



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



**DECEMBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017**



**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
7.30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road

### **Wednesday**

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



## ***THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON***

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Happy Christmas! and Happy New Year!

This two month edition spreads over Advent, Christmas and into Epiphany.

Every year I like to remind people that the first Sunday of Advent is the first day of our liturgical New Year. Don't ask me why. It's just something I like to do and that fits nicely with this double issue, a sort of Buy One Get One Free

The season of Advent is time well spent in preparing ourselves for Christ's Second Coming and also preparing ourselves to remember Christ's birth.

But this Season of Preparation is something so much more than merely preparation. It's a wakeup call when we are reminded to meet Him and welcome Him into His rightful domain, into our hearts, our Church, our world.

Or perhaps we should use an entirely different word. Perhaps the word anticipation would be better. You can't help but notice that the whole world seems to be filled with eager anticipation of Christmas. Of course, there are many reasons for this frenzy. Many of the reasons are pretty bad, pure commercialism, bouncing badgers and wistful carrots, but some of them are very, very good.

From time to time it seems we really can learn a lot about faith by watching our children, especially the little ones. Recapturing that anticipation of Christ's birth and His return. So let us be filled with anticipation of the rebirth of Jesus in our lives, just as our kids (as well as some of us grownups!) are filled with an almost rabid anticipation for Christmas morning. Anticipation in all its glory. Eagerness. Single mindedness. Focused Attention.

Let us have all those things in anticipation of God's love, mercy and justice in the world which will be manifest at the end of time but also manifest in the here and now.

The Christmas season is the time of Emmanuel, God with us. Epiphany is about revelation The God who was, who is and who is to come. Let us truly go out to welcome our Lord as we welcome the Christ Child, as we anticipate His coming again at the end of time and, just as importantly, welcome Him into our hearts every day.

There was a song we used to sing at school "New, every morning it's new. The love of God to me is wonderfully new." So every day is a New Year with God ! So Happy New Years!

Yours in Christ

Paul

### ***ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016***

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Sunday 18 Dec	6.30pm	Benefice Carol Service	CC
Christmas Eve	5.00pm	Crib Service	SJM
	6.00pm	Family Celebration	CC
	7.30pm	Parish Communion	SJM
	11.30pm	Parish Communion	CC
Christmas Day	10.00am	Holy Communion Services	SJM
			CC



*Please note change in time of Christmas Day Services from those in last month's magazine*

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

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Dec 4	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Romans 15: 4-13	Matthew 3: 1-12
Dec 11	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	Isaiah 35: 1-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11
Dec 18	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec 25	<b>Christmas Day</b>	Isaiah 9: 2-7	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
Jan 1	<b>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</b>	Numbers 6: 22-27	Galatians 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 15-21
Jan 8	<b>Epiphany</b>	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
Jan 15	<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b>	Isaiah 49: 1-7	1 Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
Jan 22	<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b>	Isaiah 9: 1-4	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23
Jan 29	<b>Candlemas</b>	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2: 22-40

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and the government will be upon his shoulders. And  
he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6-7

## ***FROM THE VICARAGE***

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\* St John with St Mark, Christ Church and Seedfield Tenants' & Residents' Association are offering a traditional Christmas Day lunch for anyone who would enjoy company at this time of the year. Thanks to all those who have offered assistance in any way so far. Further information from Revd.Gill

\*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.

\* The Churches Together in Bury organisation meets bi-monthly on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is on 16 January. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. As part of our commitment to the churches working together in our part of the town, on the Sunday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity there will be a "pulpit swap" between Seedfield Methodist and St.John with St.Mark. On Sunday 22 January I will be preaching at Seedfield and a representative from there will preach at St.John with St.Mark.

\* There will be no MOB (Men Of the Benefice) meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Monday 30 January.

\* 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 (June Banks for St.John with St.Mark and Jennifer Wood for Christ Church) if the building is otherwise occupied before anything is arranged.

\* 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)

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Thanks to everyone for your friendship and support in 2016.

Dave



## ***Carols in the Market***

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Churches Together in Bury would welcome your contribution as we gather in Bury Market to sing carols

Saturday 17 December  
10 am – 12 noon

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

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Dec 4	In memory of Jennifer Melling & Mary Illsley
Dec 11	Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
Dec 18	
Dec 25	Congregation
Jan 1	In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme
Jan 8	Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
Jan 15	Mrs June Houghton in memory of Geoff
Jan 22	In memory of Jack Grindrod
Jan 29	In Memory of Fred Williams

## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **Marriage**

November 5            Craig Halliday & Nicola Lees

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

### **Funerals**

November 3            Pauline Bennett

November 4            Eric Rose

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

November 14           Margaret Dutton      Alex Farnworth

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



## **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.

Advent Study Groups will be taking place throughout the season. On Thursdays at Christ Church Hall beginning at 2.00pm and on Tuesday evenings (7.30pm) at 150 Walmersley Road. Further details are available in church.

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**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us away from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour,  
Jesus Christ.

*CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT THE PRIORY*  
Wednesday 14 December  
The Priory Highbank Centre, Walmersley Road.  
2.30pm  
ALL WELCOME



## ***FROM THE COUNCILS***

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### **St. John with St. Mark**

Upcoming social dates were confirmed, including the buffet dance on 11th November, Christmas Fair on 26th November and the New Year's Eve Party.

Four trees have been cut down in the Church grounds by Tower Forestry. This action was taken due to branches overhanging in neighbouring gardens and issues with roots near the buildings. The job has been completed successfully and efficiently and has also enhanced the daylight coming through the Church building.

The microphones in the lectern and pulpit have recently been switched over in the hope this will improve the sound quality in the services. This will be monitored.

We are to replace the hymn books, with money received from a legacy. This will give us a greater choice of music in our services. Approximately 100 copies will be purchased, along with music and large print copies. The aim is to have this done before the end of November.

We were advised that the recent Christian Basics course has been attended by a small group of people. An Advent course on the theme 'The Awesome Journey' will be held on Tuesday evenings from 29th November at 150 Walmersley Road.

The Lay Assistants list is now up for renewal. New names were put forward, and proposed to be added to the list of existing Lay Assistants.

Matters of finance were discussed, and the next charity to benefit from the copper collection will be Pennies for Pakistan (supported by Bury Church High School).

The Child Friendly Church Award will be up for renewal soon, and we were advised to start preparing for this process once again.

The Retreat day to St Joseph's in Formby in October was

discussed. It was felt this was a hugely enjoyable and beneficial day for all who attended from both Churches in the Benefice. The annual retreat has again been provisionally booked for next May.

However, the possibility of a joint retreat with St. Joseph's, Bury is also being looked into on Saturday 25th March 2017. Please see Ian Banks if you are interested in either of these.

The next PCC meeting will be on Thursday 8th December at 8.00pm and the focus of this meeting will be the findings from the Archdeacon's parish visitation report. The Archdeacon will be in attendance at that meeting. There will also be a joint PCC meeting with Christ Church on Monday 12th December at 7.30pm, at Christ Church.

## **Christ Church**

1. The minutes of the last meeting on the 10th of October were approved with one alteration.
2. Matters arising from the last and previous meetings were as follows.
  1. Here was an alteration to the communion list from those persons agreed at the 10th of October meeting.
  2. The vicar had received the application form from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, regarding the CWGC signs for CCW churchyard. A resolution was taken on the installation of the signs.
3. Finance: the acting treasurer proposed that we pay £5000 of the parish share in November and review payments again in December.
4. The 25 items for action from the archdeacons visitation report were presented to the PCC with possible actions for each one. A brief discussion was held on each item and its required actions. These will be further discussed at forthcoming PCC meetings.

5. The worship questionnaire was not discussed but it was felt that one issue of involving the community as to what they want should be kept in mind.
6. The sale of the field was not discussed, the secretary reported on the questions that had been addressed to the land agent.
7. The vicar noted that after the 10th of October meeting he had been to a meeting with Paul Denny to maintain ongoing communication.
8. The only committee report was from the pastoral committee in which discussions on children's ministry, pastoral visiting, Thursday lunches and services were reported.
9. The vicar reported on the Christian Basics course and noted the Mission Action Plan meeting date. An ecumenical service sheet was being produced for distribution.
10. A discussion on issues with the hiring of the church hall was held and further action will take place on this for the future.

Ian Riddick  
PCC Secretary

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Barry and Margaret Evans wish the clergy and parishioners of St John with St Mark and Christ Church a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

God Bless you all and keep you safe.



## ***Operation Christmas Child.***

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This was the first time that people from Christ Church have taken part in this wonderful scheme to send shoeboxes to children who might otherwise never have had a present at Christmas. (Our friends at St John with St Mark's are old hands at it and send off an amazing number each year.)

When Nigel and I came back from Spring Harvest last year we were full of enthusiasm having seen films and presentations about this aspect of Samaritan's Purse so we acted in faith and brought back 50 specially designed boxes for the congregation at Christ Church.

I'm happy to say that all have been filled and sent off. Many individuals took more than one each and **our Scout group did us proud and took and filled twenty!** They want more next year!!

Some of us paid for the transportation online and will be tracking the boxes to see where they end up – watch this space!

Thank you to everybody who supported the project in any way.

How many boxes should I order for next year?!

Barbara Silvester



## ***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. Its vision is that all children should live a life free from poverty and it seeks to provide practical help to families.

THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT provides children up to the age of 18 with new toys and books. The presents are new as they want the child to feel no different from any other children opening their gifts on Christmas morning. The Christmas presents they give are not wrapped as they are given to parents to present to their own children, so children do not think their gift is a charity present.

Each family is also given a large food hamper full of everyday food items as well as including a few extra luxuries to help them enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Wood Street relies on support from the local community who organise collections or simply add an extra item to their own shopping trolley in the run up to Christmas. Local companies and manufacturers also make donations of presents and food, and raise funds to help meet the ever-increasing numbers referred each Christmas for help.

### How can you help?

- Donate a new toy, gift, book, toiletries or new clothes suitable for children and young people up to 18 years old. Suggested value is £10. Please do remember older children as often it is a struggle to secure enough donations for this age group.
- Donate non-perishable food suitable for families such as tinned fish, meat, beans, fruit, vegetables, soup, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, etc. confectionery. All food should have an expiry date of no earlier than January 2017.

Find out more at [www.woodstreetmission.org.uk](http://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk)  
or contact on 0161 834 3140 25 Wood St. Manchester M3 3E

In our increasingly busy world and our equally busy lifestyles, it is good to take time out to recharge our spiritual batteries. Our Branch meeting on Nov 2 was indeed time out with a communion service led by Revd Gill Barnett when she asked what kind of saints we were. (See the following page for details of her talk.)

We have another opportunity to refresh ourselves with our Advent reflection on Dec 7 led by Revd Paul Sanderson. We conclude our 2016 programme with our festive meal at the Red Hall together with our Secret Santa presents. Please bring a gift costing about £5.

To reflect on our giving during 2016, we have distributed £335 during the year to a variety of Mothers' Union projects including Freshers' week, the Relief fund, Make a Mother's day, the Big Summer appeal, and the Just up your Street project. These donations make a real difference to the work that can be undertaken by these different projects.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank the branch Committee for their invaluable help throughout the year - practical support, prayerful encouragement and wise words. We have been busy planning for next year too. Our theme will be 'Faith in Action' which we hope to reflect on in our branch meetings.

We have also given consideration to the meetings in the winter months, suggesting maybe to hold some meetings in the afternoons. However, members decided to keep to the present arrangement but discuss this further at the AGM.



In the event of bad weather we will cascade any cancellations by text, phone and email so do make sure we have your correct contact details. Check with Tricia Stokes that she has your details recorded.

Dates for the Diary:

Dec 7 - Advent reflection led by Revd Paul Sanderson

December 11- The installation of Cath Hilton as a Lay Canon at Manchester Cathedral at 5.30pm.

Dec 14 - Christmas Meal at the Red Hall

2017

Jan 4 - Holy Communion service and bring along any surplus Christmas cakes/mince pies/ biscuits to share!

Jan 18 - An evening with Nigel Silvester



I look forward to welcoming familiar faces and new friends to our branch meetings in 2017 but meanwhile –

may the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary and  
the peace of the Christ-child  
be yours this Christmas.

Kathryn Bailey  
Branch leader



## ***WHAT SORT OF SAINT ARE YOU?***

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Saints come in many guises. Saints are the people of God, doing what God wants them to do.

Gill told us about Esther, an Old Testament Queen who risked her life to save her people - you can read the whole story in the Bible. Then she told us of John the Baptist, a man living in the desert feeding on locusts and honey and finally of Jesus, a man who was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. As Gill put it saints come in many disguises.

We were asked to think back over our lives at the people who had inspired us on our Christian journeys and Gill recalled some of her teachers who had influenced her.

She asked us to look at the person next to us and understand that that person is a saint of God and reminded us that they too were looking at a saint!

Saints come in many guises and if God had meant his church to be perfect he wouldn't have filled it with, well, with us. We are the saints of God because through His grace, He has marked us as such in spite of all our faults and imperfections.

One day, each of us may be remembered by someone as a saint. We may be having a powerful and prayerful effect on someone's life right now even though we may be unaware of it.

So let us not forget those who have gone before us; those who are living in our midst now and those who are coming to faith at this very time. We ought to rejoice with *all the saints* because as the psalmist says, "the Lord takes pleasure in his people" (149 v4).

## ***CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL***

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Have you ever been on a journey which did not turn out as you expected? Delays, interruptions and interruptions can be a real pain but at other times they can bring unexpected blessings or take us in a new direction that God has in mind for us.

Mary and Joseph certainly experienced a different ending than they expected to their journey to Bethlehem.

This Christmas 65 million journeys are incomplete. Forced out by the darkness of violence and fear they simply cannot stay in their homes and are seeking safety and refuge.

Celebrating Jesus, the light who came into the world, many of us fill our homes at Christmas with light and laughter, family and friends. But for millions who are fleeing from conflict, a joyful home is a distant memory at best. So we must ask ourselves, can we truly celebrate the light of the world when some are surrounded by darkness.

We are called as people of God to be a beacon of hope, to light the way.

Christian Aid helps those who are living in fear and fleeing violence by giving practical support. This includes helping a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo to be a sanctuary where a priest called Celestin who himself has suffered violence and had to walk for three weeks to a place of safety, is working.

This Christmas, let each of us seek to walk closer with Jesus. And let us seek to light the way for our sisters and brothers around the world.

To make a donation, to help Christian Aid's work make a donation via the website or in one of the envelopes at the back of Church or see the clergy or John Brennan.

## FOR QUIET MOMENTS

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**Advent**      *I have chosen this advent hymn as when I was a child I always thought the hills were the ones we can see – such as Holcombe Hill – Margery Spencer*

Hills of the North rejoice,  
River and mountain stream  
Hark to the Advent voice;  
Valley and lowland sing.  
Christ comes in righteousness and love  
He brings salvation from above.

*These words are slightly different from those I remember, but I pray that we will find time to prepare during advent for Christ's coming.*

### **Christmas Eve      The Tale of the Innkeeper**

I am so old and weary – my eyes are growing dim  
Yet I dream of the fateful evening when I had no room for Him.  
The earth was hushed, expectant and a burning star hung low  
For the Son of God's arrival. But how was I to know?

When Joseph came a knocking, shabby and poor,  
And Mary's eyes pleading, still I closed the door.  
If the angels carried the message, if the heavenly host had said,  
"The kingly child is coming." I would have found a bed.

When I saw the angels and shepherds who came  
Gladly to kneel and worship, sick was my heart with shame.  
I am so old and weary and this is my earnest plea,  
That the loving Christ of Christmas will find a place for me.

## Christmas Morning

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing!



As we open our gifts this Christmas day, may we be mindful of the great gift of Jesus to the world and give thanks for it. Let us remember those who will have little to celebrate today and ask that they may know the love of God around them.

## Christmas Dinner



God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful for each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today.

In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live.

We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. Amen

## New Year

During this year may:

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.



Numbers 6:24-26 New King James Version  
*This is one of my favourite blessings - Margery*

## Epiphany



Wise men seeking Jesus,  
Travelled from afar  
Guided on their journey  
By a wondrous star.

Almighty and everlasting God, who by the guidance of a star led the Magi to adore the new-born King: guide us by the light of your spirit as we travel on our Christian journey, that we too may come into the presence of Jesus and offer our gifts and our worship to him. Our gifts may not be gold, frankincense and myrrh but if we offer to Jesus our love and our service, those gifts are equally valuable.

## **Baptism of Christ**

This week as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, we remember especially those who have been baptised in our churches during the last year. May they grow in faith and come to know the living Jesus. We pray for their families, asking that they will have the wisdom, patience and love to bring up the children in caring, compassionate homes.



We ask that we may be faithful to the promises made at our baptism and always fight valiantly as disciples of Christ against sin, the world and the devil until the end of our lives.

## **Candlemas**

We thank you, God, for the story of Simeon and Anna and their faithful waiting. They always trusted that they would see the Christ before they died. Help us to live our lives trusting that you are there to lead us on and that your light will shine on us and show us the way.

***May we shine as your lights in the world.***

We pray that the light of Christ may shine throughout your world. May it shine in the dark places where there is fear and pain. May it shine on people being held captive, and those involved in violence and war. May it shine on all peacemakers.

***May we shine as your lights in the world.***

The **Cub Pack** at St John with St Mark have celebrated 100 years of cubs by wearing the 100 Year of Cubs neckerchief which some observant church members have admired. On Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October we planted 100 daffodil bulbs in the memorial chapel at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp Site in the shape of 100. It was a lovely dry day, which was enjoyed by everyone and whilst we planted the bulbs a robin was with us all the time spectating. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November there was a fancy dress party for our cubs to end our celebrations for 100 years of Cub Scouts.



The **Scouts** at St. John with St Mark have built a garden to remember the people of the parish who lost their lives in the Great War. The photograph on the back page shows them laying a cross on Remembrance Sunday.

2016 has been a fantastic and extremely successful year for **Christ Church 9<sup>th</sup> Walmersley Bury Scouts!**

We are delighted to welcome 2 new uniformed Leaders, Jackie Williams and Eliza Bayfield into our Scout family.

Beavers have achieved 2 Chief Scout Bronze awards  
Cubs have achieved 17 Chief Scout Silver awards  
Scouts have achieved 2 Chief Scout Gold awards  
Explorers have achieved 5 Chief Scout Platinum awards

All these awards are the highest award that can be gained within those sections and the boys have all worked hard.

3 Explorers have achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Harry Smith. James Weston and Archie Nicol.



1 Explorer has achieved his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Freddie Nicol and Sam Devenport has almost completed his Silver award.

On top of that our 5 Explorers have gained their Young Leader Badge, showing a commitment and dedication to the group and community at a still young age. They have each chosen a section to work with, demonstrating a willingness to support and lead the younger boys whilst developing an excellent relationship with the leaders. To fulfill the requirements for this badge the boys have had to work through Module A which signifies a Young Leader has completed their basic training and then completing 4 missions, putting the research and practices they have learnt into action. In addition to the Young Leader badge Harry, Sam, James, Freddie and Archie have also been presented with their Young Leader Belts at the Christingle service by the District Explorer Scout Commissioner Lee Ribchester. The Young Leader belt (*see back page*) can be worn as part of the adult uniform to recognize a person's completion of the Young Leaders' scheme.

The Leaders are extremely proud of all the boys and their achievements and would like to thank them for their commitment and dedication to the group. It is wonderful to know that the future of Scouting at Walmersley is in safe hands.



'Two things matter in life: following your dreams and looking after your friends.'

That's what I love about Scouts.'

Bear Grylls  
Chief Scout

## ***THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES***

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As most will be aware, a light lunch is available at Christ Church Hall every third Thursday of the month from 12 noon till 1.30pm. It is open to all and gives an opportunity to meet up, have a bite to eat and socialise with fellow diners.



Our lunches started in April this year and over the seven months since then we have seen attendance grow to over thirty people. The back room of the hall was bursting at the seams for the October lunch and it looks as if we shall have to move into the main hall in order to accommodate everyone!

There is no set charge for lunch. A donation toward cost is much appreciated but not obligatory. Having said that, through the generosity of our patrons, we have been able to give £350 to church funds and at the October lunch an amount of £138 was given for the Tearfund appeal for Haiti.

So a big thank you to all those who come and support this project. Also a special thank you to all our regular helpers – Claire, Margery, Alan and Bob – and to our occasional helpers. We couldn't do it without you!

If you have not yet come to lunch with us then please feel free to join us. You will find not only a hearty midday snack but a hearty welcome from staff and customers alike – we are a very friendly bunch!!

The next lunch is on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup> and the first lunch of 2017 will be on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Barbara & Nigel Silvester

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*Following Jesus where the need is greatest*

**tearfund**

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church who gave to the Haiti appeal at Harvest and to everyone who came to the Third Thursday lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> October where the donations for lunch were added to the Harvest money. All in all we were able to send off £359, some of which was gift aided to increase its value. I have received a letter of thanks from Tearfund and this part of that letter.

Your money will be put straight to work, bringing vital aid to families and communities in Haiti who have lost everything. Jade Beakhouse their Communications and Support Officer has been out there to help, assess and distribute food parcels and hygiene kits to families in the worst- hit areas. Working with Tearfund partner out there- World Concern, she met a single mother taking care of five children who hadn't eaten properly for weeks. Thanks to the generous amount of food that was provided seeing the children's faces light up as they talked about what they could make with the provisions was she said 'so humbling. It was also incredible to see that those who received these food parcels often shared what they had been given with their neighbours and families, to ensure that everyone benefited from the goods.'

The need in Haiti remains huge, but Tearfund are committed to staying for the long term, helping people not only recover from the disaster, but also develop resilience for the future. Your support makes this possible.

Thank you again for joining us as we stand with the people of Haiti. Please continue to pray for all those affected.

Barbara Silvester  
(Tearfund Church rep)



## ***THE WALKING GROUP***

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Our November walk was led by Ralph Mallinson and seven of us met at St John with St Mark Church at 9.00am for cars to Hollingworth Lake Country Park, where we parked up for the day. For those of you who didn't know, Hollingworth Lake was one of eight reservoirs built to supply water for the Rochdale Canal.

After a short distance, we descended toward the M62 motorway bridge and after a further distance, we ascended back towards the M62. This time crossing another bridge, which shortly took us onto the Pennine Bridleway where we spent a good deal of the morning. On the Bridleway, we walked along the foot of Blackstone Edge, but unlike our outing in June, we did not climb up this time. We also caught a glimpse of the village of Calderbrook, and particularly the pyramidal steeple of St. James' Church Calderbrook, which from our location seemed to tower over the rest of the village.

Continuing along the Bridleway, we then made our way towards Summit, passing the Field of Dreams animal sanctuary and the Upper and Lower Chelburn Reservoirs. Our lunch stop was just after 12.00 at the Summit Quarry.

After lunch we continued with the next section of the walk, which took us along the Rochdale Canal from Summit to Littleborough, adjacent to the Manchester/Leeds railway line and passing the village of Calderbrook.

After leaving the canal, we continued towards Smithy Bridge, and then back towards Hollingworth Lake for the return home.

It was a great walk that Ralph took us on and we enjoyed a beautiful day with blue skies throughout. Although very occasionally, slightly chilly on the Pennine Bridleway, the array of Autumnal colours was a pleasure to witness.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

**NEXT WALK ~ Saturday 3rd December**

This will be a walk that covers three breweries in the town. We meet at St. John with St. Mark Hall at 10.15am, walking to The Clarence. We then continue to Irwell Works and The Lord Raglan. All are welcome with packed lunch and waterproofs. There will there be other obvious opportunities for refreshment along the way!



The Choir of St John with St Mark  
would like to wish everyone across the  
United Benefice

a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2017



John Brennan and the Christian Aid Team would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout 2016, and wish all a Happy and Joyful Christmas and all the best for New Year



## ***THE OPEN GROUP***

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Our 9th November meeting was led by Ian Banks. The theme was “storytelling” and Ian told us that we would need to work harder than normal since there would be no visual aids or Power Point presentations! Just us listening and using our imaginations as Ian told us tall tales and short stories.

These often had a spiritual element and came from all over the world; tales of Rabbis and Dervishes, Buddhist monks and slightly dodgy Anglican priests. We also discovered how wombat’s got their flat heads, how kangaroo’s got their long tails and about mice that bark. Ian had enough material to fill the session, but there was also an opportunity for other members to tell their own stories at regular intervals.

Some were brave enough to speak up and we heard a contrast of stories, including an experience by Archie Wardle from his time in the services when he was naked in Japan...

Towards the end of the evening, there was a look at David and Goliath – both the version that you read in I Samuel 17 and the untold version which has a completely different message.

Ian told us that one of his childhood inspirations was the author and story teller David Kossoff – and another was the comedian Dave Allan. This meeting was of a different nature to what we are normally used to and it was hugely appreciated by all. Ian ended with the familiar words to this Irish Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
May the wind blow strongly at your back,  
May the rain fall softly upon your fields,  
May you walk in peace and contentment  
wherever on your road you may be,  
And may God hold you in the palm of His hand,  
Until we meet again.

Open Group members, please remember that our Christmas Party will be held in the Library on Wednesday 7th December, 6.00pm for 6.30pm for those of you who have booked.



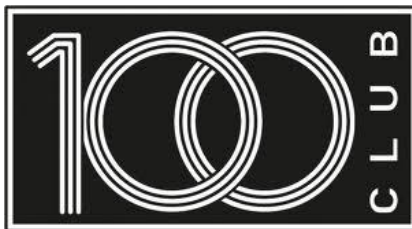
In the meantime, we wish everybody across the United Benefice a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017.

### **OCTOBER 2016 WINNERS**

1st Prize ~ Vicky Senior

2nd Prize ~ Maureen Nuttall

3rd Prize ~ Audrey Sadler



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL



With Best Wishes for Christmas,  
and a peaceful New Year  
to all across the United Benefice of  
Walmersley Road.  
From David Robinson

## **SCHOOL NEWS**

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Our new HeadTeacher, Stephen Ollis was introduced to the congregation at the Parade Service at St.John with St.Mark's in September. We prayed for Stephen as he began his role as Head.

There are a still several vacancies on the School Governing Body which usually meets once every term. If anyone is interested in serving on this important committee please speak to the Vicar or Sue Law, the Chair of Governors.

The School Choir will be performing at the Benefice Carol Service at Christ Church on Sunday 18 December. Thanks in advance to all the pupils and staff for their preparation for this event.

Thursday Dec 15	Nursery and Reception Nativity Plays
Friday Dec 16	Christmas Parties
Tuesday Dec 20	Songs for Christmas Key Stage 2
Wednesday Dec 21	Key Stage 1 nativity Plays
Thursday Dec 22	Last day of Term
Monday Jan 9	Spring term Begins

*"We strive to be a place where quality learning and effective teaching are delivered in order to develop a real sense of adventure and wonder."*

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL CONNECTED WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOL  
*St.John with St.Mark School, Athlone Avenue, Bury. BL9 5EE*  
Tel: 0161 764 5330 [www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk](http://www.stjohnwithst.mark.org.uk)



## ***'LITTLE VOICE' STAMPS***

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In the past we collected used postage stamps in a box at the back of Christ Church to support 'Guide Dogs for the Blind', but for many years now we have supported a charity called 'Little Voice'.

This small charity aids a project working with children in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. A small school and a home for orphaned children who have been living on the streets have been set up to providing a safe community with food, clothing, health care, a basic education and recreational activities for them. The children consider themselves lucky to have been found and cared for by the staff who run the home and the family of other children who live there. The hope is that they will grow up in safety to become confident and responsible adults.

All stamps, British and foreign, are collected and then sorted and sold to collectors to raise funds.

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

Our collective response at CCW to the appeal for used stamps, both old and new, British and foreign, has been magnificent and I would like to extend this appeal to the congregation at St. John with St. Mark's also.

I hope that you will continue, or begin, to support this worthwhile scheme for children in need of our help.

Many thanks again, David Peters

**SUNDAY EVENING  
PRAISE & PRAYER  
at ADVENT and  
EPIPHANY**



Sunday 4<sup>TH</sup> December 2016

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

At 7pm

Christ Church Walmersley Hall

(Back Room)

*Come and join us for worship in  
an informal setting with  
coffee/tea and cake!*



## IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD

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I like the story about the 3rd year children who were asked to write down the 7 wonders of the world. So they took blank pieces of paper and started to write down what they thought were the 7 wonders of the world. After a while, the teacher collected the papers and began looking at their answers – things like the Grand Canyon, the pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India, wonders from all over the world.



But one little girl was still busily writing. The teacher asked her, "Aren't you through yet? I just asked you to write down the 7 wonders of the world. What are you writing?" The little girl answered, "Well, I don't know if these are right ones or not, but I have a whole lot more than 7" "Hand me your papers and let me see what you have written," said the teacher. Then he started reading the little girl's list of the 7 wonders of the world: "to be able to see, hear, think, breathe, touch, run, love, laugh." And the list went on.

Our problem is that we tend to think that the great things of the world are the magnificent material things. And we miss the blessings our Father is giving us every day. Anon.

*P. S In case you have forgotten the original ones of the classical world, they are: the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, the Lighthouse (Pharos) of Alexandria. The only ancient world wonder that still exists is the Great Pyramid of Giza.*

(Thank you Ralph for contributing this.)

## ***TOP OF THE POPS!***

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At the Songs of Praise event at Christ Church, Dave fulfilled a long held ambition to announce the “top ten countdown” although this was hymns rather than pop songs.

There were six new entries in this year’s chart, two fallers and one hymn moving up.

Number 10 - Be still for the presence of the Lord, a big drop

Number 9 – Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, down 5 places

Number 8 – Lord Jesus Christ , a new entry

Number 7 - Sing of the Lord’s goodness – in for the first time

Number 6 – Love Divine, the same position as last year

Number 5 – Lord of all hopefulness, another newcomer

Number 4 - And can it be, the second Charles Wesley hymn

Number 3 – I the Lord of sea and sky, also known as Here I am Lord.

Number 2 – Bless the Lord, O my soul –a new one.

And at the top spot:

Number 1 - In Christ alone – the favourite for the second time.

Interspersed with readings, prayers and comments about the hymns, it was a very happy evening.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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### **CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA**

CHRIST CHURCH HALL  
School Lane  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
2pm - 4pm



£3.50

Please contact Jennifer if you need transport



### **SONGS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**

in St. John with St. Mark Church Hall,  
Parkinson Street

Wednesday 14th December  
11.00am until 1.00pm

Includes a free lunch

*Community event, organised by Bury Library Service  
All welcome for some festive cheer*

## ***MORE FORTHCOMING EVENTS***

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***CAROL SINGING***  
in the  
**THE SUNDIAL PUB**  
Walmersley Road

Come and join  
the Men of the Benefice  
before our Carol Service

**Sunday 18 December**  
**5.00pm**



**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  
2016 for some food, fun and games.

**ADMISSION FREE**

For further details, please speak to June Banks

## ***EVEN MORE FORTHCOMING EVENTS***

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JOINT SOCIAL EVENT

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CHURCH, HALL

**CHINESE BUFFET & entertainment  
to celebrate the Chinese New Year**

Friday 27 January 7.30pm

£7

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE LISTS THAT  
WILL BE AT THE BACK OF EACH CHURCH IN  
JANUARY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.



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*Joint Benefice Service*



**Celebrating Candlemas:  
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY

10.30am

St.John with St.Mark Church

*SERVICES AT 8.30am (SJM) & 9.00am (CCW) AS USUAL*



The Wardens  
send greetings this Christmas  
to the families of  
St John with St Mark  
and Christ Church

Barbara and Nigel Silvester  
wish everyone a happy and peaceful  
Christmas



With every blessing to you all  
this Christmas and in the year ahead  
from the Editors (Margery and Barbara)

NEXT PARADE SERVICE  
*with uniformed organisations*

*at both ST.JOHN with ST.MARK & CHRIST CHURCH*

Sunday 12 February 10.30am



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

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Sat 3	10.15am	Walking Group (SJM)
Sun 4		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
		Services as usual
	7.00pm	Prayer and Praise (CC Church hall)
Tue 6	7.30pm	Advent Study Group 150 Walmersley Road
Wed 7	7.30pm	Mother' Union (CC)
Thu 8	2.00pm	Advent Study Group (CC Church Hall)
	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sun 11		<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
		Services as usual
	5.30pm	Installation of honorary canons
Mon 12	2.00pm	Afternoon Tea (CC)
	7.30pm	Joint PCC (CC)
Tue 13	7.30pm	Advent Study Group 150 Walmersley Road
Wed 14	11.00am	Carol Singing around the tree (SJM Hall)
	2.30pm	Service at the Priory
	7.00pm	Mothers' Union Christmas Meal
Thu 15	12.00noon	Thursday Lunch (CC)
	2.00pm	Advent Study Group (CC Church hall)
Sat 17	10.00am	Carols in the Market
Sun 18		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
		Services as usual
	5.00pm	Carol Singing at The Sundial
	6.30pm	Joint Carol Service (CC)

Mon 19	7.30pm	Advent Study Group 150 Walmersley Road
Thu 22	2.00pm	Advent Study Group (CC church hall)
Sat 24		<b>Christmas Eve</b>
	5.00pm	Crib Service (SJM)
	6.00pm	Family Service (CC)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJM)
	11.30pm	Holy Communion (CC)
Sun 25		<b>Christmas Day</b>
	10.00am	Holy Communion (CC&SJM)
Sat 31	7.30pm	Family Social (SJM)
Sun 1		<b>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</b> Services as usual
Wed 4	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Holy Communion (CC)
Sun 8		<b>Epiphany</b> Services as usual
Sun 15		<b>Second Sunday of Epiphany</b> Services as usual
	7.00pm	Prayer and Praise (CC Church Hall)
Wed 18	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Sun 22		<b>Third Sunday of Epiphany</b> Services as usual
Fri 27	7.30pm	Chinese Buffet and Entertainment (SJM)
Sun 29		<b>Candlemas</b>
	8.30am	Service as usual (SJM)
	9.00am	Service as usual (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Service (SJM)
Mon 30	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice



Our very active  
scouting groups  
*see pages 14, 24-25*



Harry Smith (16)



Sam Devenport (16)



James Weston (16)



Freddie Nicol (16)



Archie Nicol (15)

