

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



December 2024/January 2025



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**



Come share
the light this
Christingle

At Christ Church Hall:
6.30pm on Monday 2 December

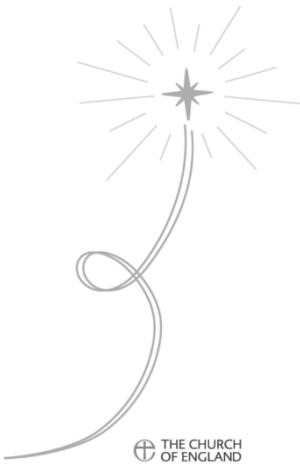
At St John with St Mark:
6.30pm on Wednesday 4 December

Collecting boxes and envelopes are available for you to support the **Children's Society** or make a donation on our contactless devices at church



Sunday
22 December
3pm
Christ Church

Find out more
on page 13



The Church of England's theme this year for Advent and Christmas is

Follow the Star: Calm and Bright

drawing on that famous carol, Silent Night:
*"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright..."*

One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.

Throughout Advent, the focus will be on how to find **Calm** during this busy period, with reflections offering a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas.

Then through Christmas, the focus changes to **Bright**, with a series of daily reflections from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January) which are available online or as a booklet, available at both churches.

There will also be reflective content throughout Advent and Christmas for those who find this time of year difficult.

Sign up for Reflections via email for daily messages.

Or follow them from 1 December using the Everyday Faith app.

We hope you will be able to join us during this season but if that is not possible worship with the online services.

There are children's stories on the Cheeky Pandas website.

All of these resources can be found easily online at www.churchofengland.org or ask us at church for guidance.

Emmanuel – God with us. You’d better believe it!

We write this as we approach the Christmas season, a time to reflect on God’s love as He left Heaven to walk among us. For many, the word



Emmanuel is just something seen on Christmas cards each year, but we can testify that He does walk with us today, helping us to face the challenges of everyday life, both big and small.

As most of you will know, in September our life was turned upside down with a diagnosis that we had not seen coming, and yet we have never felt His presence more clearly. This has been experienced through the strangers who have come into our story as well as our friends, bringing the right words or actions at exactly the moment we needed them, not only for us but for our children as well. In Jersey He placed two women in my (Sally) path which resulted in managing to get a walking stick when Harvie was unable to walk; In the early days, when Harvie was wakeful and confused, He heard God’s still, small voice when listening to the Lectio 365 App (highly recommended), listening to the promises of God in Scripture, that He will never leave us nor forsake us; Harvie received a wonderful drawing that somebody had drawn for him, depicting something so personal that could not possibly be known by the artist, but perfectly expressed something that has been on Harvie’s heart for a long time and spoke to him very directly. This is now framed and hung on the wall to encourage us every time we enter our home. This is God in action – not theoretically, but actually, here and now in Bury!

And now, as Walmersley Road prepares to enter the New Year, we would encourage you to remember that God is with you wherever you travel and whatever you do. Sometimes we have to make sure we keep our eyes open, ready to see God at work. We need to lift our eyes from



ourselves and look for what He is doing, holding on to his coat tails and allowing him to gently lead us. And, we need to keep faith when the waves threaten to overpower us. We need to learn to rest with Jesus at the back of the boat, instead of struggling with the oars, knowing that He is mightier than any storm and will not forsake us.

So, may the peace of the Christ Child be with you and those you love, now and as we move forward into 2025,

Harvie and Sally

Follow the Star Christmas Cards



As with previous years we have several hundred cards, to share our love and containing details of our Christmas services, to be distributed across both Parishes. We have people who usually deliver, perhaps to a nearby street or one where they live. This is such a big help but it would be good if new volunteers could add to that number.

The cards should be available early December and if you would like to help spread the Christmas message then maybe speak to the Wardens.

BAPTISM

Nov 17 Bodhi McLoughlin

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

INTERMENTS IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Nov 10 William Bradshaw

Nov 16 Keith Crane

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



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

Whilst we are worshipping in the Church Hall we have not had flowers as this is not practical, so most people have happily postponed their donated weeks.

If you would like to donate towards the cost of the flowers in church for a specific week, 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).



BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

Dec 1 **Advent Sunday**

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36

Dec 8 **2nd of Advent**

Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6

Dec 15 **3rd of Advent**

Zephaniah 3.14-end Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.7-18

Dec 22 **4th of Advent**

Micah 5.2-5a Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-55

Dec 29 **1st of Christmas**

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.41-end

Jan 5 **Epiphany**

Isaiah 60.1-6 Ephesians 1.3-14 John 1.1-18

Jan 12 **The Baptism of Christ**

Isaiah 43.1-7 Acts 8.14-17 Mark 1.14-20

Jan 19 **2nd of Epiphany**

Isaiah 62.1-5 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 John 2.1-11

Jan 26 **3rd of Epiphany**

Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a Luke 4.14-21

Feb 2 **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14-end Luke 2.22-40

Events during the Advent and Christmas period

There is lots happening at this time of year! So, in these pages we have tried to show some of the Christian events which are local for us in this area, from which you can choose.

DONATE TO OUR TOY APPEAL!

Over the years, millions of children and young people have benefited from gifts donated to The Salvation Army.

We believe every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so we are unable to take used or second hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal.

Suggested gifts for ages:

- **0-3 years:** dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles
- **3-5:** dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles
- **5-9:** educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords
- **9-12:** games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats
- **13-16:** books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

By giving a gift to our Christmas Present Appeal you can make a real difference in someone's life at Christmas.



Seedfield
Methodist Church

Thank you!



- * If you are reading this as soon as it is published you may still be in time to visit St John with St Mark Christmas Fair from 11am on Saturday 30 November.
- * Similarly, at Christ Church the Christmas Tree Festival is open on Saturday 30 November from 10am – 4pm and on Sunday 1 December from 1.30-4.30pm.

- * Please see page 3 for details of the CoFE Follow the Star theme for this Christmas. David Robinson has 20 reflection booklets, so please get in touch if you would like one. It will likely be first to ask and first to receive.

- * Mince pies are usually served after the Carol services at both Churches but we require donations. If you can help (either home-made or shop bought) please bring before the event on 15th December.

- * Owing to the logistics of storage this year, the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal which we usually support was a little late going live this year. Thankfully Seedfield Methodist Church has been able to help and so all contributions would be gratefully received in both churches but ideally by 2 December. If you have a lot please ask for a contact number to deliver directly to Seedfield. Please see page 9 for more details.

- * If you are able, do please join the group which takes a short act of worship into the Priory Highbank Centre around four times a year. We shall sing carols and tell the Christmas story on Monday, 16 December at 2.30pm and you would be most welcome.

- * Thanks to St Peter's for organising a quiz evening for our Mission Community; to St John with St Mark's for hosting it; to those who provided a great pie and peas supper and to all who came. The UB was represented, but only managed 3rd place - despite being joint 1st at half time! We did not know our food and drink round!

Summary of the St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 24th September 2024

- There was an update on Harvie following his surgery
- Service cover has been found for most services up to the end of January including Christmas services. However, the 8.30am 3rd Sunday is now cancelled and the 3rd Thursday of the month will become Compline.
- A Safeguarding update was provided.
- Pantomime: There will not be a production in 2025.
- Cenotaph at the Salvation Army Citadel: The Vicar had passed on a quote from Rawsons for repainting the lettering. It was agreed we need more quotes and to explore if grants are available.
- Chairs for the hall: 120 chairs have been delivered with separate securing clips totalling £3074.00.
- Correspondence: The Diocese have informed us it is now the responsibility of the Church to organise their Quinquennial rather than the Diocese. Adrian Pearson will do the inspection and visit us on Wednesday 20th November. This will include both the Church and the hall.
- Finance: We are up to date with Parish Share; Our next planned giving envelopes are here starting from November 2024 and the income survey runs through October; Makerfield came out to check the sound system and roving microphones; The annual licence fee to Bury MBC has been paid; The carpet in the Barritt Room has been replaced at exactly the same spec as the original and this was covered by an anonymous donation; The Church gas contract is due for renewal and a new supplier has been found. The proceeds for this year's 100 Club were handed over.
- Hall door to Church corridor: It was felt to be a good idea to replace this double door with ones that could be secured but easily opened in case of emergency. We have contacted the company who supplied the other fire doors. Howarth Timber are the nearest supplier. Ian to approach and get a quote.
- Health & Safety: All checks are up to date.
- The next PCC meeting is on Tuesday 19th November.

Notes from the Christ Church meeting held on 13 November

1. The 24th September minutes were accepted: proposed P Stokes, seconded L Lees, all in favour.
2. The treasurer reported on the current finances. It was noted that we had received income from the harvest lunch of £180. The ash tree with dieback has been felled at a cost of £980. The organisations' contributions to the use of the hall in 2025 were discussed.
3. A meeting held with John Book the diocesan heating advisor regarding the failed church boiler and its replacement was discussed and it was decided that the secretary would look further into the diocesan recommendations; and that a decision would be made as soon as possible regarding a replacement boiler.
4. A smart meter has been fitted to the gas meter which feeds both the church and church hall. The Quinquennial Inspection of the church was carried out on the 13th November 2024.
5. A discussion was held regarding the future of the church and the church hall regarding improving the church and the church hall. It was noted that the Church of England has produced excellent information for the PCC to guide them through such a process and the actions necessary for any work in modifying the buildings.
6. Safeguarding was discussed and all PCC members were asked to log into the online course on safeguarding and complete it. Already a number had done so. The safeguarding officer had just received the DBS certificate and registered for updates.
7. The following items were discussed /decided in any other business.
 - A PCC member will liaise with CH Users regarding the purchase of a new water boiler for the church hall kitchen.
 - A new portable keyboard was discussed but no final decision was made.
 - It was agreed to purchase two new notice boards for either side of the Lych gate to replace the old boards which are out of date and decaying. The colour, design and content was agreed.
 - A report was presented to the PCC on work which needs to be completed on the Church Hall.

Summary of the St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 19th November 2024

- Harvie is currently undergoing treatment five days a week. We continue to hold Harvie and Sally in our prayers.
- Services: The guest Choir who joined us for the Carol Service last year cannot be with us this time; It has been agreed to cancel the Thursday evening Communion on 2nd January.
- There was an update on DBS's. It was noted that safeguarding is likely to be a strong topic now due to recent events in the Church of England, and the letter from Bishop David on this subject was commented on.
- Mission Community Activities: We were briefed on the meeting at the end of October and some of the subjects; There was a question about care homes in the Parish; Reverend Sam Eccleston has been appointed at Kirklees Valley Churches and his licensing is on 4th December.
- Cenotaph at the Salvation Army Citadel: Following the service on Remembrance Sunday it has been noted that the names and lettering cannot now be read. The job needs to be done professionally and may now have to wait until Summer.
- Quinquennial: This is happening on 20th November. We have made progress on some jobs from last time.
- Hall Access: It has been suggested that a turnkey option should be installed on the front door to allow easy exit from the inside but ensuring that unauthorised access from the outside cannot happen. Quotes will be sought and new keys will be needed.
- Finance: We have had to replace the Zip boiler and microwave in the kitchen; PAT testing has taken place and the linking fire door from hall to corridor has been replaced; Water rates and waste disposal bill have been paid.
- There is a Zoom meeting for wardens at the end of November.
- Our health and safety officer Keith has sadly died this month. He has served us exceptionally well down the years. There were no other matters to discuss on health and safety.
- The next PCC meeting is on Thursday 23rd January 2025.

MEET THE CAST

This year members of Mothers' Union and quite a number of friends have been knitting angels – and some of you probably wondered why. Across our Christmas services, beginning with Springside School's Carol Service on 13 December, any children who come to church will receive a small angel (perhaps to hang on the Christmas tree) together with a book called "Meet the Cast".

On Sunday, 22 December, at 3pm, in the Hall at Christ Church we are holding a short, lively, family friendly service for anyone, of any age, who would like to join us.

This will tie in with the book too so come along,

Meet the Cast

and see where the angels fit into the story.

CHRISTIAN AID



Thank you to everyone who has supported Christian Aid this year. Your donations continue to be much needed.

If you would like to support the work of Christian Aid during their Christmas appeal this year then there are collection envelopes available at the back of St. John with St. Mark Church or alternatively you may make a donation online through the Christian Aid website.

For more details about Christian Aid in this area, please see John Brennan.

Men of the Benefice

The MOB met on Monday 28th October at Hark to Dandler for chat and drink. A topic of conversation was the previous day's clock change to back one hour, and whether we should or should not keep doing it. I don't suppose it matters now though, as by the time you read this we are almost at the shortest day anyway.

The MOB are meeting at Hark to Dandler on Saturday 7th December at 10.30am and we are having a full English breakfast with toast and tea / coffee. The price is £10.00 per head and they need to know a couple of days before how many there are. If you are going please tell Barry Evans or David Robinson, preferably by 4th December. Ladies are welcome.

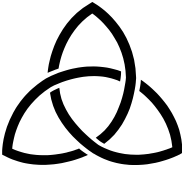


In the meantime, on behalf of the group, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The next meeting should be on Monday 27th January at 8.00pm.

Winter Night Shelter

As the winter nights are now upon us, Bolton Road Methodist Church are now offering their premises for rough sleepers. This will only be available on nights when the severe weather protocol is triggered (ie – below zero). The people using the facilities are recommended by the council. Volunteers are needed for each night it is in use to help with serving supper from 8-10pm and breakfast and clearing up from 7.45-8.30am. This will usually be Monday to Friday. Two people are also required to sleep over.

If you feel you could help with this or know someone who may then please contact Kathy Selby at Bolton Road Methodist Church or maybe one of our Churches Together Representatives in this Benefice who can pass your details on. A full DBS will be required for this work but can be arranged if you do not already hold one.



OPEN GROUP

For our meeting on Wednesday 13th November, we were delighted to be joined by Ruth Spencer (Margery and Alan's daughter), who presented a talk for us based on her experience of applying for the Great British Bake Off.

The talk was appropriately titled 'Almost Bake Off'.

Ruth began by introducing herself and advising that this experience had come about due to finding a hobby during the Covid lockdown. Ruth was on the reserve list but still had to complete the full end-to-end process including Zoom interviews, DBS checks, social media history background checks and the filming.

We received stories from each of the nine themed weeks and the challenges that each one brought. What particularly captured my attention was the ideas around the creations. So many were based around personal experiences and background of physics teacher to form the basis around Ruth's ideas. Margery and Alan had provided much of the inspiration! It is definitely not just about the baking. There were also one or two kitchen gadgets which come in useful, such as an ice cream maker and an interesting fold-in pie dish for the perfect pastry.

This was an enlightening and informative talk from Ruth and gave us an insight into what goes on inside the famous tent. We were also treated to some home bakes as Ruth brought us some salted oatmeal white chocolate cookies and gluten free spicy chocolate chip cookies. I have the recipes if you would like me to forward them on.

A huge thanks to Ruth for giving us this talk and we hope she carries on the baking.

The Open Group will meet for their Christmas get-together on Wednesday 11th December, 6.00pm for 6.30pm, and I will speak to people before about food and arrangements. For now, though, I would like to thank everybody who has shared this year with us and the Open Group wish all across the Benefice the very best for Christmas. David Robinson



Quiet Moments for Advent



This Advent, as we wait for
the Hope of the World
we pray for God's hope to overcome
the despair of loss and loneliness.
God of light and hope,
Hear our prayer

This Advent, as we wait for
the Light of the World
we pray that the love of God would bring light
in the lives of our family and friends.
God of light and hope,
Hear our prayer

This Advent, as we wait for
the Hope of the World
we pray that the love of God would fill
us all with sure and certain hope.
God of light and hope,
Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,
We wait filled with hope,
Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.
We wait anticipating your peace,
Believing that one day it will fill our world.
We wait embracing your love,
May we reach out to share it with our neighbours.
We wait with joy,
Bubbling in us in expectation of your birth.
Lord we wait,
Come soon and fill us with your life.

Christine Sine

First Coming

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Madeleine L'Engle

Loving God,
as we await Christmas day by celebrating Advent,
help us to become patient in waiting.
Please teach us to realise that Jesus is the most precious gift
You have ever given to the world.
May we imitate Him as a child,
and may we grow in wisdom and grace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

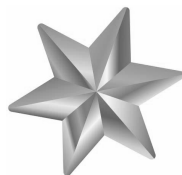
Advent prayers for kids

Christmas Greetings



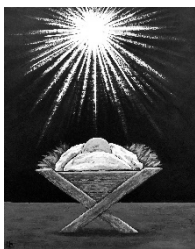
I would like to wish everybody across the United Benefice a very Happy and peaceful Christmas and the very best for the New Year. David Robinson xx

May this season be full of light and laughter
for you and your family.
From all the Guides and Leaders at Christ Church



The Christian Aid team thank everybody
for the support they have given this
year and wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a peaceful New Year.

We wish everyone across the United Benefice a very
Happy and Peaceful Christmas and look forward to
a hope-filled New Year.
The St. John with St. Mark Scout Group.



All best wishes for a fabulous Christmas and New
Year to all connected with St. John with St. Mark
and Christ Church Walmersley.
May you and your loved ones have a happy,
healthy and peaceful 2025.
Alan Thew



From my family to yours, we wish you a
blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.
Sandra Walmsley x

The choir at St. John with St. Mark send everyone
their best wishes for Christmas and a prosperous
2025.



Merry Christmas and a happy New Year
to Christ Church and
St. John with St. Mark's congregations.
Jennifer and John

May you have peace and joy this Christmas.
Alan and Margery



Wishing you all the peace,
hope and happiness of Christmas.
Mothers' Union

Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas
and through the coming year.
Barbara and Bob



Epiphany is marked 12 days after Christmas on 6th January:



God of surprises and gifts, you revealed yourself as a newborn baby and, with a star, you led the peoples of earth to worship Jesus, your only Son: lead us to see you face-to-face, and help us to discover our gifts and talents so that we may offer them up to you and your service. Let us be Jesus's light in the world today. Amen.

The 12th January is the celebration of the Baptism of Christ:

For John the Baptist
preparing the way by repentance and baptism
we thank you
For Jesus Christ
proclaimed your Son by water and Spirit
we thank you
For Good News
that Salvation has come to the earth
we thank you
For your love
undeserved and graciously given
we thank you
For the Holy Spirit
transforming and empowering lives
we thank you
For your promise
of an eternity in which to praise you
we thank you



faith and worship

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th to 25th January:

We praise you for the community that binds us together,
the fellowship we share in Christ,
the mission he has given us,
the love he has put in our hearts,
the hope we have in common.
Whatever may divide us,
it is as nothing compared to everything that unites
us in him.



We praise you for everything we are able to share together –
the rich heritage of the Church,
the inspiration of examples of faith,
the insights of different traditions,
the challenge of diverse experiences.

Nick Fawcett UK

26th January is World Environmental Education Day:



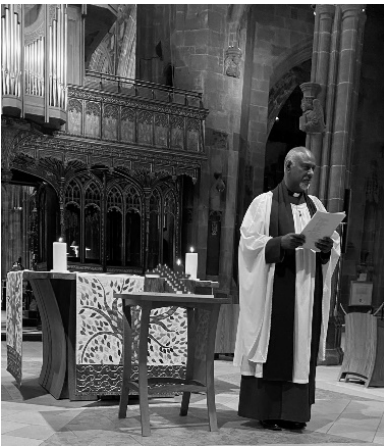
Divine Creator, in the spirit of Psalm 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it,” we fervently pray for World Environmental Education Day. Grant us all a deepened awareness and understanding of the environmental challenges that threaten Your beautiful creation. Inspire us to become

responsible stewards, dedicated to preserving and protecting Your divine masterpiece for future generations. May our hearts be filled with love for Your creation as we work together to build a sustainable world. Amen.

Yourprayernow.com

Every two months in Manchester Diocese there is a MU newsletter circulated to members. There are copies available and if anyone would like to have one please ask Barbara Taylor, branch secretary. November's is seven pages so everything cannot possibly be shared here.

Twice a year Diocesan Council is held and this is a great opportunity to hear what is happening across the diocese, to share fellowship with other members, to buy cards, etc and to hear speakers from some of the charities working with families across Manchester. Often there are ways in which we are able to help by providing resources for these families and it is encouraging to hear these stories. As the October meeting would be Christine's final Council as Diocesan President she was given flowers and gifts and thanked for her hard work and commitment. We also congratulated her on her election as the next Provincial President of York, aka the Northern Province.



A Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration at the end of this triennium was held in Manchester Cathedral. It was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Lord Mayor, several borough Mayors and many special guests. 31 candles were lit to give thanks for and to celebrate the organisations, projects and areas of support MU is involved in locally, nationally and worldwide.

The Dean, The Very Reverend Rogers Govender, gave a memorable address highlighting the important and far reaching work of MU. He encouraged us to be proactive in our work and witness, not simply reacting to identified needs presented to us.

Several of our members were present just three days later at Blackburn Cathedral when York Province celebrated the work of MU over the last 6 years and gave thanks for the leadership of June Houghton as our provincial president, and her bevy of diocesan presidents. Rosemary Taylor carried Manchester's banner and one of the readings was by Catherine Hilton, who has served as a member of the worldwide board of trustees for 6 years, elected by members of the province. It was so good to catch up with friends from the past who had travelled from all across the North.



Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn, an enthusiastic MU member, presided and preached. The gospel was the well-known story of Martha, Mary and Lazarus (*Luke 10: 38-42*). Bishop Philip, from his own experience of family life, claimed that Martha must be "the middle child" and expected to "do everything that needs to be done"! He then reminded us that this story in Luke's Gospel comes between that of the Good Samaritan (a great example of faith in action) and the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray. He suggested we should look at the story of Martha and Mary as an example of the balance we need to find in our own lives and in our membership of Mothers' Union.

There were very few at our first afternoon meeting after the clocks went back but we appreciated Revd. Robert Airey, from Emmanuel Holcombe, coming to preside at Holy Communion. This was followed by tea, coffee and parkin and a lively discussion, primarily about various aspects of 'remembrance'.

On December 4 at 2pm in the Hall, "Wishing, Waiting, Pondering" will be led by Catherine Hilton. Advent services are being held at 2pm on December 1 at Emmanuel Church Centre for our Deanery, and at 11am on December 9 at St Ann Manchester for the Diocese. All are welcome.

We shall not meet on New Year's Day, so our first meeting of 2025 will be at 2pm on 15 January.



THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCH

Come and join us
on the third Thursday of every month
for a light lunch.

A chance to enjoy a chat
in the company of friends.

Lunch is served 12 noon – 1pm.

Christ Church Walmersley Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP

There is no charge – though, if you can,
a donation toward costs would be appreciated.

Any profit will go to charity or church funds.

It would be great to see you!

**So come along on 12 December for a Christmas themed lunch
and start 2025 as you mean to go on - 16 January**

Forthcoming dates: 20 February, 20 March



The ladies at St. John with St. Mark have asked to thank all members of the Third Thursday Lunch team at Christ Church for their hospitality and lovely meals through 2024. Special thanks to Nigel for adding a dose of humour to proceedings.

Looking forward to more in 2025.

Thank You

Carol Service

Sunday 8th Dec @ 2pm
At Mill Gate Shopping Centre
(Outside TJ Hughes)

Come and join churches in Bury
celebrating the arrival of Christmas!



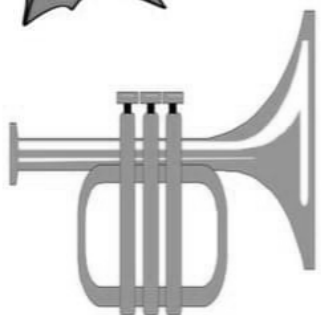
Springside School **Carol Service**

In Church
at 10am on Friday 13 December

Come and support our children and staff
as they share the Christmas story
in words and music

St Margaret's Heys Lane Heywood OL10 3RD

Invite you to



Beer & Carols

with Blackley Brass

**With your favourite Christmas Carols
& Christmas Songs**

**You supply the beer we will supply the music & fun.
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**

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

Santa will be calling in for the Children of all Ages
Light Refreshments will be available



**Its free though donations on the night will be
gratefully accepted.**

Friday 13th December at 7pm

St Peter's Bury are looking forward to welcoming comedian Andy Kind, for a spectacular Christmas evening for all the family and community. See you and yours there!
Get tickets here: www.stpetersbury.church/spectacular

CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY 14TH DEC, 6–8PM

Professional comedy – Drinks
– Raffle draw – Kids activities

Tickets: £5 (£8 on the door)
under 16s free



ANDY KIND

'Absolutely terrific!
THE SCOTSMAN





Tickets for this event in the Park are free but numbers would be helpful for catering purposes. Please see the link below.

The same link can be used to book a ticket for a child to visit Father Christmas for just £1

<https://audacious.churchsuite.com/events/6ev9zkjd>

Once again the fantastic people at **Caritas** Diocese of Salford are providing a much needed **CHRISTMAS DINNER FREE** for anyone you think may appreciate this.



*To order please contact 07855 306074
Last order date for meal delivery – 20 December*

Tuesday 24 December – Meal delivery service

Wednesday 25 December – Delivery service or Take-away / sit-down meal from 1-3pm at Bury Parish Church Hall

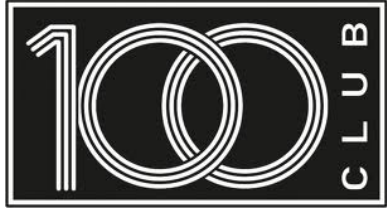
There is NO CHARGE for this meal
www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere

NOVEMBER 2024 WINNERS

1st Prize £15.00 – (82) David Robinson

2nd Prize £10.00 – (85) Sandra Evans

Congratulations to both



- 21 January 10am – 12 noon
- Christ Church Hall
- £2.50, in aid of church funds
- Please tell your friends and come along for a chat



Sunday



@ Seven



We next meet for our time of informal worship

January 26th

Christ Church Hall

Lighten our darkness

**Something of a late Christmas/Candlemas celebration
of Jesus coming to us as the Light of the World.**

**Come and join us for an hour
- or you can be with us via Zoom.
Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks
for more details.**

FOR YOUR DECEMBER DIARY

Sun 1		Advent Sunday
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
	1.30pm	Christmas Tree Festival (CC)
	2.00pm	MU Deanery Advent Service (Emmanuel CC)
Mon 2	6.30pm	Christingle (CC Hall)
Wed 4	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
	6.30pm	Christingle (SJM)
Sun 8		2nd of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	2.00pm	Churches Together Carol Singing (Millgate)
Wed 11	12.30pm	MU Christmas Lunch (Park Farm)
	6.00pm	Open Group Christmas Get-Together (Barritt Rm)
Thu 12	12 noon	Thursday Christmas Lunch (CC Hall)
Fri 13	10.00am	Springside School Carol Service (CC)
Sun 15		3rd of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
	6.30pm	Carol Services (both)
Mon 16	2.30pm	Carols at The Priory
Sun 22		4th of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
		<i>For Christmas Services please see page 35</i>
		<i>No midweek service Thu 26 December (SJM)</i>
Sun 29		1st of Christmas
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Parish Communion (SJM)

FOR YOUR JANUARY DIARY

<i>Wed 1 & Thu 2</i>		<i>No midweek services (SJM)</i>
Sun 5		Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Sun 12		The Baptism of Christ
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Mon 13	7.30pm	Deanery Synod (St. Johns' House)
Tue 14	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Wed 15	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 16	12 noon	Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 19		2nd of Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
Tue 21	10.00am	Coffee Morning (CC Hall)
	7.30pm	Bury Churches Together AGM (Salvation Army)
Thu 23	8.00pm	PCC Meeting (SJM)
Sun 26		3rd of Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (CC Hall)
Mon 27	7.30pm	Mission Community leaders meeting (venue TBC)
	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice – venue TBC

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.

Whilst the Vicar is unwell enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made to the Wardens through our websites or at the parish office which has re-opened each Wednesday evening from 6.30 – 7.00pm at St. John with St. Mark's Hall.

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

Check out Facebook	@christchurchwalmersley
	@stjohnstmark
X (formerly Twitter)	@cofewalmersley
Instagram	cofewalmersley
and YouTube	CofE Walmersley

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday		
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP) Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Morning Worship Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th	Holy Communion Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven Venue tba	
Wednesday		
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion St John w St Mark	
Thursday		
12.30 p.m.	The Gathering Zoom	
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion (3rd week now Compline) St John w St Mark	
Other services as announced. Services are from Common Worship unless otherwise stated.		

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

St John with St Mark's Church has Fairtrade status



We are members of Manchester's Transforming Prayer Community

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROL SERVICES



Sunday 15 December, 6.30pm
in both churches

MEET THE CAST - a short family friendly service
Sunday 22 December, 3.00pm
at Christ Church



HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES



Christmas Eve

7.30pm at St John with St Mark
11.30pm at Christ Church

Christmas Day

10.00am in both churches



When the carols
have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree
is taken down,
When family and friends
are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS

To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust,
not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace
for all people,
To bring Christ's light
to the world.

MICHAEL DOUGHERTY
a variation on Howard-Thurmer's
WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGELS IS STILLED