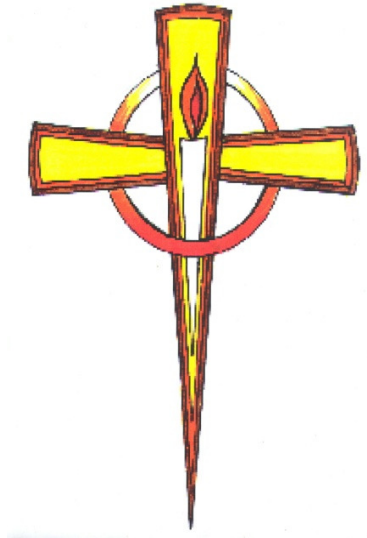


Christ Church Walmersley

in the Benefice of Walmersley Road



Magazine

Spreading the Word

December 2010

Thought for the Month

All I want for Advent is... Hope

Christmas arrived the day after bonfire night at Tesco. No wonder people are fed up with it by December 26th. In our current economic climate you can't blame the commercial world for trying to get in early but I find it mildly irritating to be bombarded with Christmas gifts and adverts before we've even got into Advent.

It's a great pity that the world rushes past Advent because it has so much to give us. Without getting too theological and focusing on the "MEANING OF ADVENT" we could all just take a step back and think about the real meaning of Christmas and what it says to our hearts.

We are approaching the time when churches and pulpits proclaim peace and goodwill yet our world seems to be headed in the opposite direction. The heightened threat of possible terror attacks, dangers of wars and rumours of conflict and the potential melt down of the western economic dream, conjures feelings of uncertainty which can mature and leave a legacy of distress and depression.



Towering above the conflicts of our age is the message of hope that 'Advent' brings. At the time of his first arrival on earth an angelic chorus heralded the birth of Jesus. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and goodwill to all people."

Heaven's desire, for our world, is that our attention be fixed on giving glory to God. That God working in us through His Son will make straight the paths of human conflicts into a landscape of peace and goodwill for all humanity.

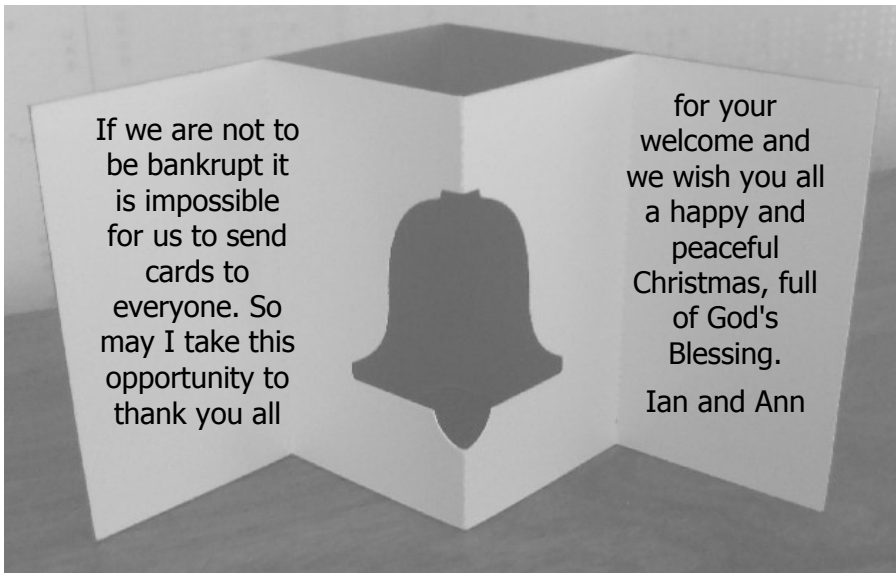
This isn't 'pie in the sky' talk. It is heaven's prayer for our world and is achievable in every life. It starts with the decision to share peace and goodwill with a neighbour, whether they deserve it or not. It is amazing how an acorn of kindness can mature into an oak tree of friendship.

It begins with the realization of that great gift, the promise of Christmas, when God gives himself for fallen humanity as he relinquishes His power and His glory. It points us forward to His ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. Now there I go talking of Easter in November. Anything the commercial world can do the Church can do better.

So how will you spend this Advent time? Why not make this Advent the beginning of the rest of your life.

I wish you a happy, hopeful and peaceful Advent.

Paul





Tuesday, 14th December

at 10 a.m. **Springside School Carol Service**
in Church. Please support our children.

Sunday, 19th December at 6.30 p.m.

Jointly with St John with St Mark's and St Joseph's congregations
(next year we will move to St John with St Mark)

Festival of Lessons and Carols

with Bishop Chris
and Haslingden and Helmshore Brass Band

Hear the GOOD NEWS and join in singing new
and traditional CAROLS – a great opportunity to
celebrate with all the family.



Friday, 24th December

at 6.00 p.m. **Family Celebration**

The Christmas story
re-enacted for all ages

at 11.30 p.m. **Holy Communion**

All are welcome at this first Eucharist of Christmas

Saturday, 25th December

at 10.00 a.m. **Holy Communion**



SERVICES AND READINGS FOR DECEMBER



- Dec 5th **Second Sunday of Advent**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12
- Dec 12th **Third Sunday of Advent**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- 10.30 a.m. Family and Parade Service
Matthew 11:2-11
- Dec 19th **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
- 9.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
- 6.30 p.m. Festival of Readings and Carols
- Dec 24th **Christmas Eve**
- 6.00 p.m. Family Celebration
- 11.30 p.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-14
- Dec 25th **Christmas Day**
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-14

December 26th **First Sunday of Christmas**

10.00.a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Hebrews 2:10 -18; Matthew 2: 13-23

December 28th **Holy Innocents Day**

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
1 Corinthians 1: 26-29; Matthew 2: 13-18

January 2nd **Second Sunday of Christmas**

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: 10-18

10.30. a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: 10-18

First Thursday Prayers

When: 2 December 2010
Where: Bottom Room, Church Hall
Time: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The group will meet for an Advent Meditation followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Transport can be provided – ring Jean

When: 6 January 2011
Where: Bottom Room, Church Hall
Time: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The group will meet on the Feast of Epiphany for Holy Communion followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Transport can be provided – ring Don

ARE YOU ON DUTY?

If you are unavailable, please arrange to exchange with someone else.

	READINGS	INTERCESSIONS
December 5th	David Peters	Margaret Schofield
December 12 th	Anne Nuttall	Junior Church
December 19 th	Alison Fewtrell	Joe McDermott
December 24 th	Margery Spencer	Bob Taylor
December 26 th	Bill Noble	Barbara Taylor

SIDESMEN / WOMEN ROTA

December 5 th	Nigel Silvester	George Fryer	David Peters
December 12 th	Alison Fewtrell	Jean Slater	Sybil Fryer
December 19 th	Roy Warburton	Shelagh Beetson	Alan Spencer
December 26 th	Bill Noble	Alan Standing	David Thew

If you are able to be on duty on Christmas Day, please let Jennifer know.

LAY ASSISTANTS

December 5 th	Nigel Silvester	Barbara Silvester
December 19 th	Cath Hilton	Tricia Stokes
December 24 th	Margery Spencer	Gill Pilkington
December 26 th	Jean Slater	

If these dates are inconvenient please arrange to exchange with someone.



FLOWERS

December 5 th	Mrs. M. Booth in memory of the Booth family
December 12 th	Mrs. O. Greenhalgh
December 19 th	Mr. & Mrs. R. Nicholls in memory of their parents
December 26 th	The Congregation



Baptisms



October 24th Freddie and Archie Nicol
James and Charlotte Weston

October 31st Ted Mark Winterbottom

November 7th James Paul Howe



Funeral

October 28th John and Elaine Lowcock

Our second meeting in October, led by Lynne France, was fascinating and challenging. We were astonished by the sheer number of different artistic and 'crafty' offerings that were on show in Lynne's portfolio. The work associated with her fine art degree demonstrated the breadth of her inspiration, and the many different techniques that she has mastered and used left us amazed. We were all provided with the materials to create our own silk painting and we each had a bookmark to take home at the end of the evening.

As usual, our first meeting in November was a Communion service in the Chapel followed by pie and peas and the postcard competition. The theme was Non-



Ecclesiastical Buildings. It is noticeable how many of the most beautiful buildings in the world are places of worship. This year's entries featured some wonderful buildings but the winning card was of a humble construction – a beach hut!! It is also worth remarking that the runner-up picture was also beach huts! The winning entry belonged to Pat Mongey.

It was fantastic to welcome Janet Lysejko as a new member of our Branch this month.

Autumn Council was a splendid day. It is always good to meet up with members from around the Diocese and attempt to catch up with all that is going on in our worldwide organisation. This meeting was no exception. Firstly, we heard from David Marshall who is the Director of Communications for the Diocese. He revealed to us the launching of The Real Easter Egg. Please watch out for this. It is the first Easter egg to feature the true story of Easter as well as being Fairtrade and apportioning some of its cost to charity.

Next, we were able to see a presentation from our friends from Mustard Tree. I felt very pleased to know that we had heard Lydia Chan, Mark and Graham at our Branch meeting previously. It really reinforced the excellent work being done there.

Barbara Taylor announced that, from this year, there will be one Evening of Celebration at the end of each triennium, so plans are now afoot to develop some kind of Archdeaconry event to take its place in 2011. Any ideas? Speak up!

I will write an account of our evening of Circle Dancing which is taking place on November 17th in the next issue.

Christmas is approaching really quickly. (Well it seems so to me!) The temperatures are certainly plummeting on a daily basis and, judging by the number of berries on the trees, there is some harsh weather ahead.....

SO.....

We cordially invite everyone to our Advent Meditation on December 1st. It is an excellent opportunity to leave the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations to feel the real meaning of Christmas in a peaceful and reflective way.



Catherine Hilton
Branch Leader

Dates for your diary

Nov 28 th	Deanery Advent Carol Service at 2.30pm Edenfield Parish Church
Nov 30 th	Diocesan Advent Carol Service in St Ann's Manchester 2pm
Dec 1 st	Advent Meditation in the Church Hall 7.30pm
Dec 15 th	Christmas Meal

Who's Who

This month we have asked Don Altham (Associate Minister) to be our 'victim'! The Editors

I was invited to come to Christ Church in the summer of 2004 and soon found myself in a more responsible position than I had bargained for- no longer assistant but sitting tenant (do I mean sitting target?). Margery and Barbara were already well practised in organising services so, as a team, we managed a wonderful production line that kept the show on the road.

My hospitalisation and surgery in 2007 brought instant change to the pattern. Thus began the link-up with clergy from St. John with St. Mark leading to the present arrangements of the Joint Benefice. Hope you did not notice the seamless transition! I seem to have held similar positions throughout my ministry: holding the fort until the cavalry arrive and establish order.

My official appointments have been to Ramsbottom, the Middle Valley in Rossendale, then back to Holcombe and Hawkshaw, and finally Walmersley. All my parish work has been in a voluntary capacity, unpaid but never without reward. In between times, I have done time in various prisons. Time out, you might say! After a career in teaching, I joined the workforce again as a hospital chaplain at Rossendale and Burnley, a post I held for some thirteen years until retirement – all commitments that seem to have kept me out of other mischief and given me the opportunity to be alongside so many people of a deep faith. I acknowledge wholeheartedly the contribution and support that Claire has brought to the enrichment of my ministry.

Nowadays, we are in the process of moving into the parish. Are we rash enough to think that we have earned acceptance in the Walmersley society? After some 43 years in Shuttleworth, it will be a massive change. Our passports have been stamped, I assure you.

My current priority is to my four wonderful grandchildren. What a privilege it is to watch them grow and, as grandad, be part of the extended family network that provides the necessary encouragement and warmth for these children to prosper. I am a willing victim when it comes to losing at Snakes and Ladders, or Snap, or Stay Alive. Did I cheat this much when I was young, I ask myself. And they blame me when things go wrong! Woe is me! It is all good fun. Otherwise, I wouldn't do it. Praise the Lord for all his blessings.



Thank You

to everyone who supported the recent CRAFT FAIR, whether by donating items, helping on the day, or coming along.

It was a most enjoyable event – an opportunity to meet friends, buy Christmas presents, and relish the bacon sandwiches!!

The final amount raised is **£998.58**
which will go into Church Funds.

THANK YOU

Prayer Mat

Week One

Father, we await the coming of your son. Lord, you sent Jesus down to earth as a baby to experience all that we go through, our happiness, our sorrows. May we remember his example of goodness and purity as we try to follow in his footsteps. He also came to redeem our sins and for this we thank you. We could ask for no greater gift than this. Amen.



Week Two

Grant to me, Lord, to know what I ought to know, to love what I ought to love, to praise what delights You most, to value what is precious in your sight, to hate anything evil as You do. Do not let me judge according to the sight of my eyes, nor pass sentence according to everything I hear, but help me to discern with true judgement between the visible and spiritual and above all things to enquire what is your good and loving will.

George Appleton

Week Three

Heavenly Father, in this week before Christmas we thank you for the birth of your son, for Mary and Joseph who were to be his parents upon earth and were such a wonderful example of obedience to your will and wishes. We pray that we may remember the true meaning of Christmas and not get caught up in all its commercialism. We pray instead that we may enjoy the nativity plays of children for whom Christmas is a time of wonderment and excitement. Lord, thank you, thank you for Jesus, for the birth of your son, who came not only to redeem us but to teach us about you, your will, and love for us. Amen.



Week Four

Lord, for many of us the run up to the new year is a time to reflect and a time to make promises to lead a better life in the future. May we remember you at this time and make promises to you to lead a better life, to follow in your footsteps and to reject all that does not make us holy. Give us the strength to do this, Lord, please, and for the new year to be a time of renewal for us in our life with you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Corner



I see the countless Christmas trees,
Around the world below.
With tiny lights, like heaven stars,
Reflecting on the snow.

The lights are so spectacular,
Please wipe away that tear.
For I am spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.



A picture to colour

Can you recognise these carols?

1. S..... N.....
2. S..... A..... T..... W..... S.....
3. H..... T..... H..... A..... S.....
4. L..... L..... T..... L..... T..... C.....
5. G..... K..... W..... L..... O.....
6. O..... C..... A..... Y..... F.....
7. I..... H.....
8. J..... T..... T..... W.....
9. I..... T..... B..... M.....
10. A..... I..... A..... M.....
11. O..... I..... R..... D..... C.....
12. D..... D..... M..... O..... H.....

The letters represent the words of the first line of well-known carols.
(Answers next month)





Jottings

Thank you June Houghton for this lovely piece entitled "Nativity" which I am sure you will enjoy as much as I do. For me, it evoked memories of watching my boys and my grandchildren in their nativity plays, as it will for many of you. For you, who have yet to witness your first nativity play I hope this will prepare you for the joy you have yet to experience.

Happy Christmas to you all.

NATIVITY by Margaret Waddington



Mary is Sarah and Joseph is Dean and Craig's the Innkeeper who's ever so mean. The three kings are triplets, the shepherd boy's Daz and the sheep are most of the rest of the class.

"cept me – I'm important – Miss Watts says I am – and I'm wearing some wool like a little

white lamb.

Sarah's in blue with a veil on her hair and Craig's in a dress but his feet are quite bare. All the shepherds wear tea towels tied on with long strings and most of us helped to make crowns for the kings "cept me - I'm important – Miss Watts says I am – and I'm wearing some wool like a little white lamb.

Mary [whose Sarah] and Joseph [whose Dean] have knocked on Craig's door and he's trying to look mean, and he says there's a stable at the back of the house they can share with the donkey and chickens and cows. But as I'm important – Miss Watts says I am – I wait with the shepherds 'cos I am the lamb.

Then Megan, an angel with tinselly wings appears to the shepherds who sit in a ring. And Megan says in a very loud voice "Hail to you shepherds stand up and rejoice. Follow that star that is shining so bright and find baby Jesus who's been born tonight." And as I'm important – Miss Watts says I am – I follow them off as meek as a lamb.

And there round the manger with Sarah and Dean there's more angels and Craig, some cows and three kings, and Daz leads me forward and kneels and he says "Here's my present" and I bleat, 'cos it's me! You see, I'm important – Miss Watts said I am – for I am Lord Jesus's little white lamb.



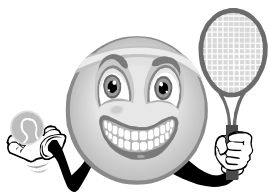
Book Review

UNLOCKING the BIBLE by David Pawson

Want to get to grips with the Bible as a whole then this book gives you the opportunity to do just that. Written by David Pawson who is an international writer and speaker, into the meaning of Bible events and teaching. The culture, historical background and spiritual significance of all the important events are explained, with careful examination of their wider impact, right up to the present day.

You can hear David "Unlocking the Bible" on UCB Christian Radio each evening from Monday – Friday at 8.30pm.

If you have any contributions for ~~Jo~~ **Jo** ~~ffings~~ or ~~Book Review~~ please contact Jean Slater



Tennis Club Quiz

The third and last of this year's Quiz Nights was held on Saturday 30th October and was enjoyed by over 60 participants – our highest attendance yet, coming from all parts of Bury and even from as far afield as Garstang.

As always, I was surprised by how much some people knew; Alan Spencer even knew that Garstang was the world's first accredited Fairtrade Town, not only before I had asked the question, but before we had even started the quiz.

The competition remained keen and the winners had a slender lead of just five and a half points over the runners up. Their reward was to receive a packet of mint chocolate Club biscuits each because their brains were obviously in "mint condition" and jointly they succeeded in "taking the biscuit." We never give cash prizes, but another team who will also remain anonymous received the booby prize of "bags of lolly" as a consolation.

Together with the half time raffle church funds benefited by exactly £200 and our fellowship benefited from a thoroughly enjoyable evening. My thanks go to all who took part and I hope that you are already looking forward to our next quiz to be held in early Spring when we will find out who will claim the prestigious title of "Brains of Walmersley 2011"

Stan Parkinson

As usual there will be a board at the back of church dedicated to our Christmas greetings to each other. You may wish to make a donation to charity rather than send cards to many members of the congregation. This is an opportunity to display one card for all to see.



An Unseen Grave

It was the day before Remembrance Sunday, gloriously sunny and bright and the craft fair was taking place in the church hall. Walking through the graveyard with its multicoloured covering of beech leaves that just cried out to be photographed, I suddenly noticed a grave bearing the word Gallipoli (the scene of a major battle in the First World War).

The name on the grave was Captain S.H. Milnes who was reported missing in action, presumed killed, on August 6th 1915. Despite this grave being very close to the tower I had never noticed it before in seventy years of attending the church.

I returned to the café in the church hall and found Philip Mather enjoying his lunch. Philip is the curator of the Fusilier's Museum in Bury and together we went to view the grave.

By the following Wednesday Philip had found information about Captain Milnes. He was killed in the final trench warfare of the campaign and his name is inscribed on the Helles memorial at Gallipoli.



Captain Milnes was a younger son of Mr Edmund Milnes of Seedfield Bury. He was a well known sportsman in the area.

The museum is well worth a visit and can provide information about people who have served in the Lancashire Fusiliers and the café provides excellent snacks and meals.

Alan Spencer

What's on in Walmersley

November

- Sat 27 Prepare the Way with United Christian Singers
- Sun 28 Advent Carol Service, arranged by MU
Edenfield Parish Church at 2.30 p.m.
- Mon 29 Christingle Service at 6.30 p.m.

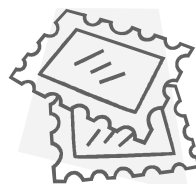
December

- Wed 1 Mothers' Union Advent Meditation
- Thu 2 Thursday Prayer - Advent Meditation 2 p.m.
- Thu 9 Holy Communion followed by joint PCC
- Wed 15 Mothers' Union Christmas Meal

Little Voice Stamps

Many thanks to all those who have already given boxes and envelopes full of British and foreign stamps. These have been sorted and I will wait until the New Year to send them off, as I know there will be many more to come from all your Christmas post!!

Thanks again,
David Peters





*. Season of mists
and mellow fruitfulness*

Thank you to Alan Spencer for
this photograph of the churchyard