



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



December 2017 / January 2018

50P

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 nd Parade Service	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th United Service	Alternately CC/SJM

Monday

7.30 p.m.	1 st Listening Prayer	150 Walmersley Road
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Tuesday

7.30pm	Christian Meditation	St John w St Mark
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Wednesday

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

2.00 p.m.	1 st First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

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 Fairtrade status



Dear Friends

I am always interested in the various advertising campaigns that try to link the season of Christmas into our commercial world.

As I write this article, the bakery chain Greggs has had to apologise for inadvertently causing offence by replacing Jesus with a sausage roll in the Nativity scene. The phrase "There's no such thing as bad publicity" comes to mind.....

A few years ago a billboard poster proclaimed "CHISMAS - Christmas isn't Christmas without the RT" – a none too subtle advert for the Radio Times.

Another campaign around the same time by the Christian Publicity Organisation showed pictures of various festive items such as turkey, presents, TV, tree, pudding, cards etc with a sticker placed over them saying "Make room for God this Christmas".

This reflected an important lesson that without celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the festival is an empty sham. The true meaning of Christmas doesn't involve shopping, turkey or tinsel but the celebration of the birth of God's Son - the promised Messiah.

At its heart, the focus of Christmas is all about a mother and her baby. In one sense an ordinary, everyday story. In another, a unique event in history. That baby would grow up to be a man who died on a cross and then rose again to teach us of God's everlasting love for us all.

Our response should be to love Him in our lives – and love our neighbour as ourselves. This mirrors the example of the Son of God himself who shows us the Father and gives us the Holy Spirit as our guide and helper.

Love came down on Christmas Day
So many years ago
And brought the greatest happiness
The world would ever know.

Peace came down on Christmas Day
To fill the hearts of men
With all the sweet tranquillity
Each Christmas brings again.

Joy came down on Christmas Day
As angels came to earth
Heralding the miracle
Of our Messiah's birth.

What lovely gifts to all of us
These three so rich and rare,
And every year at Christmas time
We see them everywhere.

Wishing you all God's blessings this Advent, Christmas & Epiphany,

Dave

THE PRIORY Highbank Centre

CAROL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER

2.30pm



CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICE

10.30am

Sunday 3 December

St. John with St. Mark

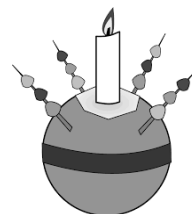


CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER

6.30pm

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



Please bring a toy for a local child in need



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

Sunday 17 December: 6.30pm Benefice Carol Service - JMB

Christmas Eve:	5.00pm	Crib Service – JMB
	6.00pm	Family Service – CCW
	7.30pm	Parish Communion - JMB
Christmas Night:	11.30pm	Parish Communion – CCW

Christmas Day: 10.00am Holy Communion Services - both



BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Dec 3 Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64: 1-9

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

Dec 10 Second of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

Dec 17 Third of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Dec 24 Fourth of Advent

2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

Dec 25 Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

Dec 31 First of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Galatians 4: 4-7

Luke 2: 15-21

Jan 7 Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

Jan 14 Second of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3: 1-10

Revelation 5: 1-10

John 1: 43-51

Jan 21 Third of Epiphany

Genesis 14: 17-20

Revelation 19: 6-10

John 2: 1-11

Jan 28 Fourth of Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Revelation 12: 1-5a

Mark 1: 21-28

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

October 30	Susan Calderbank
November 8	Peter Butterworth
November 10	Wendy Riggs
November 15	Mary Tunstall

Interment of ashes in the garden of remembrance

November 5	Wilf Coote
November 12	Norman Taylor

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

FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Dec 3	In memory of the Booth family
Dec 10	Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
Dec 17	In memory of the Birtwistle and Slater families
Dec 24	Congregation
Dec 31	No flowers
Jan 7	Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
Jan 14	Mrs June Houghton in memory of Geoff
Jan 21	In memory of Jack Grindrod
Jan 28	In memory of Fred Williams



If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, please speak to Betty Winterbottom (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

From the Vicarage

* The Archdeacon of Bolton – The Venerable David Bailey – will be retiring early in the New Year. David and Kathryn, who live in the former Christ Church Vicarage, will be moving to Ripon. Please pray for them as they prepare to move. They will be much missed at Christ Church and across the Diocese. I personally would like to thank David for his support during his time as Archdeacon and wish them both a long and happy retirement.

* The next meeting of the MOB – Men of the Benefice – takes place on Friday 1 December. We are going for a meal at the Dolce Vita on The Rock. Meal booked for 8pm - meet at the restaurant at 7.30. January's meeting is scheduled for Monday 29th.

* St John with St. Mark Church Hall are hosting a traditional Christmas Day lunch for anyone who would enjoy company at this time of the year. Thanks to those who have offered assistance 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 second Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please have a word with me.

* At our recent meeting we spoke about the congregation sitting or standing during our church services. It was stressed that people should adopt whatever posture they feel most comfortable with. There should be no strict rules about this but a more relaxed atmosphere depending on everyone's own personal circumstances.

* Porch Boxes are desperately in need of food items to meet the current demand. A box is available at the back of both churches. Please support this worthy cause.

* 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. Thanks to those who responded to this as a result of our recent Stewardship Campaign. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the wardens.

* Meetings of the Churches Together in Bury take place bi-monthly at various venues around the town, beginning at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 16 January. More details are in the Bulletins / News Sheets. Everyone is welcome to attend.

* January sees the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that falls between 18-25 of that month. On the Sunday following that week (28th), there will be a "pulpit swap" between St.John with St.Mark and Seedfield Methodist. The Revd Sharon Read and Revd Gill will be preaching in different surroundings!

* If you know of anyone who is unable to come to church at Christmas and would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion at home, please have a word with one of the Ministry Team (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark).

* 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 14th day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk Please note that the next edition will be for February.

St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 19th October 2017

An update was provided on the Stewardship campaign. We have received responses, which will be looked at after the campaign has ended. Dave & Gill will take responsibility for the time and talent replies.

Since the last meeting, the hedges on the west side of the building have now been removed, leaving just the rhododendrons.

There is currently no update on the Library closure.

Rosemarie discussed the Quinquennial inspection, which took place on 14th October. There is little work that needs undertaking inside the Church building however there are some jobs that will require work being done outside. We will await the full report from the architect before discussing further. It was also noted that the Church Hall did not form part of the inspection, despite us being led to believe it would following the Archdeacon's report last year. This will be raised with the Archdeacon.

PCC members were advised that the Deanery Mission Action Plan was discussed at the Deanery Synod meeting in September.

We have produced some new laminated cards for regular congregation members who give through the bank to place into the collection plates during the 10.30am service at the offertory. This is following a recent Warden's meeting that Rosemarie attended when the idea was introduced.

The Vicar made us aware that St. John with St. Mark Primary School had attended Church today for a Harvest service. This service was appreciated and afterwards some of the children presented local residents from the congregation with a Harvest gift box.

Dave also made us aware that he is to try and get the Diocesan Head of Vocations to speak to the joint PCC sometime next spring.

The next PCC meeting at St. John with St. Mark is on Thursday 7th December at 8.00pm and there will also be a joint PCC and social on Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm, also at St. John with St. Mark.

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 Study Groups will be taking place throughout the season, beginning the week prior to Advent Sunday on Monday 27 November. We will meet on subsequent Mondays until Christmas. These will be held at 150 Walmersley Road, beginning at 7.30pm, with the final meeting at the Vicarage. The theme will be taken from the Church of England's seasonal material "God with Us" and a booklet will be available in church. Even if you do not attend the study groups please take a booklet for use in your personal devotions.

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.



Advent

Advent God,
we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King,
ears attuned
to the song of angels,
eyes alert
for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us
if on our journey
if we are distracted
by the tempting offers
of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame
with the hope
of Christmas,
and the promise
of a Saviour. Amen



John Birch faithandworship.com

A Saviour Foretold

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end,

Isaiah 9 v 6

Christmas Love - paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13



If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.



Author Unknown

Christmas Journeys

As we remember the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, a long uncomfortable one with no assurance of a place to rest, we remember all those who this Christmas time will make hazardous journeys in an attempt to find safety:

- those fleeing war torn countries
- those escaping persecution
- those seeking families from whom they have lost contact
- those seeking a better life for their children
- those seeking work so that they can provide for their family

May they find hands willing to assist, to welcome and to comfort them.

Christmas Time

This Christmas,
as we remember
that there was no room at the inn,
we pray for all who are homeless,
and those who work to shelter them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light

This Christmas, as we remember
the birth of Jesus in a stable,
we pray for all who are living in poverty,
and those who work to provide for them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light

This Christmas, as we remember
the violence of the search for the Christ child,
we pray for all who are in danger,
and those who work to protect them.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light

This Christmas, as we remember
those who journeyed to the stable,
we pray for all who are seeking you,
and those who are leading the way.
Wherever the world is in darkness Lord,
Let there be light
Amen



Mothers' Union Prayers

Epiphany

From the eastern mountains,
pressing on they come,
Wise Men in their wisdom to his humble home
Stirred by deep devotion, hastening from afar
As they journey onward
Guided by a star.



Lord, may we like them seek you in all things and like them bring to you the gifts of our homage, love and service. May the star which guided them shine in our hearts and in our lives.

Christian Unity

God of unity,
Trinity of the Three,
You call your people to be one
That the world may believe.
Grant us your Spirit
That we might act and speak with one voice
So that our world's pains and divisions
May be transformed by healing, hope and
reconciliation, Our Lord's prayer be answered,
And your name glorified and hallowed. Amen.



Grant Lord, that although we worship in different ways, in different buildings, with different liturgies, we may always concentrate on that which unites us rather than those things which separate us.

SUNDAY @ SEVEN

We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer) on:

Sunday December 10th
at 7pm at Christ Church Hall (back room)

Sunday January 21st
at 7pm at St John with St Mark Hall



Do come and join us – it lasts about an hour - you will be most welcome!

MEMORIAL GARDEN CHRIST CHURCH

I would like to say a big thank you to certain people who over the last eighteen months have been great in helping me to upgrade the memorial garden. I think that one or two will agree with me that the hardest and most backbreaking part was lifting the stones and then making sure we put them back in their rightful place.

My thanks go to Jason, Nigel and Barbara for all their hard work. money was a big problem for us, but as usual the people of Christ Church came to our help. A special thanks to Gill for opening up her house for a tea and coffee day which raised over £400. This also gave us the chance to buy a strimmer for the main graveyard.

Many thanks to all those who donated to the cause.
God Bless you
Barry

PS Donations are still being accepted.

Our meeting on All Saints' Day was Holy Communion led by Paul Sanderson and followed by a soup supper.

For the second meeting of the month members played MU Monopoly. Instead of buying properties we visited countries around the world (Burundi, N. Argentina, Zimbabwe, Guyana, Wales, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, England, South Sudan, Uganda, DR Congo, Scotland, Jamaica, Rwanda and Zambia) and learned how Mothers' Union initiatives in each of those countries were enhancing and transforming people's lives. A most informative insight into Mothers' Union work around the world. (I'm not sure we stuck to the rules but it was good fun!)

The Deanery Advent Service is to be held on Sunday, 3 December at 2.30 pm at Emmanuel Church Centre, Longsight Road. On Thursday, 7 December at St Ann's Manchester the Diocesan Advent Service will start at 1.30 pm. Everyone is most welcome on both occasions.

On December 6th our Diocesan President Cath Hilton will lead an Advent meditation and the following week we are off to the Red Hall for our Christmas meal.

Our theme for 2018 is "in Mary Sumner's footsteps". Mary Sumner, who founded Mothers' Union in 1876, was a Christian activist, a woman with a vision far ahead of her time, and with the faith and resolve to follow God's call to make a difference to families and society.

We start 2018 on the 17th January, with Holy Communion followed by cake.

As always, everyone is welcome at any of our meetings, so we hope to see you in 2018.

With best wishes to all members for a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Bob Taylor
Branch Leader



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May you have the gift of faith,
the blessing of hope,
and the peace of his love
this Christmas and always,
Dave and Linda



John Brennan and the whole Christian Aid Team would like to wish everyone across the Benefice a very Happy Christmas and all the best for New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of Christian Aid during 2017.

The Choir of St. John with St. Mark
wish everyone across
the Benefice of Walmersley Road
a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2018.



We wish all clergy and parishioners at Christ Church and St. John with St. Mark A HAPPY and JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and A HEALTHY and PEACEFUL NEW YEAR
Barry and Margaret Evans and family.

I would like to wish all across the United Benefice a very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.
From David Robinson





Archdeacon David and Kathryn
send Christmas greetings
to their church family
at Christ Church and St John with St Mark.

Barbara and Nigel would like to give
Christmas greetings
to all our friends in the benefice
and a happy and peaceful 2018.

For
unto
all of
CHILD
is born
unto a SON
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulder,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6



Alan and Margery Spencer wish everyone
a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

May you have a happy and peace-filled Christmas
and a joyous New Year
Barbara and Bob (Taylor)



To all my friends at Christ Church and St John with
St Mark, may you know the joy, the peace and the
hope of this special season.
God bless, Rev'd Gill x

A greeting from the Church Councils of
both parishes to all in our communities
- May the blessings of Christmas be
with you today and always.





THE OPEN GROUP

On Wednesday 8th November, Paul Sanderson led our evening on a talk along the Pennine Way, which he completed with his brother as part of the Lands End to John O'Groats route. We had a very good attendance this evening with the room being full. Paul opened the evening with a brief history of the Pennine Way, from the initiative in the 1930's to its official opening 30 years later in the 1960's. The route, the backbone of England, begins in Edale in Derbyshire and ends just inside the Scottish border. It took Paul 18 days to complete the 267 mile route, walking a range of distances each day (an 11 mile day was regarded as a day of rest).

Our talk included a range of photographs taken across the 18 days, of stunning scenery and landmarks on the route. Of course our first photo was at the marker point by the official start in Edale. Over the course of the evening we were treated to some of the key highlights and pictures of the 18 days. There were some spectacular images and interesting anecdotes.

As well as parts unknown to some of us, some of the route includes areas that were familiar to people, and there were bits we had covered separately in our own Church walking group, such as Blackstone Edge and the Aiggin Stone and Stoodley Pike and its monument. Paul also told us about the different accommodation they had stayed at, including pubs and a former Post Office. Paul explained about the wonders of an ankle support bandage he had been forced to purchase following an injury near Stoodley Pike. This was worn for over half of the journey and he even brought the very same worn out support bandage to the group for us to see (his one and only prop of the night).

We heard about 'Pierre', who appeared at several points on the route and also occasional pints of Theakstons Old Peculiar, when it was available, which was quite often.

There was also a guest appearance from Sir Tony Robinson who was near the northern end of the route working on a TV documentary at the time.

Our talk was complete with a photograph at the sign marking the official end of the Pennine Way at the hotel in Kirk Yetholm.

It is clear that a lot of planning and effort goes into these long distance walks.

Thanks to Paul for the time spent in putting this talk together and for leading the evening for us.

David Robinson

Open Group members, please remember that our Christmas Party will be held in the Library on Wednesday 6th 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 2018.



SATURDAY WALKING GROUP

For our walk in November it was decided to repeat something we had previously done a couple of years back, and that was the route back from Manchester Victoria to Bury. To clarify, we did go the scenic way along parts of the Irwell Sculpture Trail, and not directly down Bury New Road.

Five of us assembled at Bury Metrolink station at 9.00am and caught the tram to Victoria. After pausing at Victoria for a short while to study the iconic Lancashire and Yorkshire tiled railway map and Soldiers' Gate war memorial we traversed the short distance through Salford to pick up Peel Park by the side of the University. It had been quite a wet start to the day however we were pleased it had brightened up as we walked through Peel Park alongside the River Irwell flood plain for a while.

Later on we made our way up towards Broughton. We were hoping to explore a route that we had not previously taken last time however this was still closed for redevelopment. This will again have to wait so we crossed the Irwell and made our way up towards The Cliff training ground and then through the Salford Trail and Kersal Woods. Sadly the recent blustery weather had brought the leaves down early therefore we were unable to fully appreciate the autumn colours. We paused for elevenses shortly afterwards and continued through Clifton Park.

It is not too long before you arrive in the Borough of Bury and reach Prestwich. We walked past the site of the former Cussons Soap factory on Kersal Vale Road and then onto Drinkwater Park. The Giant Hogweed was noticeable here.

Continuing further we reached the motorway bridge and crossed this to pick up the start of the Outwood Trail, which forms part of the former Manchester, Bury and Rossendale Railway line.

Our scheduled lunch stop was at the old Ringley Road railway station (closed 1953), the platform of which is still in relatively good condition.

After lunch we continued through the mud on the rest of the trail before leaving at Outwood Park, Radcliffe and walking back to the Metrolink. We boarded the tram here back to Bury and then stopped off at the Clarence for some refreshment.

An enjoyable day once again, and we spotted a few sculptures on the way.

Best foot forward, David Robinson

NEXT WALK

Two Breweries Stagger (Sadly reduced from three since the closure of The Raglan)

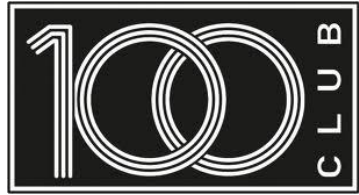
Saturday 9th December
Meet at Christ Church Walmersley, Lych Gate,
at 11.00am

As there are now fewer people in the 100 Club there will be only be two prize winning numbers each month from September 2017.

OCTOBER 2017 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ J. Kelly

2nd Prize ~ Steve Tanner



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH



Thank You!

MESSAGES OF THANKS

Many thanks for the box of goodies, which was brought to me by the Vicar following the Harvest service with the School in October. It was very gratefully received.

Mrs Edith Tanner

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your prayers, good wishes, and 'get well' cards sent to me during my recent stay in hospital.

I am now well on the way to recovery.
Best wishes for a Happy Christmas

God Bless you All,
Betty Alty



JOINT BENEFICE SERVICE
on the 5th Sunday of a month
31 December
10.30am
ST.JOHN with ST.MARK

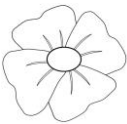
Light Lunch



The next lunches will be on
Thursday, December 21st and
Thursday January 18th
at 12.00 noon in the Hall at Christ Church

Everyone is welcome to share food and fellowship
– so please bring your friends.

Everyone simply pays what they can,
or what they consider to be its value



Poppies

Some people have asked about the poppies featured on the
back page of November's magazine.

The poppies were produced at various community knitting groups in Bury and Radcliffe. Ours were made by members attending Moorside knit and Natter group which meets on Tuesdays. The group is made up of CCW, St J & St M, residents of the Seedfield area and friends who want to join us.

The display was made to hang at Walshaw Hall where a remembrance service was followed by refreshments and entertainment. A cross was made from more poppies in memory of the veterans.

Play Your Part!
in the United Benefice of
Walmersley Road

Thank you for all you do, in God's service, in this community.

We have analysed the responses to our recent Time & Talents questionnaires as part of our Stewardship Campaign.

At St.John with St.Mark there were 26 responses to the Time and Talents questionnaire and lots of talents were identified.

18 responses (66%) covered most of the Talents listed and felt they were using their talents to capacity.

7 responses (27%) said they were interested in taking on 1 more challenge and 1 response (4%) was up for more than 2 extra challenges!

A similar pattern emerged at Christ Church. 27 responses of which 7 people (26%) said they were interested in taking on some new responsibilities. The remainder were happy to continue their current involvement for which we are very grateful.

Churches Together, Christmas Day lunch, Sunday School work and primary school links were the only categories that had no responses at all.

Thank you for taking the time to think about what it is you already do for the work of God's Kingdom in Bury. Those who have expressed further interest will be hearing from us!

Please remind us if you think we've forgotten you or you fancy a new challenge and want to volunteer for something in the future.

**We have different gifts,
according to the grace
given to each of us.**

*Sharing our
time and talents*

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CE SCHOOL

News from our Church School

- The school choir are planning to sing at a number of venues in the run up to Christmas. They are booked to perform at Bury Parish Church in the evening of Monday 11 December and a week later they will be taking part in the benefice Carol Service at St.John with St.Mark on Sunday 17 December. These are in addition to a scheduled appearance at the St.John with St.Mark Christmas Fair at the end of November.
- School held a very successful Harvest Service at St.John with St.Mark in October after which a number of food hampers were distributed to people in the community. There were a lot of favourable comments and this will be the first of many such services that will take place in church in the future.
- There are still some 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 5 Dec: Christmas Lunch

Thursday 7 Dec: 2.00pm Christmas Fair

Friday 15 Dec: 9.30am "Bethlehem" performance IN CHURCH

Monday 18 Dec: Nursery / Reception Christmas shows

Tuesday 19 Dec: End of Term

Wednesday 3 January 2018: New Term begins

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HEADTEACHER MR. OLLIS
AND EVERYONE CONNECTED WITH OUR CHURCH SCHOOL

*St.John with St.Mark School
Athlone Avenue, Bury. BL9 5EE
Tel: 0161 764 5330*

CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2017

Children across South Sudan and Burkina Faso do not have enough to eat.

This Christmas, the UK Government will match every pound you give.

Will you ensure there is enough for everyone?

Help us change the world.

It won't be easy, but we will keep going until everyone is free from poverty and inequality. You can help with a donation. For every pound you give, the UK Government will give a pound more.* That's double the support for people living in poverty.

*Donations made to the Christmas Appeal between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 will be matched up to £2.7 million. Your support could change a family's life forever.

With your donations, in Burkina Faso we are providing tools so families can grow and sell vegetables, as well as nutritional ingredients and training to provide healthy meals for malnourished children.

In one village in South Sudan there has not been a good harvest for many years and devastating conflict has meant that many families are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

The severe food crisis in South Sudan is very different to the dire situation in Burkina Faso, but our beliefs, approach and commitment remain the same. With your help, we will do everything we can to ensure every family has enough to eat – at Christmas, and long into the future.

To find out more, make a donation online by visiting christianaid.org.uk. Cheques, Postal Orders can be sent to Christian Aid, Freepost, RSUR-YSTS-KJUL, 35-41 Lower Marsh London SE1 7RL or use one of Christian Aid envelopes at the back of church and give to wardens, clergy or John Brennan. Help us light the way.

Thank you so much for all you can give.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is any act of violence or abuse which is directed at someone because of their gender, and most commonly affects women and girls. Look around you – the chances are that someone you see is suffering at this moment!

Each year Mothers' Union and Girlguiding are among the organisations which join with one voice, to raise awareness of and call for an end to gender-based violence in all forms, and in all societies.

Did you know that...

- At least one in three women globally will experience some form of gender-based violence at some point in their lifetime (*World Health Organisation*).
- More than 700 million women alive in the world today were married as children (*UN Women*).
- In 2012, one in two women killed in a homicide was killed by a partner, former partner, or family member. One in 20 men was killed by a partner, former partner, or family member in this same year (*UN Women*).
- 4.5 million people worldwide are victims of forced sexual exploitation. 98% of these are women (UN Women). • 133 million women and girls alive today are survivors of female genital mutilation (FGM) (*UN Women*).
- Globally, women between the ages of 15-44 are more likely to be maimed or die as a result of male violence than through cancer, malaria, traffic accidents or war combined (*Restored*).
- In England and Wales seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner (ONS Wales 2015 Crime Survey England and Wales)
- 60 million girls are sexually assaulted at or on their way to school. (*USAID*) each year

So please help to:



'LITTLE VOICE' STAMPS



For many years now we have collected used postage stamps in a box at the back of Christ Church, supporting a charity called 'Little Voice'.

This 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 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. 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 from the cards you receive!

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

P.S. Little Voice's web page gives more details
www.littlevoicefoundation.org

From this website –

"This school is like my home. I am successful because of the support from this organization. This is my family."

Tseganesh Assefa

THE WOOD STREET MISSION

The Mission is a children's charity based in the centre of Manchester. More than one in three local children is living in poverty. We help children and families living in poverty in Manchester and Salford by alleviating the day to day impact of poverty and improving life chances.

THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

At Christmas we provide children up to the age of 18 with new toys and gifts. The presents are new as we want the child to feel no different from any other children opening their gifts on Christmas morning.

Can you help by providing?

- * A new toy, gift, book, toiletries or new clothes suitable for a children and young people up to 18 years old. Suggested value £10. No high value items please and do remember older children and we struggle to secure enough donations for this age group.
- * 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.
- * Giving to our Appeal online.

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.

Last year we gave new toys and food to over 2,000 families and 4,500 children. This year we expect the numbers referred to us to be even higher. Help us ensure all local children can join in the fun and festivities.

PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP

TOYS COLLECTED AT OUR CHRISTINGLE SERVICES
WILL BE DONATED TO THE APPEAL



EVENTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY



ADVENT FAYRE

Christ Church Church Hall
Saturday, December 2
10.30 am to 1.30 pm

CAFÉ serving coffee and cakes, soup and rolls

STALLS – including:
Tombola, Cakes, Books
New to you accessories and jewellery,
Treasure Hunt

.....
and more



NEW YEAR'S EVE CHURCH FAMILY SOCIAL

2018

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 2017
with some food, fun and games.

ADMISSION FREE

MORE EVENTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

JOINT SOCIAL EVENT

ST.JOHN with ST.MARK CHURCH HALL

CHINESE BUFFET

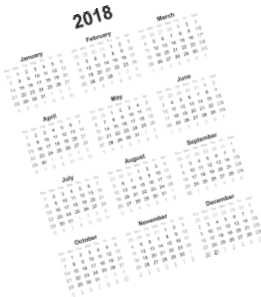
& entertainment

to celebrate the Chinese New Year



Friday 16 February 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



If you have plans for February onwards
please let us have details
so we can add to the calendar

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

November

Mon 27 7.30pm Advent Study Group (150 W Rd)

December

Fri 1 7.30pm MOB (La Dolce Vita)

Sat 2 10.30am Advent Fayre (CC)

Sun 3		Advent Sunday
	10.30am	Services as usual Cafe Church (SJM)
	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Deanery Advent Carol Service
Mon 4	6.30pm	Christingle Services (CC,SJM)
	7.30pm	Advent Study Group (150 W Rd)
Wed 6	6.30pm	Open Group Christmas party (SJM)
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
Thu 7	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sat 9	11.00am	Walking Group (CC)
Sun 10		Second Sunday of Advent
		Services as usual
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (CC)
Mon 11	7.30pm	Advent Study Group (150 W Rd)
Wed 13	2.30pm	Carol Service at Priory
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union Christmas meal (Red Hall)
Thu 14	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Sun 17		Third Sunday of Advent
		Services as usual
	6.30pm	Joint Carol Service (SJM)
Mon 18	7.30pm	Advent Study Group (Vicarage)
Tues 19	7.30pm	Joint PCC (SJM)
Thu 21	12 noon	Light lunch (CC)
Sun 24		Christmas Eve
		Morning Services as usual
	5.00pm	Crib Service (SJM)
	6.00pm	Family Service (CC)
	7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJM)
	11.30pm	Holy Communion (CC)

Sun 25 **Christmas Day**
 10.00am Holy Communion (CC, SJM)

Sun 31 **First Sunday of Christmas**
 Early services as usual
 10.30am Joint Service (SJM)
 7.30pm Family Social in SJM Hall



January

Wed 3 No meeting of Mothers' Union

Sun 7 **Epiphany**
 Services as usual

Sun 14 **Second of Christmas**
 Services as usual

Tue 16 7.30pm Bury Churches Together

Wed 17 7.30pm Mothers' Union Holy Communion

Thu 18 12 noon Light Lunch (CC)

Sun 21 **Third of Christmas**
 Services as usual
 7.00pm Sunday@Seven (SJM)

18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sun 28 **Fourth of Christmas**
 Services as usual
 Pulpit exchange - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Mon 29 8.00pm MOB

Wed 31 7.30pm Deanery Synod (St Andrew, Ramsbottom)



*said the napkins at the
Festive afternoon tea
held at Christ Church*

