

**Christ Church Walmersley  
and  
St John with St Mark Bury**

**The Church of England on Walmersley Road**

**At the heart  
of Christmas**



**December 2021 / January 2022**

**50p**



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD**

## **REGULAR SERVICES**

COVID-19: Please be aware of any current restrictions as you read this edition, together with the diocesan advice on best practice.

<b>Sunday</b>			
8.30am	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Service of the Word	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Venue tba
<b>Wednesday</b>			
10.00 a.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
<b>Thursday</b>			
12.30 p.m.		The Gathering	Zoom
2.00 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup>	Holy Communion	Christ Church
7.30 p.m.		Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
Other services as announced. Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated. Morning Prayer is said each day at 9.30 a.m. Evening Prayer is said each day at 5.00 p.m.			

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



*The cover image reflects the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas*

Dear Friends

*A Christmas meditation, written by the author Louis Cassels.*

There was once a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge, but he just didn't believe all that stuff about God becoming a man, which the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense, and he was too honest to pretend otherwise.

“I'm truly sorry to distress you,” he told his wife, “but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve.” He said he'd feel like a hypocrite and that he would much rather just stay at home. And so he stayed, and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier. Then he went back to his fireside chair to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another and another — sort of a thump or a thud. At first, he thought someone must have been throwing snowballs against his living room window.

But when he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window. Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it.

He tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them. So he hurried back to the house, fetched breadcrumbs and sprinkled them on the snow. He made a trail to the brightly lit, wide-open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the breadcrumbs and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow.



He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them and waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn. And then he

realised that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me — that I am not trying to hurt them but to help them. But how?

Any move he made tended to frighten and confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed, because they feared him.

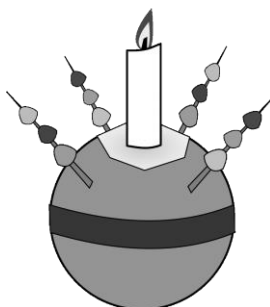
“If only I could be a bird,” he thought to himself, “and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see and hear and understand.”

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow.

“Now I understand,” he whispered. “Now I see why you had to do it.”

With every blessing,

Dave



In the first week of Advent  
we support the work of the Children's Society  
as we celebrate

### **At Christ Church**

Monday, 29 November  
At 6.30 pm

### **At St John with St Mark**

Wednesday, 1 December  
At 6.30 pm

### **Please bring a toy for a local child in need**

Over the last 50 years, Christingle celebrations have raised millions of pounds to support life-changing work with children and young people. The money we raise can help connect them, and rekindle the hope they deserve.

The generosity and support shown at Christingle services is overwhelming and every year the Children's Society is reminded of the compassionate Christinglers that help bring hope to young people across the country.



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

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Dec 5	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent</b> Malachi 3: 1-4	Philippians 1: 3-11	Luke 3: 1-6
Dec 12	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent</b> Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Philippians 4: 4-7	Luke 3: 7-18
Dec 19	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Advent</b> Micah 5: 2-5a	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Luke 1: 39-55
Dec 26	<b>St Stephen</b> 2 Chronicles 24: 20-22	Acts 7: 51-60	Matthew 10: 17-22
Jan 2	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Christmas</b> Jeremiah 31: 7-14	Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18
Jan 9	<b>Baptism of Christ</b> Isaiah 43: 1-7	Acts 8: 14-17	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
Jan 16	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Epiphany</b> Isaiah 62: 1-5	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	John 2: 1-11
Jan 23	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Epiphany</b> Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a	Luke 4: 14-21
Jan 30	<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Epiphany</b> Ezekiel 43: 27-44:4	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Luke 2: 22-40
Feb 6	<b>4<sup>th</sup> before Lent</b> Isaiah 6.1-8[9-13]	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Luke 5.1-11





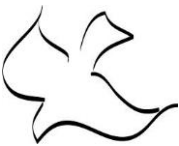
## *Flowers in church*

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### **At Christ Church**

Dec 5	In memory of Jennifer Melling and Mary Iilsley
Dec 12	Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
Dec 19	The Congregation
Dec 26	No new flowers
Jan 2	Alan and Margery Spencer to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary
Jan 9	In memory of Clifford Hawkins
Jan 16	Mr & Mrs J McDermott, in memory of their daughter Carol
Jan 23	In memory of Jim Melling
Jan 30	In memory of Jack Grindrod

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 Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St John with St Mark).



## ***FROM THE REGISTERS***

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### **BAPTISMS**

Nov 7 Jaxson O'Garr

Arthur Mortenson, James Mortenson

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

# At the heart of Christmas



In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us.

This year, of course, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and communities. But whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Inspired by readings from the Gospels of Luke and John read at so many Christmas services, *At the heart of Christmas* is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God’s saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

**No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,  
who is close to the Father’s heart,  
who has made him known.**

John 1.18

*At the heart of Christmas* will consist of 12 Stories and Meditations from Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell and guests where they will share personal stories exploring themes close to the heart of Christmas.

Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily (Monday to Saturday) until the Epiphany (6 January), *At the Heart of Christmas: 12 Days of stories and meditations for Christmas* will help you make space for that exploration. On each of the twelve days, a different contributor will share something that lies close to the heart of Christmas for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and questions to ponder.



These reflections will be made available freely via:

- audio
- app with accompanying resources for children and families
- the Church House Publishing Booklet

Daily Advent reflections will be also available Monday to Saturday for those who want them, via the app with audio. The content will explore the Advent Morning Prayer readings from Matthew's Gospel and feature content from *Reflections for Daily Prayer* by Stephen Cottrell and Guli Francis-Dehqani. There is a booklet *Reflections for Advent 2021* available, with content also shared free digitally including audio.

### **National online services for Advent and Christmas**

In collaboration with a range of Christian charities and organisations, there will be online services for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas. This will include an online service for each Sunday of Advent, broadcast on the Church's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

*ChurchofEngland.org*

***Freely, freely***

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Please share this free phone line with anyone who may find it helpful. It is especially beneficial for those who do not have access to the multitude of resources available on the internet.

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## From the Vicarage

\* After being restricted in what we could do in church as a result of the pandemic in 2020, I am looking forward to a more familiar celebration of Christmas this year. Details of our services can be found elsewhere in this magazine. After missing out last year, the Carol Service should be a memorable occasion. Please consider if you are able to invite someone who is not a regular church attender to join you at this service. If you know of anyone who is unable to attend church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home during the Christmas period, please have a word with me to arrange this.

\* After many years of membership of our church school governing body, Sue Law has decided to step down from her role as Foundation Governor. For several years, she was Chair of the Governing Body, overseeing Ofsted inspections and the appointments of a Deputy and Head Teacher! I would like to thank Sue for her longstanding commitment to St.John with St.Mark CE School. If anyone would like to get involved with our school – either as governor or in some other role – please have a chat with me.

\* A reminder that at 10.30am on the third Sunday of each month a service of Morning Worship / Café Church will take place at St.John with St.Mark. There will be a service of Holy Communion in church at 8.30am that day each month.

\* Churches Together in Bury represent most of the Christian Churches in the town. The group meets every two months, with a prayer group which meets fortnightly. They have now begun to meet in person again. Anyone is able to attend these meetings. Details are in the Bulletin / News Sheet in the relevant weeks.

\* The Men of the Benefice (MOB) have resumed their meetings on the last Monday of each month. They meet at the Towler from 8pm but will not be meeting in December!

- \* The Parish Office is open every Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall. This can be for enquiries about baptisms or weddings or any other matter.
- \* Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches.
- \* We are now offering tea and coffee after our 10.30am services. This is taking place at the back of each church. If you would like to help with this, please contact one of the churchwardens.
- \* Thanks again to those willing volunteers who meet on Thursday mornings to help clean up the churchyard at Christ Church. There are lots of positive comments about how tidy the area is at the moment. If you are ever available to give a couple of hours any week, your help would be most appreciated.
- \* The Garden of Remembrance should always be kept tidy and in this regard, we do at times remove both artificial and decaying flowers from the area. If you regularly visit the area, please help us in this task.
- \*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.
- \* Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the Treasurers
- \* 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 Hazel Bamford (Christ Church) or Rosemarie Ashworth (St.John with St.Mark). If you wish to join the flower arranging rota, please get in touch also.
- \* Material for the parish magazine should be given in by the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month. Articles may be sent via email to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)

## ***ARE YOU CONSIDERING LAY MINISTRY?***

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### ***Information from the Manchester Diocese***

The Diocesan Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) course begins again in January.

ALMs are lay people active in church life, who have been identified by their parish as having a particular gift, vocation or calling to lay leadership.

ALMs also play a key role in resourcing, equipping and encouraging all God's people to carry out the vision and mission of their parish.

Candidates are nominated by their incumbent and PCC for training in line with the diocesan selection criteria and once trained receive authorisation from the Bishop of Manchester to carry out their ministry within their local parish context. An ALM's authorisation lasts for 3 years after which time it can be reviewed, updated and renewed.

The areas in which ALMs can train are:

- Mission & Evangelism
- Community Outreach & Social Action
- Ecology & Creation
- Youth & Mental Wellbeing
- Children & Families
- Worship & Liturgy
- Pastoral Outreach & Listening
- Prayer & Spirituality
- Parish Admin, Finance & Governance
- Digital Church & Online Media

The 2022 course runs from January – September in three distinct phases.

The closing date for applications is 9 January.

Further information can be obtained on the Diocesan website.

If you wish to be considered for training as an ALM please contact the Vicar.

## ***Churches Together in Bury***

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The recent walk, publicised in the magazine, in aid of funds to support CAP (Christians Against Poverty) raised £3700 – thank you.

Could you spare an hour or two on Saturday 21 May 2022 to help with the Christian Aid collection in Bury. Ideally we need to put together a small team. There will be two (or three if possible) collection points around the town centre, with publicity materials and refreshments available in the United Reformed Church on Parsons Lane – please have a word with John Brennan. A meeting to progress this will be held at the URC at 7.30pm on 7 December.

Other topics covered in the recent meeting:

Walk of Witness on Good Friday 2022; Food Club Bury – a new initiative moving on from an existing foodbank; refugees from Afghanistan coming to Bury; eco churches; training in mental health provision; Festival Manchester in July; worship in care homes.

Would you be willing maybe 3 times a year to be part of a team going to Brookdale Nursing Home as they have asked for a Christian witness?

Please have a word with Barbara Taylor to find out more, or come along to the AGM on 19 January at 7.30pm at Bury URC. Please pray that the right persons will volunteer for the roles of secretary and treasurer.



## **CAROL SINGING**

Bury Market (behind Granelli's)

11am – 1pm Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Please support this by joining to sing about  
the real meaning of Christmas  
amidst the bustle of Christmas shopping

THANK YOU

### ADVENT

To you O Lord we bring our lives  
troubled, broken or at ease,  
a sacrificial offering for you to use.  
Take away our selfishness  
and teach us to love as you loved;  
Take away our sense of pride  
and show us the meaning of humility;  
Take away our blindness  
and show us the world through your eyes;  
Take away our greed  
and teach us how to give as you gave.  
Show us your ways,  
teach us your paths,  
that we might walk with you more closely:  
our hand in your hand,  
our feet in your footsteps,  
from the baby in a stable  
to eternity.  
Amen

*John Birch      [www.faithandworship.com](http://www.faithandworship.com)*

In the centre of our waiting  
the seeds of our salvation are announced in small signs,  
in small kindnesses, in humble courage,  
in lives of fragile hope, in faithfulness.

God is not defeated.  
Life is more powerful than death.  
This we believe.  
From this we will live.  
Amen

*Dorothy McRae-McMahon, Prayers for Life's Particular Moments, SPCK*

## CHRISTMAS EVE

It was Christmas Eve  
and the world stood still  
just for a moment.

Waiting,  
wondering,  
hoping.

Might it be that this time,  
this time of all times,  
the promise would be fulfilled  
and the wars would end,  
and the crying cease,  
and the people join hands in unity?

Waiting,  
wondering,  
hoping.

Might it be this time,  
this time of all times?

*Tim Carter*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

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



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

## *Please make room for me*

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Hustling, bustling, buying, packing,  
have you time for me?

Writing, signing, stamping, posting  
have you time for me?

Making, rolling, steaming, baking  
have you time for me?

Icing, stuffing, decorating,  
have you time for me?

Because of me you're celebrating,  
Lighting up the tree.

Because of me there's carol singing,  
Crackers, fun and spree.

Because of me the star was shining,  
Wise men there were three,  
Because of me the sheep were bleating,  
shepherds came to see.

I am Jesus Christ your Saviour  
Please make room for me.



*Iris Lewis*



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES



## Benefice Carol Service

Sunday, 19 December

6.30pm

Christ Church

## Christmas Eve:

7.30pm Parish Communion  
at St John with St Mark

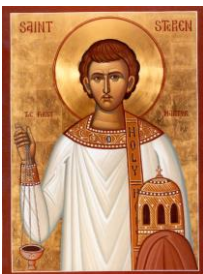
## Christmas Night:

11.30pm Parish Communion  
at Christ Church



## Christmas Day:

10.00am Holy Communion Services  
in BOTH CHURCHES



## St Stephen, Deacon & first Christian Martyr

Sunday 26 December

9.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
at Christ Church

10.30 am Benefice Communion  
at St John with St Mark



Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas

Wendy and Steven Barcroft



Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas

Margery and Alan



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.

With our love and prayers,  
Barbara and Bob Taylor

I wish everybody across the United Benefice of Walmersley Road a very peaceful and happy Christmas, and all the very best for this New Year. Here is hoping we can all continue to grow in love and unity during 2022.



David Robinson xx



With best wishes for Christmas and New Year  
to all in the Benefice,

June and Ian xx

The choir and organist at St. John with St. Mark wish  
everybody across the United Benefice all the very best  
for Christmas, and a hope filled New Year.



May the blessings of Jesus be with you and  
your families as celebrate His birthday.

Barbara & Nigel

We have hope this Christmas because  
Jesus was born.

Have a peaceful Christmas.  
From the Christian Aid team



May God's love, joy and peace be yours  
throughout this Christmas season, and for  
2022

Margaret, John, Esme & Emmy

With best wishes for a blessed Christmas  
and a healthy, happy and peaceful 2022.

God Bless you all, Dave & Linda



THIS JANUARY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF  
ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PRESENT

# Jack & The Beanstalk



7:30pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> & Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Afternoon Performance At 2:30pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>

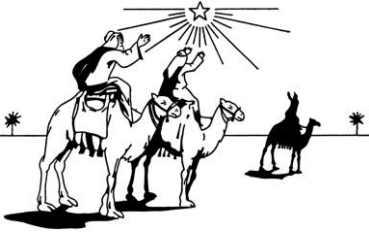
St John with St Mark Church Hall ~ Parkinson Street Bury

Tickets Priced At £5.00 For Children & £7.00 For Adults.

To Order Tickets, Call 0161 761 6592 or Email:- [stjohnwithstmarkpanto@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnwithstmarkpanto@gmail.com)

## ***EPIPHANY***

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The season of Epiphany begins after the twelve days of Christmas and highlights the revelation of Jesus Christ – the Son of God – to the world.

The word Epiphany means “appearing” or “manifestation” and is characterised by the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus; the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan and also his first miracle – the changing of the water into wine.

These “appearances” in a variety of ways fulfil the prophetic view that the Promised Messiah will arrive and is intended to confirm Jesus as the Chosen One.

### **Epiphany Prayer**

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Darkness covers the earth and its people,  
but the radiance of God's Light  
burns away its shadows,  
illuminates the smallest corner,  
and heralds in the start  
of a new dawn,  
where hearts no longer fear,  
souls might be set free,  
and sister shall follow brother,  
nation shall follow nation,  
and kings and princes bow down in awe  
before the one who comes to reign.

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Alleluia

**NEW YEAR**

At the beginning of the New Year, Lord may we resolve to  
love mercy  
act justly  
and walk humbly with you our God.

Help us to be a forward looking people  
ready to respond to each new vision you give us;  
ready to act on your word to us,  
ready to love our neighbours as ourselves and  
ready to walk boldly into the future with Christ.

and **WHAT** *Lord* require of you?  
**DOES THE**  
To act **JUSTLY** and  
To love **MERCY** and  
To walk **HUMBLY**  
with your *God*  
MICAH 6:8

**EPIPHANY**

The wise men brought their gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. We cannot match the richness of their offerings but the words of this hymn tell us what our gift should be.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give Him -  
Give my heart.



*Christina Rosetti*

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST



As we remember the baptism of Jesus, we pray for all those baptised in our churches.

We pray that the children may have homes which are loving and caring and that they will grow in faith. Help us to value the children in our care whether as parents, grandparents, godparents or friends.

As Jesus welcomed the children into his presence, so may we welcome them into our church family.

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Lord Jesus you prayed that your disciples might be one as you are one with the Father.

Help us, divided as we are, to grieve for our unfaithfulness.

Give us the honesty to acknowledge and the courage to reject our apathy, our mistrust, and our intolerance.

Make us one in heart and mind in your love, that being bound together in true fellowship we may present a united witness to the world, according to your will and for the glory of your name.



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### *Church in the Open*

Thank you to Barbara and Nigel for their planning of the recent Remembrance themed notices displayed in the churchyard at Christ Church. They have many more thoughts for reaching out to the community in this way. So please look out for these over the coming weeks and also share ideas you may have for the future. We know that in this way we are reaching people who do not regularly come to church.

"I promise that I will do my best, to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the Guide Law."

25<sup>th</sup> Bury Christ Church Guides have been looking at the Guide Promise and have participated in various activities to help understand the meaning of their promise.

They discussed what a promise is and what promises can be kept, are realistic or not possible.

Apparently Rose promising to bring One Direction to Guides next week was not possible and promising to keep their rooms tidy could be kept, but they decided it wasn't realistic!

There were lots of discussions regarding how the promise is personal to each individual and we do not need to be as good as the next person as long as we are trying **our** best. We each have our own views and beliefs and these are to be respected.

Various ways were mentioned in how to help and serve, from raising money for local charities, providing items for the homeless and helping people with shopping and crossing the road. Beware whilst walking around Walmersley of any Guides suddenly approaching you to offer help!

These activities and discussions concluded in a bonfire extravaganza!

Well.....this meant watching the rain fall heavily for days and days, constant checking of various weather apps to find the best forecast to believe, lots of worrying and numerous back up plans.

1st November 7.30pm arrived and it was dry(ish!). We made campfire biscuits, played some firework and bonfire themed games and then lit a fire in our brand new fire pit. Plenty of potatoes and marshmallows were eaten and then the parents arrived for the promise ceremony – along with the rain!

11 soggy guides, 2 soggy leaders and many soggy families watched as the fire turned magically into various colours and, holding sparklers, each girl made their Guide Promise.



Despite the rain it was a fantastic night and fantastic to be able to welcome so many new Guides after the pandemic.

They are all now proudly wearing their promise badge on their uniform for all to see.

Can you find all the underlined words in our wordsearch?

L	R	L	F	T	U	S	T	A	P	M	S	S	K
I	A	A	S	L	W	E	G	N	R	E	W	P	R
S	D	R	I	M	G	I	P	D	O	M	O	L	C
R	U	R	R	O	F	O	M	D	M	R	L	E	O
A	S	O	U	M	T	I	S	S	I	D	L	E	M
I	M	T	T	A	L	R	R	S	S	W	A	G	M
N	R	S	T	M	S	S	R	I	E	S	M	P	U
E	M	O	R	G	O	R	M	E	Y	T	H	S	N
I	E	R	A	U	R	E	L	M	A	E	S	E	I
S	I	B	A	I	C	B	A	D	G	E	R	O	T
H	G	R	E	D	W	E	O	D	M	A	A	F	Y
M	A	S	R	E	L	K	R	A	P	S	M	S	P
W	T	L	I	S	B	E	L	I	E	F	S	I	F
N	A	O	F	A	A	S	D	O	D	Y	M	P	K

## ***ARMISTICE DAY***

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Thank you to the Reverend Elizabeth Binns for the very moving and poignant evening communion service at St. John with St. Mark on Thursday, 11 November, coinciding with Armistice Day. We had an act of remembrance with two minute silence at the start of the service before Elizabeth spoke about her Dad's wartime experience, which we appreciated hearing.

The small number of us present thought it was a lovely way to end Armistice Day.

In November members enjoyed a thought-provoking service of Evening Prayer, led by Margery, with Geoff available to play for several hymns. This was followed by a supper of pie and peas, with parkin afterwards. We thank all who enabled the meeting to take place.

You will have seen on social media and the website the outcome of our evening about the 16 Days of Activism where a bible study was followed by a quiz and discussion on relevant statistics, and stories of victims were available. After prayers those willing to appear gathered in groups of three for photographs – with one in three wearing a purple scarf over their face to demonstrate that 1 in 3 women will suffer from domestic violence during their lifetime. (We did not forget that one in 6 or 7 men are also victims and that this has increased over the past few years from one in ten.)

This year's Christmas Appeal aims to empower 4225 survivors of or suffering from Gender-based Violence in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa, enabling them to become community advocates and so achieve long-term change. If you feel able to give towards this work please consider doing so

between 30 November and 7 December when your gift will be doubled as part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge.



**the Big Give**  
CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE  
30 NOV—7 DEC 2021

In December we look forward to an evening of Advent Preparation led by Elizabeth Binns and to a Christmas Lunch at the Red Hall.

The new year will begin with Holy Communion on January 5. Please bring along any cakes or sweets left over from Christmas for us all to enjoy.

On behalf of all our members I wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas

Bob Taylor, Branch Leader

*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE SUBJECTS ON A DAILY BASIS.*

- 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 interested in offering themselves for 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:** Ecumenical Links within the community. Mothers' Union  
Our care of the church buildings. Mission Action Planning
- THURSDAY:** Our ministry with young people. Our baptism ministry.  
Those preparing to be married in church.
- FRIDAY:** Community involvement. The PCCs and their committees  
Those who provide and arrange church flowers  
Those who use our church halls.
- SATURDAY:** The Vicar and our retired clergy  
The Licensed Readers and ALM.



The Men of the Benefice met again on Monday 25th October in The Towler. Six of us attended and although there was no set theme for the evening, the Vicar did bring along a 'Saint' quiz, as this was during the week of All Saints Day.

Dave read a statement relating to a particular Christian Saint and we were asked if we knew which Saint the clue referred to. Some were straightforward, others were quite difficult. Some were cleverly worked out, whilst others were just a good guess. Did anyone know that St. Jude the Apostle was the Patron Saint of Lost Causes?

There was also an opportunity for people to share their thoughts on who their favourite Saints were and whether we felt we had a particular connection to any of them.

The rest of the evening was spent in social chat.

The MOB was expected to meet again on Monday 29th November.

There will not be a December meeting. However all being well the last Monday of January (31st) should see the first get together of 2022.

David Robinson

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### ***An Invitation from Harry Whitehead Court***

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Harry Whitehead Court has started their activities again during the week and would like members of the community to join them:

Tuesday from 1.00pm – Bingo

Wednesday from 1.00pm – Art class

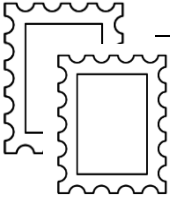
Thursday from 10.00am – A tea or coffee and a piece of toast is £1.00

Harry Whitehead Court is on Lowes Road directly behind The Sundial



## *Little Voice*

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Our continued response to the appeal for used stamps, both old and new, British and foreign, has been magnificent!

After collecting and sorting all the stamps which have been kindly placed in the tin at the back of Christ

Church, they are sent off to the organiser and chief sorter early in the New Year.

Little Voice aids and provides a home for street children in Ethiopia, by selling stamps to collectors.

Please keep collecting and removing any stamps from your post (leaving about one cm or half an inch of envelope around them) especially at this Christmas time, and search out any old stamps you may have tucked away in a drawer or even old stamp albums.

Many thanks to all those who support this charity at this time and throughout the year.

David Peters

## **SHOEBOXES**

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Thank you to everybody who has provided items for shoeboxes over the last few months or so. We have managed to complete 50 boxes, however this year rather than sending them overseas, we have given them to local food banks.

Until further notice we do not require any further items until a decision is made as to what happens next year, but thanks again for those who have contributed.



St. John with St. Mark Scout group

Owing to the popularity of this event and the desire to enable social distancing, please let Ian know as soon as possible if you wish to attend (ianstamp10@btinternet.com)

St James' Tower Street Heywood OL10 3AB



*Invite you to*



# **Beer & Carols**

*with Blackley Brass*

**Sing Along to your favourite Christmas Carols  
& festive Songs with a licensed bar  
& Banktop Brewery real ale.**

The Christmas story with chocolate. Christmas jumper competition.  
Teddy Tombola. Raffle, Refreshments on sale.

**& Santa will be calling in for the Children**



**Family fun and surprises.**

**Friday 17th December at 7pm**

**Its free no tickets needed just come along**



# Sunday @ Seven

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

## January 30th at 7pm

## *What a Revelation!*



**Come and join with us for an hour of relaxed worship and reflection. This month we will take a little peek into the Book of Revelation on this last Sunday of Epiphany. We will meet in The Barritt Room at St John with St Mark Hall. Or you can join in via Zoom. Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks for more details.**

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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### **CAFÉ CHURCH**

16 January at St John with St Mark  
23 January at Christ Church

Both in the Church Hall at 10.30 am

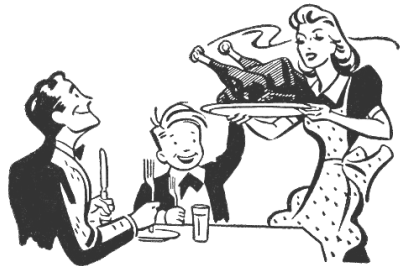


### ***The Return of Thursday Lunches!!!!***

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What is it that you've been waiting for since February 2020? No, not a win on the Lottery; it's something even better....Thursday Lunches!

Unless the situation changes we are intending to re-start our Thursday Lunches in the New Year. So get your 2022 calendars out and reserve the date for Thursday January 20<sup>th</sup>.



Rather than being in the back room at Christ Church Hall we shall be setting out the dining area in the main hall. This will provide for improved social distancing between tables which we hope will still allow us to enjoy the familiar relaxed, friendly atmosphere we are used to.

We look forward to seeing you....and there will be pudding - with custard!

The Thursday Lunches Team

### ***Joint Services***

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Sunday 26 December 10.30 am at St John with St Mark

Sunday 30 January 10.30 am at Christ Church



**December 2021**

Wed 1	6.30pm	Christingle Service (SJM)
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 5		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Wed 8	12 noon	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch
	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Sat 11	11.00am	Carol singing with CT (Bury Market)
Sun 12		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Sun 19		<b>4<sup>th</sup> of Advent</b>
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
		Morning Worship (SJM)



*For Christmas Services please see page 17*



Sun 26		<b>St Stephen, Deacon &amp; first Christian Martyr</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Benefice Communion (SJM)

**January 2022**

Sun 2		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Wed 5	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 9		<b>The Baptism of Christ</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (SJM)
		Morning Worship (CC)
Sun 16		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
		Café Church (SJM Hall)
Wed 19	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury (URC)
	7.30pm	Deanery Synod (Zoom)
	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 20	12 noon	Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Thu 20 – Sat 22		Pantomime (SJM) – See page 20
Sun 23		<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (SJM)
		Café Church (CC Hall)
Sun 30		<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Service of Holy Communion (CC)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (Barritt Room, SJM)
Mon 31	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Towler)

Personal details have been removed in our online edition for data protection purposes.

Please contact us through our websites or social media accounts and we will ensure your message reaches the correct person.

Enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at the Parish Office held at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

Lots more info on our websites: <https://ccwalmersleybury.org.uk>  
<https://stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com>

Check out Facebook	@christchurchwalmersley @stjohnstmark
Twitter	@cofewalmersley
Instagram	cofewalmersley
and YouTube	CofE Walmersley

Please send your articles for the magazine by 14<sup>th</sup> of the previous month to [wrub@live.co.uk](mailto:wrub@live.co.uk)



Thank you to 9th Bury Scout Group for this amazing display at the Lychgate



**At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning  
we will remember them**



**CHURCH IN THE OPEN**

Other trees displayed the names of the fallen - throughout the week - and were viewed by many.