

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



December 2025 / January 2026





Come share
the light this
Christingle

In both churches:
6.30pm on Monday 1 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

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

SPREADING JOY, ONE TOY AT A TIME!



Can you help to sort?
8-12 December at Seedfield Methodist Church
e: david.somerville@methodist.org.uk

How You Can Help

Donate new toys and
games to bring a smile
to a child's face this
Christmas!

We Accept:

Toys and activities for all
ages - please remember
older children too -
in original packaging and
unwrapped
Please avoid items with a
violent theme



Drop Off by 1st December please & Make a Difference!

All donations will be shared with families across Bury



Step forward with confidence

Welcome to the December and January magazine.

These two months are a gift for those of us who like to reflect and plan. I will begin with looking back and then offer a few thoughts as we look forward.

The last year has seen many changes in how we live our lives and how we see the world around us. For example, we have seen the world change as the American President brought his own approach to conducting world affairs. Artificial intelligence has moved at pace so that it is hard to know what is the truth, as presented in the media and so-called reliable news services. Our world will keep changing as we move forwards and many may fear the changes ahead, whilst others look forward to an exciting journey.

As we anticipate what will happen next, one thing that is sure is that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, we can build our futures on Him and trust that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against His church.

The story of Christ leaving the security of heaven to walk amongst us is as true today as it always has been. I wonder what He would make of the situation in Israel today? It is my guess that He would be encouraging us to fight for peace on all sides and to protect the weak and vulnerable; to speak out for those with no voice and to pray for the leaders, that their hearts turn from war to reconciliation. After all, we are here to love one another, serve one another and uplift one another. The big question for us is, how can we do this in a world in such turmoil? Nothing worthwhile has happened in the church without the faithful prayer of the saints, so I encourage us all to take our hopes and dreams, our fears and worries to the Lord in prayer and see what He has in store for us. I encourage us all to find the confidence that we had in Jesus when we

first came to know him. Many of us have journeyed through trying times in recent months but the same Jesus offers His hand to us, if only we would catch it and trust in Him as we walk with Him into the future. All the problems that we face can be overcome as we just trust and obey the King of Kings. To do this we need to increase our knowledge of Him and walk closer with Him.

Will 2026 be the year that you draw nearer to the cross of Christ and learn how to once again place your future in the hand of the man who stilled the water? As many reading this will know, I have been on a journey this last year that I wouldn't wish on anyone. I can say that if I had not clung on to the cross of Christ, I would have sunk under the waves but thankfully, even at the darkest moments, the darkness never put out the light. Some may ask how is this possible? I can only answer for myself and encourage others to try.

Ours is the only faith with a God with no resting place on Earth because He lives in the heart of His followers - He is risen! So, as we move into the New Year, we can do so in the sure knowledge that we are not on our own; the risen Christ will walk with us and hold us close to Himself, if only we let Him. The church nationally and internationally is in a state of flux, but if God's people turn back to Him and repent, He will draw close to us and by His Spirit, save us from the fate that faces all who turn away from the Lord. So, will you and I render to Caesar that which belongs to him and to God that which belongs to God? A great challenge for most of us, but as we put our trust in Him, it will get easier. That is why I believe the story of Christmas is so much more than a nice comforting story - it is about a God who wants to get to know His children in a new way. Make room in your hearts, take His hand and step forward into 2026 with confidence!

Harvie



BAPTISM

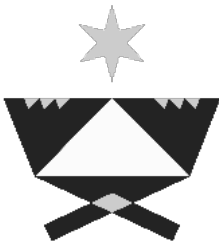
Nov 1 Eris May Grime

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

INTERMENT OF ASHES IN THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Nov 2 John Hinchliffe
 Pauline Hinchliffe

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

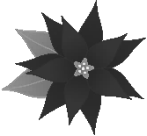


Christmas Cards

As in 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 will be available early December and if you would like to help to spread the Christmas message then please speak to the Wardens.

This year we hope to deliver to 2900 houses in the Benefice and we know from past experience that some will accept this invitation to worship with us. This is a great outreach to our community, each Christmas and Easter, so please get involved if you are able.



Flowers in church

At Christ Church

- Dec 7 In memory of Jennifer Melling and Mary Illsley
- Dec 14 Vacant
- Dec 21 The Congregation
- Dec 28 Vacant
- Jan 4 In memory of Clifford Hawkins
- Jan 11 Mr & Mrs J. McDermott, in memory of their daughter Carol
- Jan 18 In memory of Jim and Hilda Melling
- Jan 25 Vacant

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).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Throughout the year we have several vacant Sundays at CCW. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of flowers on the Altars, in celebration of an event or in memory of family and loved ones, please contact me.



Also, if you feel you would like to help with the arrangement of Church flowers, we would be very pleased to welcome you to the team!

Hazel Bamford



BIBLE READINGS

Dec 7	2nd of Advent	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Romans 15: 4-13	Matthew 3: 1-12
Dec 14	3rd of Advent	Isaiah 35: 1-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11
Dec 21	4th of Advent	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec 28	Holy Innocents	Jeremiah 31:15-17	1 Corinthians 1:26-29	Matthew 2: 13-18
Jan 4	2nd of Christmas	Jeremiah 31: 7-14	Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18
Jan 11	The Baptism of Christ / 1st of Epiphany	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Acts 10: 34-43	Matthew 3: 13-17
Jan 18	2nd of Epiphany	Isaiah 49: 1-7	I Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
Jan 25	3rd of Epiphany	Isaiah 9: 1-4	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23
Feb 1	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2: 22-40

HE WILL BE CALLED

*Wonderful Counsellor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace*

ISAIAH 9: 6

Summary of a meeting of Christ Church Walmersley PCC on 4th November

- The meeting opened with prayers.
- The minutes of the previous meeting, on 9th September 2025, were approved.
- A Community Survey was discussed. It was agreed to present it first to the congregation to ascertain their opinion of it and ask their feedback as to any alterations that may be made. The aim then is to circulate it to the village community.
- The financial report was discussed.
- Six Lime trees on the Church walk are to be pollarded.
- Work is to be carried out to repair the toilet roof and cladding in the Church Hall.
- The replacement of the Church Hall lights with LED panels is to be carried out by Corbetts Electrics Ltd.
- Everyone has completed the relevant Safeguarding courses. The wardens have another to complete which other members of the PCC may do if they wish.
- After careful consideration it was decided to reject the request to site a charity clothing bin in the Church Hall yard.
- New Church notice boards, to replace the ones on either side of the Lychgate, have now arrived and will be erected soon.
- The Christmas Tree Festival will be from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th December.
Trees to be delivered to Church on Thursday 11th December.
- The meeting closed at 8.58pm with The Grace

Summary of the St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 6th November 2025

- Services are now covered to the end of January including Christmas services. There will be an Advent bible study in the Barritt Room from Tuesday 25th November.
- There are a few DBS checks currently in hand. Some PCC members have recently completed the online courses.
- Mission Community activities: There was a review of the quiz night. It was noted that St. John with St. Mark have been asked to host this event again in 2026. Following a meeting at the end of October, other events proposed for next year are a litter picking day (May), joint Sunday evening worship (June) and a Mission Community Confirmation (July).
- Alan Thew has volunteered to take up the Foundation Governor post at St. John with St. Mark School. Alan was accepted by PCC.
- We have received a thank you certificate from Christies for the recent fundraising donations, particularly at the Eden Singers concert.
- A letter was received from All Saints' AOS society asking if they can hire our hall for their future productions. This will be considered.
- The income survey has now been completed and the forms will be sent off shortly.
Expenses included replacement to lighting and a repair to the Zip boiler.
- We discussed our charitable giving for 2025. We will again donate 10% of our planned giving to 10 different charities and also continue with our Christmas offerings from our various collections. Agreed charities this year included Smile Train and Bury Cancer Support. Please see a member of our PCC for the full list, if you like.
- Rosemarie reminded people about the Christmas Fair and an appeal for help on stalls, especially in the kitchen.
- Health & Safety: It has been noted that the turnlock on the inner hall door is difficult to move; We are also awaiting a battery for the defibrillator.
- Next PCC meeting is Thursday 15th January 2026 at 8.00pm.

* On page 2 is reference to how we can help with the Churches Together Toy Appeal. An important part will be the bagging, from 8-12 December, of gifts for the specific children who have been referred. As we prepare this magazine the greatest need is for Tuesday 9, Thursday 11, Friday 12 so if you can spare a morning and/or afternoon please contact david.somerville@methodist.org.uk as soon as possible.

* The Church of England theme for this year is Joy. Please have a look on the CofE website for the various resources and ideas. There are a small number of paper booklets available titled '12 Joys of Christmas' with a reflection for each day. Please see David Robinson in advance if you would like one saving, otherwise they will be given out in our Churches nearer the time. You can also view this on the CofE App.

* C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" is coming to Salford's Lyric Theatre, The Lowry, from Wednesday 3rd December to Sunday 11th January. Why not make a date to see this great Christian production over the Christmas season. There is a trailer, more details and booking info at:

<https://thelowry.com/whats-on/the-lion-the-witch-and-the-wardrobe-6crb>

* Each month our Deanery holds a time of prayer in the chapel at St John's House. All are welcome to Pray for Growth. In December this will be held on Thursday, 11th at 10am.

* There is a very real need for the work of Porch Boxes at this time. Please do all you can to contribute. A box is available at the back of both churches and there are lists of the items most needed.

* Contributions for the magazine are always welcome. Please send to wrub@live.co.uk or contact Barbara Taylor or David Robinson. The deadline for the February issue will be 14th January.

Campfire Church – Autumn Highlights

What a joyful and adventure-filled autumn it has been at Campfire Church! Each month has brought its own flavour, fun, and faith-filled moments as we gathered around the warmth of the fire to learn, worship, and grow together.

September – Thankfulness

We kicked off the season with a celebration of thankfulness. As the fire crackled, we popped popcorn over the flames—always a favourite! — and shared moments and memories we were grateful for, writing or drawing them on 'flames'. The air was filled not only with the smell of fresh popcorn but with the sound of laughter and heartfelt reflections.

October – The Sower

In October, we explored the parable of the Sower. Everyone got hands-on with seed planting, connecting the story to our own lives as we thought about the kind of soil we offer for God's word. Meanwhile, dough was rolled, shaped, and placed to cook over the glowing embers. There's nothing quite like bread baked on a campfire—and it tasted even better shared together!



November – Being the Light

As the days grew darker, our November theme "Being the Light" felt especially meaningful. Despite the rain which put off some regulars, children and adults alike enjoyed decorating biscuits with bright, colourful icing, each fire-shaped biscuit a reminder of how we can shine God's love into the world. The creativity (and sugar!) flowed freely.

Campfire Church continues to be a place of warmth, community, and discovery. We look forward to many more gatherings where faith and fun meet around the fire!

Why not come as a shepherd or angel to our December gathering (see page 28)? Then in 2026 we shall be meeting regularly on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Last month Tricia Stokes and I attended the A.G.M. of the Bury Faith Forum at The United Reformed Church in Bury.

The meeting, chaired by Rabbi Warren Elf, reported on several successful multifaith activities. One event included 11 primary and secondary school groups of 10 children and 2 teachers each spending the day at Guardian Angels school, learning of the many religions in Bury. There were 10 stalls - 8 different faiths and 2 community groups inspired by faith. The feedback was positive with a high level of learning, engagement and participation. After 2 successful years it may become an annual event.

Future events planned are a Multifaith evening and an event in Hate Awareness Week in February. No details yet.

The A.G.M closed with prayers for Peace and for the victims of attacks on Mosques and Synagogues. We prayed especially for those killed or affected by the recent attack on Heaton Park Synagogue on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, on 2nd October.

After refreshments, the meeting continued with a discussion to mark Hate Crime Awareness Week 2025

“Our Living Faiths in Bury”

Members of the audience, Christian, Muslim, Jews and Sikhs spoke of how they live in Bury and hope their faith gives a positive influence on their lives and society.

Jagmail Singh and Ravinder Kaur of the Manchester Sikh community were invited to tell us about their faith. They believe there is only one God and everyone is equal before God. Their Holy Book is called Guru Granth Sqhib Ji, and is kept in their place of worship, known as Gurdwara or Temple.

Sikhs usually wear a turban, they also do not cut their hair, and wear a cotton undergarment and steel bangle, carry a wooden comb and a small decorative sword.

Sikhism encourages people to donate 10% of their total income both financially or in the form of Sewa (selfless service) to help others. Each Gurdwara has a Langar – a community hall kitchen - which serves food free to everyone irrespective of any Caste, Gender or Status.

A few of our church members witnessed this community service when, with the Bury Muslim Christian Forum, we had a guided tour of the Gurdwara Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib near Strangeways Prison. After the tour we joined about a hundred people of all walks of life being fed in their communal dining area where we all mixed together with no recognition of status. When our hosts had seen us settled they left to take food to a soup kitchen they run in Piccadilly Gardens and to hand out sleeping bags and other items needed by the homeless. That day we saw faith in action.

One sentence I remember from the meeting was a saying by a 16th century Guru:

**“Before becoming a Sikh, a Muslim, a Hindu or a Christian,
Let's become a good Human first. ”**

Gillian Smith

JAM Group



We have not had a JAM over the last few weeks as we decided to stay in Church. Here is a prayer though to remind us that you are always with us and here for us:

'God you love us and are always with us. You are ready to help us and make us strong. God, we give our love to you. Amen.'

All generations will count me blessed

Mary's Song – Magnificat

The Magnificat is one of the great hymns of the church, past and present. It is part of the 1662 Prayer Book's Evening Prayer Service. It is, in fact, a canticle. I was a young chorister in the 1950s onwards and I used to sing the Magnificat as part of Evensong. It is particularly important during Advent and Christmas because Mary said these words when she was expecting Jesus. Jews were taught to memorise many words from the Hebrew scriptures and the words from the Magnificat would be among them.

Magnificat is the first word in the Latin version of the song and means "glorifies." It is similar to Hannah's Song in 1 Samuel 2: 1-10. Hannah gave thanks for the birth of her son, Samuel, using those words.

Mary was visiting Elisabeth, her cousin, who, in her old age, was expecting the birth of a child who would be John the Baptist, often spoken of as the forerunner who would prepare the people for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

Mary and Elisabeth would be familiar with the scriptures (our Old Testament) where the prophets had spoken about a Messiah coming to bring peace and hope to his people. The prophets such as Isaiah had foretold the coming of a Messiah: Isaiah 9: 6 - 7, chapter 11: 40. Micah and many other prophets spoke of the coming of a Messiah. Handel's "Messiah" uses many of the prophecies about God's son coming and bringing peace and joy to the world.

Much of what Mary said is reflected in Jesus' preaching where he warns the rich not to trust in their wealth and promises God's kingdom to the poor.

The Magnificat (Revised English Bible, 1989)
Luke 1: 46 – 55



And Mary said:

My soul tells out the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he has looked with favour on his servant, lowly as she is.

From this day forward all generations will count me blessed, for the mighty God has done great things for me. His name is holy, his mercy sure from generation to generation toward those who fear him.

He has shown the might of his arm; he has routed the proud and all their schemes.

He has brought down monarchs from their thrones and raised on high the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, as he promised to our forefathers.

He has not forgotten to show mercy to Abraham and his children's children for ever.

Alan Thew

Quiet Moments for Advent

A selection of prayers for us to use throughout Advent as we feel appropriate

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the centre, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time. Amen

John Birch

Maybe it is in the waiting for God,
not in the wandering from store to store,
that we find our way.

Maybe it is in the friendship of God,
not in the frenzy of the crowds,
that we are led to the manger.

Maybe it is in the steadfast love of God,
and not in the pile of stuff under the tree,
that we find what we have been searching for all our lives.

Maybe, just maybe, God of Advent,
this year will be different.

Maybe, just maybe,
we will let you lead us to Bethlehem.

Thom M Shuman

Advent God,
we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King,

ears attuned
to the song of angels,
eyes alert
for Bethlehem's star.

Forgive us
if on our journey
we are distracted
by the tempting offers
of this world.

Keep our hearts aflame
with the hope
of Christmas,
and the promise
of a Saviour.

Amen

John Birch

Whatever the future may hold,
wherever life may lead,
grant, gracious God,
that the light of Christ may illuminate our path,
guiding our footsteps and shining upon us,
this day and always.

Amen.

Nick Fawcett



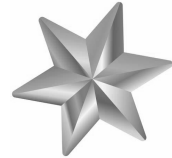
Christmas Greetings

Best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas.
May the peace the angels brought
be in your hearts and in those you love
this Christmas and throughout the year.
Alan Thew



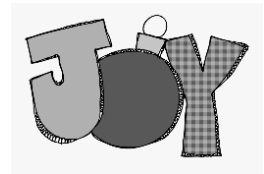
Wishing you peace, hope and happiness
this Christmas and throughout the year.
Mothers' Union

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



Wishing everyone across the United Benefice a
very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a
prosperous 2026.
David Robinson & family

Wishing you a joyful and blessed Christmas.
May this season draw us closer as a family of
faith, united in love and service, sharing Christ's
light with one another and our community.
With best wishes from Sandra Walmsley and
family.



We would like to wish all across the Benefice a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and all the best for New Year. Ian & June xx



The Christian Aid team would like to thank all for their support this year and send everyone their blessings for Christmas and New Year.
John

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



Sending our very best wishes this Christmas to the congregation in the United Benefice and the wider community. Thank you for your support and uplifting comments throughout the year for the Organist, music and Choir.
Love and prayers, Geoff and Tricia.

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas.
Margery and Alan



The choir at St. John with St. Mark wish everyone the very best for Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

Quiet Moments for the New Year

A Celtic style prayer for a new year – or just for each new day

I arise today
embraced in the arms
of God the Father,
empowered by the strength
of God the Spirit,
immersed in the love
of God the Son.

I arise today
in the company
of the Trinity
Father, Spirit and Son.

I arise today.

Amen

faithandworship.com

*On the 6th January, 12 days after Christmas,
we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany*

Thank you, Lord, for your light,
guiding to Bethlehem,
shining on the mountain,
pouring from the empty tomb
and sparkling in our hearts.
Thank you for the knowledge that,
whatever life brings,
you will give light to our path,
this and every day.
Amen.

Nick Fawcett

The Baptism of Christ is marked on 11th January

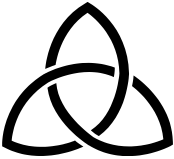
God of grace and glory,
you call us with your voice of flame
to be your people, faithful and courageous.
As your beloved Son embraced his mission
in the waters of baptism,
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit
to join in his transforming work.
We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

re-worship.blogspot.com

*18-25 January is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and for 2026
prayers and reflections have been prepared by the people of Armenia*

Lord Jesus Christ,
You bring us together in all our diversity,
as family and church.
In the face of so many situations on earth,
where hope has given way to despair
and hearts are wounded and emptied by disappointment,
renew our strength and unify us.
Help us to share Your hope wherever we find ourselves.
You are the true Light,
who casts out the darkness of sin,
despair and brokenness,
who shines into our hearts, releasing the joy
and the true hope of Your eternal love for all.
Amen.

CTBI.org.uk



Where could you find a Vicar on a bouncy castle, a retired solicitor to organise a concert and post office bicycles delivering Church leaflets? At the recent Open Group meeting on Wednesday 12th November when we had another go at The Big Idea. An opportunity to share suggestions as to how we could make the most of resources that are likely unavailable, but can still get us thinking, by drawing random items from a bag. The idea of a Vicar on a bouncy castle entertaining his congregation in Gazebos at a picnic might seem hard to comprehend, but you may remember us attempting something like this last year on Clarence Park.

We also selected 10 log burners this time, with a chocolate fountain along with some former Post Office bicycles, and this got us thinking about bonfires. The recent initiative of Campfire Church at Christ Church came to mind and the new opportunities there and how the Good News can be spread.

It does help your idea if you have a venue to create your suggestion, but sometimes it can be a different challenge if you have too many; ie a dance hall, outdoor food van and a pub all in one selection!

Although these ideas are unlikely to materialise, the one thing we can commit to is the opportunities we already have to share the Good News with the community and resources currently available to us. This was evident in our session and it does get you thinking.

Thank you to the small number who attended.

The Open Group meet for an afternoon tea on Wednesday 10th December and if you have booked, then we begin at 2.00pm in the Barritt Room. We will not meet in January but in the meantime, the group wishes everyone across the Benefice a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



David Robinson

14 members seemed to enjoy a visit to St John's House (which some had not had cause to enter previously). We were welcomed to the 'new' Diocesan Offices by Judith Popay and saw the 'public' part of the offices before she took us to the chapel, explaining that it is used each day by the Staff. Catherine Hilton led us in prayer before Frances Brough took us up to the 3rd floor where the Mothers' Union office and shop are located. After a browse, and quite a number of purchases (especially of cards, diaries and calendars) members gathered around the table for a chat with, of course, tea and coffee.

Sadly, Emma who was to lead us in a Cozy Corner Retreat, damaged her knee and walking and standing were very painful, so we will rearrange that meeting for the spring. In her stead, Nigel stepped up and gave us his talk on 'Lighthouses'. We enjoyed it and were very grateful to him.

Bury and Rossendale Deanery MU is holding the annual Advent Service on Sunday, 30th November, at 2pm at Emmanuel Church Centre, Longsight Rd, Ramsbottom, BL8 4DB. Everyone is welcome.

On 3rd December Catherine Hilton will lead an Advent-themed afternoon. If you would like to focus on this season please come along.

As I write, we are working on ideas for our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival but there will be one!

Then on 17th December we look forward to a Christmas Lunch at Park Farm. The following day 360+ angels and books will be given to children at St John with St Mark's School.

In 2026 we are going to try something a little different by holding, on the 1st Wednesday, an afternoon where we invite everyone to JOIN US, JOIN IN – with tea, coffee, cake and chat. So, the first such afternoon will be on 7th January. We very much hope you will be there.

On 21st January, we shall come together for Holy Communion in the Hall at 2pm and everyone is welcome to celebrate with us.

Barbara Taylor, Branch Secretary

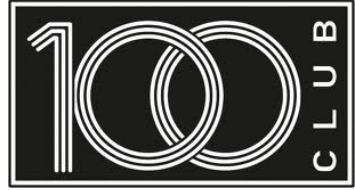
ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

NOVEMBER 2025 DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize £15.00 – Phyllis Holt

2nd Prize £10.00 – Margaret Whittle

Congratulations to both



Third 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.

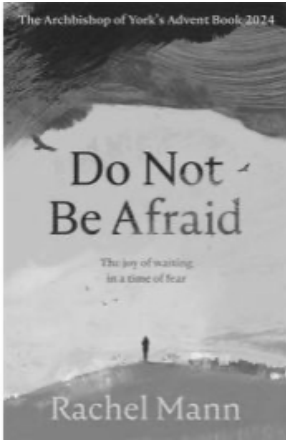
Christ Church Walmersley Hall, School Lane, BL9 5LP

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 on 18 December for a Christmas themed lunch
and start 2026 as you mean to go on – 15 January**

What's On in December



Our Advent Study this year is based around this book by our Archdeacon, Rachel, and the videos she made to go with it.

The first week was on November 25 but there are three more sessions which it will be very easy to fit into.

In the Barritt Room, 7.30pm on Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16

Everyone is welcome.

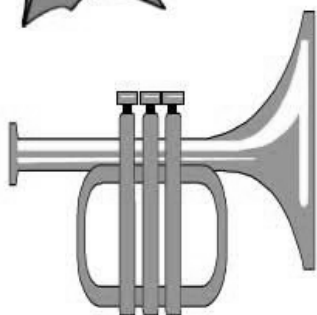
**Carol Singing
in Mill Gate**
With Churches Together in Bury

Sun 7th Dec
2.00-3.30pm outside T. J. Hughes

CHURCHES
TOGETHER
IN BURY

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,

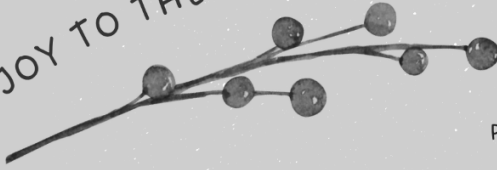
Santa will be calling in for the Children of all Ages
Light Refreshments will be available



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

Friday 12th December at 7pm

JOY TO THE WORLD



PLEASE JOIN US
AS WE VISIT
THE PRIORY Highbank CENTRE

TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER
2.30PM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

TO SHARE THE JOY
OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY
WITH RESIDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS.



Why not come
dressed as a
shepherd or an
angel?

Come and celebrate
Christmas at

CAMPFIRE CHURCH

Join us around the campfire for some relaxed, informal family worship.

SONGS

FOOD

ACTIVITIES

Christ Church Walmersley yard
6.30pm - 7.15pm
All children need to be
accompanied by an adult

Tuesday 16 December
Smores and Hot Choolate

For more information - www.ccwalmersleybury.org.uk/Campfire



School Service

Join our school family
as they celebrate Christmas
in church



Wednesday, 17th December 2025
at 10 am



Christ Church
Walmersey Road BL9 5JU

Everyone welcome



SpringsidePrimary.co.uk
CCWalmerseyBuryorg.uk

YCW *Young Christian Workers* Christmas Dinner

WEDNESDAY 24th Dec - Christmas meal delivery service only

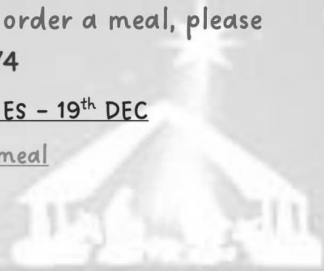
THURSDAY 25th Dec - Delivery service or Take-away/sit-down meal

From 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Bury Parish Church Hall, The Rock

If you or someone you know would like to order a meal, please
contact 07855 306 074

LAST ORDER DATE FOR MEAL DELIVERIES - 19th DEC

There is NO CHARGE for this meal



SUNDAY @ SEVEN

***COME AND JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF
RELAXED CHRISTIAN WORSHIP AT
7PM ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH.***



WE NEXT MEET ON JANUARY 25th

***IN THE HALL (THE BARRITT ROOM) AT
ST JOHN WITH ST MARK'S.***

***“Let it be all about You, Jesus;
all about You”***

***It's the week of prayer for Christian Unity and we shall
reflect that theme in our worship.***

***If you want to know more ask Nigel Silvester, Ian Banks
or Cor van der Woude.***

Carbon Literacy Project



What is Carbon Literacy?

"An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis."

Today, over 143,967 individuals from over 13,024 organisations are Carbon Literate - **are you?** *carbonliteracy.com*

Find out some of the very straightforward ways in which we can each make a difference, on January 17th, 9am-1pm when Canon Grace Thomas will lead Bury & Rossendale Deanery at St John with St Mark.

Radcliffe Male Voice Choir, which includes representatives from our Benefice, will perform a concert in St. John with St. Mark Church on Friday 30th January at 7.00pm.



After a hectic November and December, this will be the Choir's first performance of 2026 and is in support of Jigsaw. This is a local Bury charity which helps young people with learning difficulties to enjoy sport and assist them with their everyday lives.

Tickets are £10.00 each, including light refreshments, and are available from Paul on 07858 485898 or Natalie on 07564 641909. The acoustics at St. John with St. Mark make the venue a joy to sing in. So, a good time will be enjoyed by all who attend. Make sure you are amongst them and help support the work of Jigsaw.

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday			
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st	Holy Communion	Christ Church
	2 nd	Family Service	
	3 rd	Holy Communion	
	4 th	Morning Worship	
10.30 a.m.	1 st	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
	2 nd	Holy Communion	
	3 rd	Morning Worship	
	4 th	Holy Communion	
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 – 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 the Manchester Diocese Transforming Prayer Community

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

@cofewalmersley

Instagram

cofewalmersley

and YouTube

CofE Walmersley

FOR YOUR DECEMBER DIARY

Mon 1	6.30pm	Christingle Services (both)
Tue 2	7.30pm	Advent Study (Barritt Room)
Wed 3	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 7		2nd Sunday of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
	2.00pm	Churches Together Carol Singing (Mill Gate)
Mon 8	11.00am	Manchester MU Advent Service (St Ann)
Tue 9	7.30pm	Advent Study (Barritt Room)
Wed 10	2.00pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
Fri 12 – Sun 14		Christmas Tree Festival (CC) – <i>Please see page 35</i>
Sun 14		3rd Sunday of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Tue 16	2.30pm	Christmas at the Priory (Highbank Centre)
	6.30pm	Campfire Church (CC Hall yard)
	7.30pm	Advent Study (Barritt Room)
Wed 17	10.00am	Springside School Christmas Service (CC)
	11.45am	Mothers' Union (Park Farm)
Thu 18	12 noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 21		4th Sunday of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
	6.30pm	Carol Service (both churches)
		<i>Please see page 36 for Christmas services</i>
Sun 28		1st Sunday of Christmas
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)

There will be no SJM midweek services on Wed 31 Dec & Thu 1 Jan

FOR YOUR JANUARY DIARY

Sun 4		2nd Sunday of Christmas
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Wed 7	2.00pm	Join Us, Join In hosted by MU (CC Hall)
Sun 11		Baptism of Christ
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Tue 13	7.30pm	PCC (CC)
Thu 15	12 noon	Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury AGM (venue TBC)
	8.00pm	PCC (SJM)
Sat 17	9.00am	Carbon Literacy Training (SJM)
Sun 18		2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (CC)
Wed 21	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 25		3rd Sunday of Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
	7.00pm	Sunday @ Seven (Barritt Room)
Mon 26	7.30pm	Bury Mission Community Leaders (St Thomas)
	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (Hark to Dandler)
Tue 27	6.30pm	Campfire Church (CC Hall yard)
Fri 30	7.00pm	Radcliffe Male Voice Choir (SJM)

Please have a think what you are doing in February 2026 and send details to us by 14th January, so we can publish them in the February magazine.



FREE
but any donations
will go to the
Bury Homeless Project



Christmas Tree

Festival 2025

Friday, 12th December, 1.30 - 4.30pm
Saturday 13th December, 10am - 4pm
Sunday 14th December, 1.30 - 4.30pm



Activities



**Festive
refreshments**



**Still time to
add a tree!**

CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk/Christmas-trees

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 21 December, 6.30pm
in both churches

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



More information at:

StJohnStMarkChurchBury.com & CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk