



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



"Oh Come let us Adore Him"

December 2018 / January 2019

50P



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark (Barritt Room)
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.	3 rd Service of the Word	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



BABY TALK – FOR GROWN-UPS!

Sitting in our office contemplating the task ahead it struck me that it's a letter for three seasons! Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Well usually the best place to begin is at the beginning - in fact the first words of John's gospel are 'In the beginning was the word' meaning that at creation Jesus was there with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Fast forward many millennia to today and what have we got with Advent?

Yes it's a time of preparation, preparation for the arrival of a baby! Preparation for when we commemorate the arrival of Jesus coming to earth as a human with all the frailties that we have. However speaking as a mother – nothing can prepare you for the reality of a child in your life especially your first! So what can we do?

Like expectant parents we could make time to go to classes to prepare – and with apologies to Linda I don't mean crafts for Christmas classes but to one of the Advent groups that are organised every year – to bring ourselves closer to Jesus by better preparing ourselves spiritually. Then the big day arrives "It's Christmas" to quote a pop song that your probably sick and tired of hearing!

The baby has arrived! Not quite as Mary and Joseph had planned I'm sure, quietly in Nazareth their home village but in Bethlehem after an arduous journey some 80 miles south through bandit country on a donkey's back – stress or what? No family support it would seem, no familiar midwife, no hospital backup. Frightening in any circumstances but for many in this war torn world all too familiar.

Were the locals welcoming? It would seem not as Jesus was born in the inn stable.

It begs the question, how welcoming are we?

I would say pretty good if a stranger makes it through the church doors, but how about the stranger on the street, those homeless,

refugees or asylum seekers? You and you alone know the answer to that one. Jesus was welcomed by the lowest of the low, the shepherds, and they were the ones that gave him the glory he deserved. Do we give Jesus the glory by our actions? Are we like the proud parents keen to welcome this new stranger into our lives?

Well we've prepared and welcomed the baby into our lives so what's next?

It's the big reveal, that Epiphany moment when we show the baby to the world.

Except he's not a baby in a pram being pushed along the street by proud parents (and grandparents.)

This is Jesus being revealed for who he is. God Incarnate. God in human flesh.

His future is prophesied by Simeon and Anna when taken to the Temple (technically part of Christmas.) Then as a child with a visit from the Magi and as an adult in his baptism in the Jordan by his cousin John, where the great declaration from God is heard "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

We hear about some of the miracles that Jesus performed, turning water into wine. Antagonising the local Synagogue by telling them that the prophecy of Isaiah had come true in him. Preaching and teaching in a radical way. Basically shaking up the status quo as he reveals what God really wants for us.

This is Jesus the man, the man we profess and follow, born to give us second birth, Jesus our Emmanuel (to quote the carol). The baby has grown up! So don't leave him in the manger!

My prayer over this period and for 2019 is that we prepare to make the man Jesus known to all in the Benefice and that we show the love of Jesus in everything we say and do.

Blessings to all at Christmas and may you have a happy and peaceful 2019

Barbara



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2018

Sunday 23 December: 6.30pm Benefice Carol Service - CCW

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

Christmas Night: 11.30pm Parish Communion – CCW

Christmas Day: Holy Communion Services
BOTH CHURCHES at 10.00am

30 December 10.30am Joint Benefice Service - JMB



Monday December 3rd
6.30pm

Christingle Services

at Christ Church and St. John with St. Mark.

These events will support the work of the Childrens' Society.

Please bring a toy for a child in need.

These toys will be distributed through Wood Street Mission

(Note the change of date for St. John with St. Mark)

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Dec 2	Advent Sunday	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Dec 9	Second Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3: 1-4	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3: 1-6
Dec 16	Third Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3: 7-18
Dec 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1: 39-55
Dec 30	First of Christmas	1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2: 41-52
Jan 6	Epiphany	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
Jan 13	Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43: 1-7	Acts 8: 14-17	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
Jan 20	Third of Epiphany	Isaiah 62: 1-5	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
Jan 27	Fourth of Epiphany	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31	Luke 4: 14-21
Feb 3	Candlemas	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2: 22-40



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

At Christ Church

- Dec 2 In memory of Jennifer Melling and Mary Illesley
Dec 9 In memory of the Booth family
Dec 16 Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
Dec 23 The Congregation
Dec 30 In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme
Jan 6 Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
Jan 13 Mrs June Houghton in memory of Geoff
Jan 20 In memory of Jack Grindrod
Jan 27 In memory of Elizabeth Mather

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).

THE PRIORY Highbank Centre

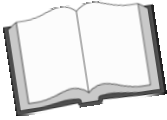
CAROL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER

at 2.30pm

All are welcome





FROM THE REGISTERS

Wedding

Nov 9 Julian Hartley and Vanessa Lay

"Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder"

Church Funerals

Nov 6 Marjorie Collings

Nov 13 Terry Chadwick

Funeral Services held at the Crematorium

Oct 22 David Burns

Oct 26 Larry Jordan

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

CAFÉ CHURCH 2018



Our Café Church services this year have followed a common theme based on the report released by the Archbishops' Council in Feb 2017, '**Setting God's People Free.**'

During our Café Church services we have looked at 'the true treasures of the Church' – i.e. YOU, and why change is needed for church growth. Our final two services will once again look at how EVERYONE in church can be empowered and liberated for fruitful, faithful mission and ministry, not just on Sundays but throughout the week too.

NEXT CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICE

St.John with St.Mark: 10.30am, December 16



The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year and is part of its 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 symbolise 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 26 November. We will meet on subsequent Mondays until Christmas. These will be held at 150 Walmersley Road, beginning at 7.30pm.

Another group will meet in Christ Church hall on three Thursdays in Advent beginning at 2.00pm on 6 December.

Why not come along and seek to deepen your faith during this special time? You would be most welcome.

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.

From the Vicarage

* Thanks to all those who helped decorate both churches for our Remembrance Sunday events. It was a very poignant occasion as we commemorated the circumstances that led to the ending of the armistice of World War One.

* There is a list of our Christmas services printed in this magazine. This year we are holding a Christmas Eve Family Communion service at Christ Church starting at 6.00pm.

This is in addition to the Christmas Night Communion beginning at 11.30pm, which is the only midnight service in the Benefice. St.John with St.Mark are hosting a Communion service at 7.30pm on Christmas Eve.

* Once again the Church of England have published a pocket-sized booklet to help with our Christmas devotions. Follow The Star invites us to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men as we meet Jesus during the season.

Each booklet contains 14 daily reflections, one for each day from Christmas Eve throughout the 12 days of Christmas, ending with the Epiphany on 6th January.

Each one includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and a challenge to reflect or act differently. Together, they form a journey through Jesus' early life – a journey that will help you take the joy and wonder of Christmas into the year ahead. The booklets will be available in church during Advent.

* The Gateway Ministry services are continuing in Christ Church Hall every Saturday evening beginning at 6.30pm. Please support them if you are able.

* Thanks as ever to those who contribute to our regular copper collections. These are always well received by the charities that we donate to and we welcome new suggestions of organisations to support.

- * The next meeting of the MOB – Men of the Benefice – will be our Christmas meal on Friday 7 December.
- * 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 contact one of the team.
- * 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.
- * Both the churches in the United Benefice of Walmersley Road are now on Facebook! Search for both Christ Church, Walmersley and St.John with St.Mark, Bury and "like" and "follow" to receive messages from the site. We now also have a twitter feed – the twitter handle is @cofewalmersley.
- * 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).
- * 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. We welcome all contributions. Articles for the February issue and future editions may be sent via email to wrub@live.co.uk

* The 2019 Church Diaries are available at the back of both churches. A donation of £1 per diary is suggested.

*** CHRIST CHURCH FIELD UPDATE:**

The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church have selected Morris Homes to apply for permission to build on our church field. Morris plan to build 44 houses on this land. The PCC will keep you up to date with developments

FROM THE COUNCILS

St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 25th October 2018

Safeguarding - A list of Panto helpers is being worked through.

Website – We have now had new visitors from Ghana & Germany. The old Website has been taken down so cannot now be viewed.

Disabled Access – We are currently looking at quotes for a new flexistep option for access from the Church to Hall.

Parade Services Review – A meeting of uniformed groups took place in September and it was proposed that we have 5 parade services per year from 2019. Changing family circumstances mean that monthly parade services no longer seem viable. The suggested dates for the services are 1 in Lent (working around the school holidays) 1 in June, Harvest (in either September or October), Remembrance Sunday & Christingle. The drop in Church Parade attendances over the last few years was discussed and possible reasons why.

8.30am Service – This will continue in the Barritt Room as the congregation have become settled in the room. A request was made that the room be cleared after the service in readiness for the Sunday school at 10.30am.

Service of the Word Review – Minor things could be added to the service such as inclusion of the Peace and space for the collection.

250th Anniversary – Bishop David will attend our service in June 2020.

Finance – It is our intention to replace the copier printer in due course and also dispose of the smaller printer in the Vicar's Vestry, which no longer works.

We have been informed that the Parish Share has increased and Ian will meet with representatives from the Diocese shortly to discuss this.

Health & Safety – The defibrillator has now arrived and is in the corridor opposite the toilets. Notices have been placed in prominent positions across the building to advise people that we have a defib and where it is.

Finally – We were pleased to hear that Ian has put himself forward for Authorised Lay Ministry in 2019. The PCC voted unanimously that Ian be accepted for this post, training for which begins in January and commissioning is in September.

A PCC meeting will need to take place on Sunday 2nd December to discuss charitable giving but the next full meeting will be on Thursday 10th January at 8.00pm.

Christ Church Walmersley PCC report 5th November 2018

1. The minutes of the meeting on the 17th September were approved as a proper record.
2. The location of the new bench in memory of George Fryer was discussed and items were discussed for the remembrance service on the 11th of November.
3. Brian Crow distributed the monthly financial report to the end of September. The current account stands at £6,972 and at the end of October the Parish Share account to be paid is £10,125.

4. It was noted that anyone on the electoral roll or others in the church family do not normally need to process GDPR consent forms. However all names and addresses on lists must be kept confidential.
 5. The PCC were updated on the position of the sale of the field.
 6. The email to the vicar on the sale of the field from the Friends of Walmersley was discussed and the vicar will answer the points raised.
 7. The fund raising committee noted that the following future events were to be held
 - a. 27th November Afternoon tea.
 - b. 1st of December Festive snacks and stalls event.
 - c. 3rd December the Christingle service.
 8. The vicar noted that the parade service attendance had declined from the uniformed groups. It had been agreed at St John with St Mark's that there would be five parade services, three fixed and two moveable dates for next year. The vicar was to meet the uniformed groups from CCW and discuss this further.
 9. Health and safety – the switches in the vestry have been isolated until the security of the fixing of the switch has been established.
 10. The vicar noted that the new visitor's book presented by Revd Gill Barnett as a leaving present has already been signed.
 11. A guide to Walmersley church is being prepared for visitors to the church.
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John Brennan and the Christian Aid team thank everybody who has helped or contributed towards the work of Christian Aid this year. Your efforts have made a big difference.

We wish all a very Happy Christmas and hope that the good work will continue into 2019.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A recent survey has shown the extent to which Church of England parishes support a network of community initiatives throughout the country.

More than 32,000 separate projects were identified, including food banks, toddler groups, night shelters, language classes and debt advice services.

Almost 13,000 parishes were included in the survey and this showed that churches hosted:

- *13,100 "social action projects"*
- *3,600 schemes run by other groups, and working in partnership with external groups*
- *ran 4,900 projects*
- *supported 11,100 more with volunteers and donations.*

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd. Justin Welby is quoted as saying that the report:

"spells out the sheer scale and range of our churches' commitment to their communities. We are doing more to love and help people in need than at any time since 1945."

"We don't just do this to be 'nice' but because our faith in Jesus Christ compels us to act"

The things you do for Mothers' Union!

Friday 9th November 2018. The day didn't get off to the best start. The alarm clock went off at 5.45 am. Earlier than usual - why? You may ask yourself, so did I, as most of you know I'm not a morning person; it takes at least 2 mugs of tea to get me out of the house.

The reason for the early start was that once again I was off to York Minster for the Provincial service of the Mother's Union, and my train was leaving Manchester Victoria at 07.55. I dragged myself into the shower to wash my hair and wake up. It was only when I was rinsing the said hair that I realised I'd washed it in Badedas shower gel. Oh well it's a detergent she thinks and my hair is squeaky clean and smelling of chestnuts.

Dashed off for the 6.30 bus to Bury - going OK so far she thinks groggily. But no - I get to the bottom of Palatine Drive and the bus is in sight and I realise I've left my phone charging up at home - should I go back for it or leave it? I had to go back as it had my train ticket on it! That will teach me to embrace technology. So home I went and picked up my fully charged phone and then made it back to the bus stop and into Bury.

Things went well from then, caught the Metro to Victoria arriving in plenty of time for the 7.55 to York so decided that I needed to increase my caffeine levels and went into the well-known coffee shop from Seattle. I spent the rest of the morning with a group from Sale and joined them in reserved seating for the Chester Diocese.

Arrived at the Minster and checked in with Bob. The service started with a procession of Clergy & Bishops, the Worldwide President, the Diocesan Banners and the Provincial Banner. Archbishop Sentamu presided but he didn't make any references about the invaders from over the Pennines this time nor were there any liquorish allsorts, but he did remind us that Africa had the most members of the Mothers Union.

During the communion service a new provincial banner and chaplain's stole were dedicated. I'm sure if you look on the MU display at the back of Church you will be able to see a postcard of the new banner - an improvement on the old one if you ask me. All too soon the service was over.



It was time for lunch. It was as I was checking google maps for directions I found my fully charged phone had 5% of battery charge left; flippin heck she thinks my train tickets. Anyway found a Carphone warehouse and bought a portable charger and revived my phone. If you want to know where I had lunch you only need to ask me. Just to say certain members of my family would have approved.

Eventually after a good dose of window shopping I wound my way back to the station for the train back to Manchester. It was on time and I had a seat. Happy days, after all the bad press the trains have had this summer, BUT somewhere between York and Manchester it was delayed by 30 minutes and I felt sorry for the other passengers who were travelling on to Liverpool when the conductor announced it was terminating in Manchester.

After 12 hours out I arrived back home, worn out, wet but happy to have been at the start and finish of Barbara's presidency.

Pamela Hoyle

OCTOBER 2018 WINNERS

First Prize Stuart Ashworth

Second Prize Laura Clark



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL

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



The Choir at St. John with St. Mark wish all across the
Benefice a very Merry Christmas and all the
best for 2019



I would like to wish all across the United
Benefice of Walmersley Road a peaceful
Christmas and a hope filled New Year
David Robinson



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

Geoff and Tricia wish the congregations of both
churches a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and every
good wish for the New Year





Seasons Greetings
to all Clergy, Readers,
Friends and Worshippers at
Christ Church.
A Joyous Christmas
and a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.
God Bless You All
Barry and Margaret

Barbara and Nigel
wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas.



They thank everyone for their prayers
over the recent weeks.

Love and Best wishes to everyone
at St John with St Mark and Christ Church
at this special time
from Ian and June Banks



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the
obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the
eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the
magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

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

With love and prayers,
Barbara and Bob Taylor



11th/24th Cubs in front of the poppy display during their visit to the Imperial War Museum (*See page 30 for report*)

WELL DONE CATH!

Cath swam 100 lengths of Ramsbottom Pool to raise monies for "Welcoming Strangers" – a fund to support groups working with refugees and asylum seekers in the diocese, launched in October by Mothers' Union Manchester.



To contribute visit [JustGiving.org](https://www.justgiving.org) and search for Welcoming Strangers, or speak to Cath Hilton or Barbara Taylor

The Young People of St John with St Mark Present:

Cinderella

*A dream is a wish your
heart makes...*

A glass slipper shoe, illuminated with a blue glow, set against a dark blue background with white star-like sparkles. The shoe is positioned diagonally, pointing towards the bottom right.

Coming soon

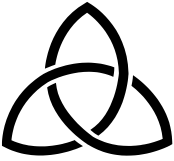
16, 17, 18 and 19 January 2019

TICKETS £7.00 ADULTS & £5.00 CHILDREN CAN BE PURCHASED FROM

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER IN THE CHURCH HALL OR VIA OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

stjohnwithstmarkpanto@gmail.com

TICKETS WILL NOT GO ON SALE BEFORE 9TH DECEMBER



OPEN GROUP

The Open Group met on Wednesday 14th November for a talk led by Reverend Paul Sanderson, who found time from his secondment at St. Stephen's Elton to share some stories with the group. Unfortunately I had to cancel my attendance at this meeting around lunchtime that day. So a quick text to Paul with my apologies, and to Ian to check he was OK to organise the projector, and all was good to go.

We were a little low on numbers that evening as it was however the feedback I received the following Sunday was all very positive with members commenting that it had been a very interesting and informative presentation with many stories and recollections.

Paul did receive a bonus; I had previously purchased him a bottle of wine as a gesture of appreciation to give to him on the night, which I took round to his house the following evening. Unbeknown to me, Ian had done the same thing after finding out I wasn't there, so Paul ended up with a second bottle, which he was reluctant to accept. However, I insisted. After all, he is working especially hard at the moment.

Thanks to Paul for leading this and to others who helped on the evening.

The Open Group will next meet on Wednesday 12th December for a 'bit of a Christmas Do' however we will then take January & February off. We have a couple of volunteers to lead us in 2019 and I hope to complete a programme of events for the year. The next scheduled date should be Wednesday 13th March 2019.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the best for New Year.

David Robinson

PRAYER DIARY

*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.
THEY FORM PART OF THE PRAYERS AT EVENING PRAYER
AT 5.00pm AT ST.JOHN WITH ST.MARK FROM MONDAY - THURSDAY*

- SUNDAY:** For all our worship services.
All who receive Holy Communion in their own homes.
Those who read, lead intercessions and serve in our churches
- MONDAY:** Our music ministry. The Study Groups.
Those considering lay or ordained ministry
Links with the other faith communities in the benefice.
- TUESDAY:** All the educational establishments in the parish.
School Governors. Nurseries, Pre-schools, Primary Schools,
St.John with St.Mark CE School.
Our pastoral care to all the community,
especially to those bereaved.
- WEDNESDAY:** Links with other church communities across the world.
Mothers' Union
Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning
- THURSDAY:** The Sunday School /Junior Church and
all our work with young people.
Those preparing to be married in church.
Our baptism ministry.
- FRIDAY:** Links with our local communities.
The PCCS and their committees
Those who provide and arrange church flowers
Those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY:** The Vicar, Curate and the Assistant Priest. The retired clergy
The Licensed Readers & ALM.
Ecumenical Links within the benefice.

QUIET MOMENTS IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

Advent - a time of preparation

Redeemer God,

Prepare me to worship you;
to recognise your love, purpose and power
and to offer my heartfelt praise.

Prepare me to serve you;
to understand your will and respond to your calling,
consecrating my life to the growth of our kingdom in thought,
word and deed.

Prepare me to know you:
to learn more of your goodness, truth and nature
your work in human history across the years.

Prepare me to welcome you:
to live each day in the light of your promises
so that others may come to know you.



Ready for Christmas By Ann Lewin

Ready for Christmas?
You're joking!
With all
I've got to do
I'll be lucky if
I'm ready by
This time next year.

Stir up Sunday
Found me without even
The ingredients,
Let alone the time to
Stir them.....

The cards...
I was going to write
More than
"Hope all is well"
This year
But I haven't.....

Shopping's a nightmare
With all those people
Intent on spending.
Christmas.....
Working out who's
Visiting who, and
Who'll be offended if we don't.....

The tree, the decorations,
Enough food for the cat,
Not to mention us,
I'll never be ready.

But I'm certainly ready for
Christmas –that moment when
The world seems hushed
In silent expectation,
The light in the stable
Draws us from chaos
To the stillness of
God at the centre,
And love is born.

I'm ready for that



Christmas Meaning, extracted from John Betjeman's poem

And is it true? for if it is
No loving fingers tying strings,

Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,

Bath salts and inexpensive scent,
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,

Nor all the shaking steeple bells,
Can with this single truth compare,

That God was man in Palestine,
And lives today in bread and wine.



New Year

Everlasting Lord,
send me out into the coming year,
confident that whatever it may bring,
you will be with me in it,
and that your loving purpose will not fail.

Teach me to make the most of each day,
living it to the full,
and celebrating your great love that gives
meaning to each
moment of this life
and the next. Amen



Epiphany

And the star they had seen in the East went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the young child was. When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child and his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped him. They opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2: v 9-12

May we, like the Magi, seek Jesus even when the way is difficult, and always honour and worship him. May we offer him the gift of our service and love.



Baptism

As we remember the baptism of Jesus, when God revealed him as his Son, we pray for all those baptised in our churches asking God's blessing on them. We remember our own baptism and pray that we may have the strength to be faithful to our baptismal promises.

Turn us around, God -
around into your way of thinking,
around into your way of loving.

Turn us around, God
and confront us with Jesus.
Baptise our fears with your joy. Ruth Burgess

Christian Unity

We pray for unity throughout the church. Teach us to celebrate the diversity of your church and to rejoice in the variety you have given. Help us to see differences not as a threat but as an opportunity, a chance to learn from others, so that our faith may grow and deepen as we journey together in faith.

OPEN THE BOOK

The Vicar reports on a proposal to take the Word of God into local schools – through speech and drama.



Open the Book started as a local project of church volunteers going into a few schools in Bedford in 1999.

Twenty years later it is a national campaign involving thousands of volunteer storytellers who visit primary schools to tell Bible stories. They use drama, props and costumes to bring the stories to life.

Under the auspices of the Bible Society, Open The Book programmes give the opportunity for children to discover the wonder of God's Word. Usually between four and eight people are involved in each production – offering a ten minute dramatized performance of a Bible story. Schools visits can be weekly, monthly or just once a term. Members of the team can be narrators, actors or prompters as required.

At a meeting in Bury Parish Church last month, members of the Open the Book team from Holcombe Brook talked about their ministry and repeated a performance that they had given at their local primary school that day.

It is hoped that groups of people can be assembled to Open The Book across our town. We would be part of a team from the Christian churches in the Walmersley Road area. Your commitment can be as much or a little as you wish – depending on your circumstances.

If you are interested in being part of this initiative, please have a word with me.

Further details can be found on the website www.openthebook.net

Operation Christmas Child was an insight into the shoe boxes made up by churches and individuals locally and nationally and delivered to refugees abroad. Jan Bennett illustrated her talk with videos and one in particular showed children opening their boxes. The delight on their faces was amazing and almost every child called out WOW!!! when discovering toys, hats and all kinds of goodies. A moving moment for children who previously had nothing.

At our next meeting we celebrated Holy Communion presided over by Dave and then we enjoyed fellowship together with home made soup and bread. Thanks to the ladies involved.

The Provincial service was held in York Minster where a new banner was dedicated by Archbishop Sentamu. It was great to see two of our members carrying banners in the procession. Dennis Hilton carried the Manchester Diocesan one and Rosemary Taylor the new Provincial one.

Thanks to Pam Hoyle for writing a resumé of her day which appears elsewhere in the magazine. *(See back page for photos)*

On December 5 our meeting will focus on "16 days of Activism Against Gender –based Violence."

Later in the month we are holding our Christmas meal at the Red Hall Hotel.

The first meeting in 2019 will be on 16 January at 7.30pm in the hall and all are welcome.

May the gladness of Christmas bring peace, love and joy to you and your family.

Bob Taylor, Branch Leader

11th/24th BURY CUB OUTING

It was decided to take the cubs to the Imperial War Museum in Manchester so they could learn about the many wars in the world.

We set off, four leaders and seven cubs, and our first hiccup was that the Metrolink was not operating to Manchester so we all jumped on a bus to Piccadilly Gardens, then got the tram to Media City.

We proceeded to the war museum and as we crossed the bridge we could see the sea of poppies cascading down the museum exterior. It is a beautiful display and well worth a visit just to take time to see them and reflect. *(See page 20 for a great photo)*

We spent a couple of hours exploring the museum viewing the exhibits and listening to a variety of talks. The cubs really liked the interactive games. They discovered what it was like in the trenches by feeling a fake rat and smelling smelly feet as the soldiers very rarely changed their socks in the trenches.

We concluded our trip by going to visit the Blue Peter garden where they followed the trail of all people who have gained the famous gold badge.

We returned safely back to Bury tired out and a little chilly (that was the leaders).

Vicky Senior

URGENTLY NEEDED

Hats, Gloves and Scarves

for homeless people who use the night shelter in
Manchester

Also men's boxer shorts (medium size)

A box is available at Christ Church



MEN OF THE BENEFICE



Just a quick update of what we have been up to over the Autumn. Our special guest at MOB on 24th September was Reverend Gill Barnett, who was invited to The Sundial for the final time before she departed to pastures new. The evening was entitled 'Confessions of a Curate'. However we found that most of the confessions came from others who were there. It was great that Gill could join us on this night though to share some memories with us.

Our meeting on 29th October was led by Jack Sutton from the St. John with St. Mark congregation who offered to talk about his recent time in Brazil visiting his son. We found ourselves having to relocate to The Towler for this one at the last minute but we located a nice comfy corner in the pub to hear Jack share some anecdotes and photographs from his stay, as well as hearing about the diverse cultures of the country.

For our final meeting of the year, the MOB will meet at La Dolce Vita Italian restaurant on Friday 7th December for a pre-Christmas meal. Lists are in both Churches for people to put their names down for this.

David Robinson

FIRST AID TRAINING



Eleven people attended the First Aid course in November led by a representative of the British Red Cross. Some people expressed an interest in this course but were unable to make the November date. Therefore we have provisionally booked a further session on Saturday 2nd February from 9.15am to 11.15am in St. John with St. Mark Church Hall (Barritt Room), which we will rerun if there is sufficient interest.

Please speak to Ian Banks if you would like to attend.



'LITTLE VOICE' STAMPS.

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 provide 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 has been magnificent.

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.

BRING BACK THE RAG

Many Walmersley residents, and people from farther afield, have over the years enjoyed the hospitality at the Lord Raglan up in Nangreaves. It was a sad day over a year ago when it closed its doors.

But hopefully this was not for ever because since then a group of local people have been busy. They have set up a properly constituted cooperative, named the Raglan Community Hub Ltd. with a view to buying, and then running, the pub, whilst introducing an extra community based element into its offer.

The group lobbied successfully for the pub's registration as an Asset of Community Value by the Council. The next step is to launch a Community Share Offer so people can invest in the future of the pub. Nearly 100 pubs nationwide have successfully done this but so far none in Bury.



The initiative will be launched
at a "party"
at Walmersley Con Club
at 7.30pm
on Saturday 1 December 2018.

The group hopes that local people will take an interest in their plan and, even better join in.

More information can be found on the website <http://reghub.co.uk>.

For tickets for the launch contact Jim Metcalf

UNLIMITED WHEN YOU PRAY

SPRING HARVEST 2019 at Harrogate
13th-17th April 2019

There's still time to book and join those already going. If you book by 31st January the cost will be £120 for the event plus find your own accommodation. Leaflets giving details are at the back of church or see Barbara or Nigel Silvester

Sunday @ Seven

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

December 30 at 7pm

"Standing at the gate"



Back Room Christ Church Hall

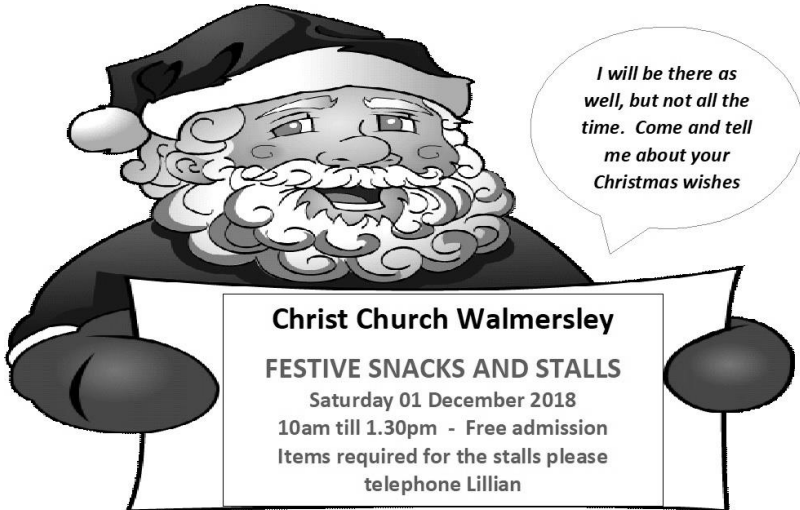
Do come and join us – it lasts about an hour –
tea/coffee and cake/biscuits are served.

You will be most welcome!

NEXT - January 27th

in the Barritt Room at St John with St Mark

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY



Ceilidh

Saturday, 1 December 2018

7.30—10 pm

Blackburn Hall,
behind Bury Parish Church

Tickets **£5** incl pasties, bring your own drinks
from 0161 828 1427 or 07765 241093
or House on the Rock, Bury Parish Church



MONDAY DECEMBER 10TH
7.30pm

Christ Church

**Members of the Bolton and District organist
Association**

will be in church to hear and play the organ.

Everyone is invited to listen

Refreshments available



Third Thursday Light Lunch
at CCW Hall
12 noon/1.30pm



The next lunch will be our **Christmas Light Lunch** on Thursday 20th December.

The first lunch of 2019 will be on Thursday 17th January.

As always there will be no set charge – if you are able, please give a donation but if you can't just come and enjoy the food and fellowship.

YOU will be most welcome!! There really is such a thing as 'free lunch'!!

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

Sat 1	10.00am	Festive snacks and stalls (CC)
	7.30pm	Ceilidh (Blackburne Hall)
Sun 2		Advent Sunday Services as usual
Mon 3	6.30pm	Christingle Services (CC & SJM)
	7.30pm	Advent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Wed 5	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 6	2.00pm	Advent Group (CC Hall)
Fri 7	7.30pm	MOB meal (La Dolce Vita)
Sun 9		Second Sunday of Advent Services as usual
Mon 10	7.30pm	Advent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
	7.30pm	Organists in Church (CC)
Wed 12	2.30pm	Priory Carol Service
	7.00pm	MU Christmas meal (Red Hall)
	7.30pm	Open Group Bit of a Christmas Do (SJM)
Thu 13	2.00pm	Advent Group (CC Hall)
Sun 16		Third Sunday of Advent Services as usual
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
Mon 17	7.30pm	Advent Group (150 Walmersley Road)
Thu 20	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
	2.00pm	Advent Group (CC Hall)

Sun 23		Fourth Sunday of Advent Services as usual Carol Service (CC)
	6.30pm	
Mon 24		Christmas Eve Crib Service (SJM) Family Communion(CC) Holy Communion (SJM) Holy Communion(CC)
	5.00pm	
	6.00pm	
	7.30pm	
	11.30pm	
Tue 25		Christmas Day Holy Communion (CC.SJM)
	10.00am	
Sun 30		First Sunday of Christmas Early Services as usual Joint Service (SJM) Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)
	10.30am	
	7.00pm	
Sun 6		Epiphany Services as usual
Thu 10	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sun 13		Baptism of Christ Services as usual
Wed 16	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
16-19		"Cinderella" Pantomime (SJM)
Thu 17	12 noon	Light Lunch (CC)
	7.30pm	NO Holy Communion (SJM)
Sun 20		Third Sunday of Epiphany Services as usual
Sun 27		Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Services as usual Sunday @ Seven (SJM Hall)
	7.00pm	



Mothers' Union Provincial President, Barbara Taylor, the Archbishop of York (in cope carefully chosen to complement) and Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey with the new Provincial banner



A matching stole has been given for the York Provincial Chaplain.

Banner and stole were dedicated by the Archbishop as almost 600 members celebrated in York Minster