range has had a makeover and each single boxed egg includes a unique copy of the Easter story in the shape of a pull out 37 cm high cross illustrated by Helen Cann.

The Original milk chocolate egg includes images of spring and three crosses on the box with Mark's resurrection text under the lid. It also includes a Fairtrade milk chocolate Yummy Bar. The original egg costs £3.99 and the Special Edition £9.99. There is also a dark chocolate alternative with a cross shaped Easter story for £5.99.

The Real Easter Egg is sold in three ways: by people buying directly from us, from independent retailers and from supermarkets. The supermarkets, which are stocking the eggs, will only ever have about 12 eggs on display in any one store. So they would be simply overwhelmed by the demand from a church congregation. Last year hundreds of churches placed orders directly in quantities ranging from 12-1,000 eggs. Direct sales are very important for The Meaningful Company to trade.

If you would like to order a real Easter Egg please contact Barbara Silvester before 23 February.



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

We do not meet in February.

Our first meeting of 2016 is on Wednesday 9th March.  
The Reverend Gill Barnett will lead us for our Lenten Evening,  
and everybody is welcome to join us at 7.30pm in the Library.

Please remember that the Open Group is open to all  
and we would love you to join us for our meetings.  
We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

For details of our speakers for this year,  
please speak to Joyce Hopkinson, Phyllis Holt or Betty Roe  
at St. John with St. Mark.



YEAR OF THE MONKEY

JOINT SOCIAL EVENT

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK  
CHURCH HALL

## **CHINESE BUFFET**

& entertainment  
to celebrate the Chinese New Year

Friday 5 February 7.30pm £7

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE LIST  
AT THE BACK OF EITHER CHURCH  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.

# JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

## **Starring The Young People of the Benefice**

St John's Church Hall

Parkinson Street

**Thur 11<sup>th</sup>, Fri 12<sup>th</sup>, Sat 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Tickets Adults £5 Children (under16) £3

Family Ticket (Adults + 2 Children) £13

Contact Joan Wild or email us

## ***PRAYER DIARY***

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### **for THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD**

- SUNDAY:** For all our worship services.  
All who receive Holy Communion at home.  
Those who read, lead the intercessions and serve in our church services
- MONDAY:** Links with our local communities.  
Sixtown Housing. Bury Library Service.  
The PCCs and their committees.  
Those who provide and arrange church flowers.
- TUESDAY:** All the educational establishments in the parish.  
School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools,  
Primary Schools, Bury CE High School.  
Our pastoral care to all the community.
- WEDNESDAY:** The Vicar and the Assistant Priests.  
The Licensed Readers Our Study Groups.  
Ecumenical Links within the benefice. Our ministry to those bereaved and have had funerals in church
- THURSDAY:** The Sunday School /Junior Church. Our work with young people. Those preparing to be married in church. Our baptism ministry.
- FRIDAY:** Our music ministry. The retired clergy.  
Those interested in offering themselves for lay or ordained ministry. Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- SATURDAY:** Links with other church communities across the world. Mothers' Union.  
Our care of the church buildings.

## **WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY**

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Wed 3	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Fri 5	7.30pm	Chinese Buffet (SJM)
Sun 7		<b>Sunday next before Lent</b> Services as usual
Wed 10		<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	10.00am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (CC and SJM)
11/12/13		Joseph ( <i>see p 28 for details</i> )
Sat 13	9.30am	Walking Group (SJM Hall)
	11.00am	Bacon Butties and Coffee (CC)
Sun 14		<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
	10.30am	Laying on of Hands (CC)
Wed 17	7.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sun 21		<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
Sat 27	10.00am	Coffee morning (SJM)
Sun 28		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Services as usual
Mon 29	7.30pm	MOB - Sundial

Please see page 19 for dates and times of Lent study groups.

What so you have planned for March? –  
please let us know  
wrub@live.co.uk



*You have done great things for us,  
and we are glad. Amen*

