Christ Church Walmersley

and

St John with St Mark

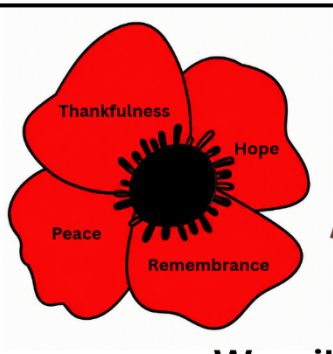
The Church of England on Walmersley Road



December 2026 / January 2027

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD





We will remember them

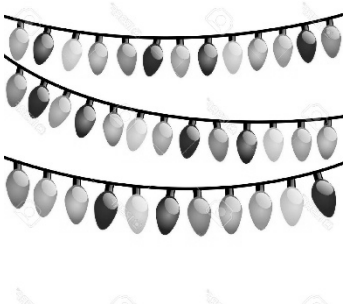






Light of Christ

'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'
John 1.5



Are you a fan of Christmas lights? Shopping centres and supermarkets decked out with shimmering gold and white after the grand event where some D-list celebrity formally switched them on? Or the lights increasingly found on residential streets, adorning houses inside and out, despite the terrifying rising price of electricity?

Perhaps it's the familiar lights of a Christmas tree at home – the well-loved set of lights carefully wrapped at the end of the season to be unfurled for next year at the appropriate time, or maybe the tangle of wires and broken lights you spend hours going through on the evening you decide to trim the tree?

Maybe it's a candle, lit in church in memory of someone special at this difficult time of the year, or the candles on the altar at Midnight, or stuck in an orange with sweets around them, or held by one of those card circles to stop the hot wax dripping on your hands?

Christmas and lights go together. And not just because Christmas comes at the darkest time of the year, or because the timing of our Festival is all about linking it to ancient pagan rituals around Midwinter, the turning of the year, and the longing for the return of summer.

Christmas and lights go together because they speak into the deepest and oldest part of the Christian faith, set down so evocatively and memorably at the start of the Gospel according to John. The Word who was with God in the beginning, and through whom all things came into being, who was life itself, was the *'light of all people'* – and this light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The belief in the incarnation, that God became flesh as one of us in Jesus, is a difficult and complicated idea to articulate. It's hard to make it clear and simple to understand because it isn't! But the wonder of the Gospel according to John is that it keeps on trying to do just that – by giving us pictures, images, ideas, not because any one of them can fully capture the meaning of the incarnation, but so that piece by piece, picture by picture, anyone reading or hearing it might catch glimpses of what it means to say Jesus was born as one of us, like the reflected facets of a diamond glinting as you turn it in your hand.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us… that life was the light of all people… the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it…

Christmas and the seasons before and after can be a hard time for many of us. Times of memory, sadness and grief, times of unrealistic expectation and excess we may come to regret. Times of loneliness amid the pretence of merry, joyful companionship.

I believe that's where John's picture of the light in the darkness can help us. Because it's not a Christmas light you put up for a while – whether at the start of Advent, or midway through, or Christmas Eve if you are a traditionalist, or sometime back in mid-November, when you feel like you need cheering up…

Christmas lights like that get taken down. They go away, packed up in their boxes in the attic, taken down out of superstition before Twelfth Night, or simply removed with disappointment and a sense of anticlimax after the hype hasn't lived up to the reality of just another festive season.

But the light that shines in the darkness is not overcome by it. It continues to shine, through January to Candlemas, and on through Lent to the great Paschal Candle at Easter, and all through the Church year to come, and on to Christmas next year and beyond. The light reminds us we are called to a rhythm of life where the coming of Jesus is not just a once-a-year celebration, but a reality to live with, a lamp for our way and a light for our path, all the year round.

And that should be something to encourage and sustain us in the hard times, even in the dark times which any winter, and which any year ahead of us, may hold in store. It should remind us too that the light has shone with us through the year now past, however difficult or painful some moments in that year may have been for us and those we love, for our church and parish, and for our country and our world. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it*.

Of course, perhaps it didn't feel like that at the time; perhaps it doesn't feel like that right now. But that doesn't mean the picture is untrue, nor that the message and its meaning is false. The promise of Christmas is the promise that God is with us. And as John reminds us, no darkness can overcome that.

My prayer for you, and for all of us, then, in this next year is that we hold onto that picture of the light in the darkness, in the good times and the tough ones. And perhaps, if days become really difficult, and light seems far away, we might find a way safely to light a candle, to watch the flame flicker, and to remember that the light of Christ is with us always, shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Because the light of Christ is for life, not just for Christmas.

Simon

Ven Simon Cook,
Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton



The cover image is from the Church of England resources for Christmas 2026 "The Gift of Christmas"



Bible Readings

Dec 6	**Second Sunday of Advent**		
	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec 13	**Third Sunday of Advent**		
	Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11	1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24	John 1: 6-8,19-28
Dec 20	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**		
	2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38
Dec 27	**St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**		
	Exodus 33.7-11a	1 John 1	John 21.19b-25
Jan 3	**Second of Christmas / Epiphany**		
	Jeremiah 31: 7-14	Ephesians 1: 3-14	John 1: 10-18
or	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
Jan 10	**Baptism of Christ / First of Epiphany**		
	Genesis 1: 1-5	Acts 19: 1-7	Mark 1: 4-11
Jan 17	**Second of Epiphany**		
	1 Samuel 3: 1-10	Revelation 5: 1-10	John 1: 43-51
Jan 24	**Third of Epiphany**		
	Genesis 14: 17-20	Revelation 19: 6-10	John 2: 1-11
Jan 31	**Fourth of Epiphany / Presentation of Christ**		
	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Revelation 12: 1-5a	Mark 1: 21-28
or	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2: 14-18	Luke 2: 22-40
Feb 7	**Sunday next before Lent**		
	2 Kings 2: 1-12	2 Corinthians 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.
John 1: 14



FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Oct 25 Faith Hallie Rhodes

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



Flowers in Church

At Christ Church

Dec 6	In memory of Jennifer Melling and Mary Illsley
Dec 13	Rosemary Taylor
Dec 20	Congregation
Dec 27	Vacant
Jan 3	Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
Jan 10	Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
Jan 17	Vacant
Jan 24	In memory of Margaret Hall
Jan 31	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).

- Churches Together **Toy Appeal** It is not too late to collect new toys to be given to children who may not otherwise have a fun Christmas. Help is still welcome – if you are able to spare even a couple of hours, mainly from 6th December for a week to help sort donations and then select to fit families, you will help to bring joy to the neediest of our children?
  Seedfield Methodist Church has kindly agreed to be a collection and storage point. There are registration forms in church to indicate when you are available or there is more information here: https://www.waymarker.org.uk/toy-appeal

- The annual Churches Together **Carol Singing** event will be held in the Millgate Centre (near T J Hughes), on Sunday 6th December, from 2 – 3.30pm. Share the Good News with the crowds who are Christmas shopping.

- **Carols at Clarence** is back for the fourth time. Gather around the bandstand to carols accompanied by the Salvation Army Brass Band. Enjoy mince pies and hot chocolate. Saturday 19th December from 4pm–6pm in Clarence Park.

- **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** are hosting a special event to mark 7 years since Churches Together began the Bury Project to have a presence in the town. This will be an opportunity to consider where they are and the future, also for anyone who wishes to be involved and know more about the project. It is to be held at Bolton Road Methodist on Saturday 16th January from 9.30am to 12.30pm, followed by a hot lunch. An Eventbrite link is required to register attendance https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bury-project-cap-2027-review-tickets-2004881309865?aff=oddtdtcreator or please see a Churches Together Rep: Barbara Taylor, David Robinson or Alan Thew.



* As Margery Spencer steps back from her active Reader Ministry we give thanks for all that she has brought to our worship and pastoral care over so many years. We marked the occasion with a card, flowers, and (naturally) cake.

* There is still time to contribute to the toy appeal, particularly those who attend the Christingle Service at St John with St Mark on Wednesday, 2nd December.

* Would you be able to consider helping with the delivery of the Christmas cards which are posted through the letterboxes of people within each Church? There are 3,000 across our two parishes and any help to deliver maybe a couple of streets would be helpful.

* Contributions of mince pies would be welcome to follow the carol services in both churches on 20th December.

* Could you join us at 2.30pm on Monday, 21st December as we take the Christmas story to the residents, families and staff at the Priory. They really enjoy joining in with carols.

* This year's Church of England Advent and Christmas theme is 'The Gift of Christmas'. There will be a small number of reflection booklets for the 12 days of Christmas available in each Church. Please see David Robinson in advance if you would like one saving. This is also available on the CofE website of course, with lots of other resources you may enjoy and find helpful at this time of year.

* 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.

Summary of the St. John with St. Mark PCC meeting of 29th October 2026

- The service arrangements have been put together for the next few months. Christmas services are now organised. The Christingle service on Wednesday 2nd December will be held in the hall.
- Safeguarding and DBS checks are ongoing for some people.
- Mission Community Activities: The quiz night in our Church in September was well attended and raised a good amount of money. St. Mary the Virgin have agreed to host this next year; St. John with St. Mark have been asked to host the Easter vigil service on Saturday 27th March and Janet Lyssejko will lead the service. There will need to be a discussion around the location of a firepit; A quarterly meeting took place on 26th October at the Rectory with suggestions for next year. It was noted it was positive that Julian Heaton has returned after his illness.
- The replacement of the hall boiler is still ongoing.
- We have sought quotes for the replacement of altar frontals in the chapel. The prices are considered expensive, especially if designs are wanted. It was suggested that we contact local textile students to see if they can help with any designs.
- We are discussing disabled access in the corridor toilets with the church architect.
- An e-mail has been received from the Archdeacon acknowledging the concerns of ministers, leaders and parishioners in the Deanery. A Synod meeting has been set for 24th November to elect lay chair and other officers. This is at St. Johns' House.
- A volunteer has offered to design the Christmas card this year which will go out to homes across the Benefice with the service times.
- Finance: The card reader has now been repaired; Coffee morning on 3rd October raised £340.00; It was noted that the income survey and census were completed.
- Dates: Coffee morning Saturday 27th February; next PCC Thursday 14th January.

Summary of meeting of Christ Church Walmersley PCC on 10th November 2026

- The meeting opened with prayers for Challenge and Change.
- Safeguarding: No issues to report.
- Finance Report: An updated report on current finances was circulated.
- Committee Reports:

  Church and Churchyard: The pigeons have been removed from the tower and new grills put up to stop the birds accessing the area. The tower has been fully cleared, cleaned and treated.

  Ridge tiles need replacing on the roof over the Vicar's vestry. Permission required to carry out the work.

  Church Hall Management Committee: The heating is regulated by thermostats. It was reported that hall users are turning the radiators up/down. Radiators should be left untouched.

  Pastoral/Ministry: Christmas card design is not yet available.

- Outreach: Christingle: Monday 30th November at 6.30pm.

  Carol Service: Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm.
- Updates: Deanery Synod: Not met
- A.O.B The question regarding the Service of Laying on of Hands was raised and discussed.
- Archdeacon Simon: Various questions were discussed. The Archdeacon advised the PCC on the best way forward.
- Date of the next meeting: Thursday January 14th 2027 at 7.00pm

Closing Prayers: The meeting closed with a prayer from the Archdeacon.

Update – Thursday Lunches



Further to our article in November's magazine, we would like to give you the promised update as to where we are, going forward into 2027.

After much thought and discussion -

● We confirm that there will not be a December (Christmas) Lunch.

● There will be a lunch in January on Thursday 21st. This will be something of a trial run to see how we go – especially as regards coping with the number of available pairs of hands.

● If all goes well, we shall then hold a lunch every other month, rather than every month. Unfortunately, we do not feel able to continue with lunch every month.

Thank you all for your understanding and support. A very happy Christmas to you – see you in the New Year!

The Thursday Lunch Crew

Carols@Christ Church

In both churches, Carol Services will be held on the Sunday before Christmas – 6.30pm on 20th December.

Everyone is warmly invited to join a FESTIVE CHOIR at Christ Church and sing a special item during the service - no previous choir experience is needed, and practices will give us all confidence.

If you are interested, please let Geoff Stokes know, email all.ccwalmersleybury@outlook.com or simply come to a rehearsal following the 10.30am services in December.

'Little Voice' stamps



For many years now we have supported a charity called 'Little Voice'. If you have not been involved, Christmas, with the post it brings, is an ideal time to begin.

This small charity aids a project working with children in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. A small school and a home for orphaned children who have been living on the streets have been set up to provide a safe community with food, clothing, health care, a basic education and recreational activities for them. The children consider themselves lucky to have been found and cared for by the staff who run the home and the family of other children who live there. The hope is that they will grow up in safety to become confident and responsible adults.



David Peters first introduced us to this appeal. All stamps, British and foreign, are collected and then sorted and sold to collectors to raise funds.

Our collective response to the appeal has been magnificent and has continued over the years since David and Margaret moved away, thanks to several friends passing on the stamps.

Please keep collecting and removing any stamps from your post, leaving one cm (or half an inch) of envelope around them, and search out any stamps you may have tucked away in a drawer or an old album.

David sends his thanks and their very best wishes to everyone – they cannot believe this will be their fifth Christmas away from Walmersley.

Maranatha, come Lord Jesus

Candlewax for Ukrainian Soldiers

Over the past couple of years many have given candle wax to send to the Ukrainian soldiers fighting on the frontline.

WHY?



Soldiers use trench candles, made from wax and old tins or corrugated cardboard, which help soldiers to light up their trench or shelter, dry their clothes, warm them up or make food. Trench candles can save people's lives when left in shelters without electric power and gas supply. Such candles don't easily get extinguished by the wind, they work in wet conditions, they can be ignited more than once. They are small in size, but with them one can light a campfire even with the wet wood. One such candle can keep burning for two and up to eight hours.

So, our wax is still gratefully received.

During Advent and over Christmas, as you light candles, please be aware of this ongoing need.

Any unwanted candles or left over wax can be given to Gillian Smith at Christ Church or David Robinson at St John with St Mark.

St. John with St. Mark 100 Club

NOVEMBER 2026 DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize £15.00 – (59) Joan Robinson
2nd Prize £10.00 – (96) John Brennan

Congratulations to both

Advent Thoughts

Here we are in Advent – again! The twelve months since Advent 2025 seem to have disappeared in a flash, and the race to Christmas has started: cards to write, the tree to bring down from the loft.

So, yes, Advent is a time of preparation. But, the cards and tree aside, shouldn't our preparation be more focussed on Jesus? We are to be ready to celebrate, and to tell the world, that God did come into the world in Jesus – and what good news that is, for us and for the world.

Two thousand years ago Jesus left his followers the job of telling people about him, and our particular Advent and Christmas job is to put Jesus back into Christmas. The retail business has erased him from Christmas, and even from Advent – calendars used to tell the real Christmas story as the windows were opened, but now you have a job to find one. For many, Christmas is the annual big blow-out: eat and drink as much as you can, spend more than you can, and keep the retailers very happy!

Putting Jesus back where he belongs will be tough, and we need a plan. The first disciples did it, though it was tough going. Is there enough 'umph' in the church today? As Bob the Builder used to say, "Can we do it?" … YES WE CAN!!

Advent also concerns Jesus coming back. He said more than once that he would return, and as the disciples watched him ascend, the angels' words strengthened their hope and faith. The world then, as now, held much darkness and many tears, and it badly needs the light of Jesus.

Scripture has plenty to say about his return, and the Gospels make clear what we must do meanwhile: tell the world about Jesus and how God wants us to be, and bring hope, peace, joy and love to a world that needs them so much.

The time of his return is not known, but he will be back. In the meantime, we wait, and we work for that day – patiently, taking a deep breath and living with real hope and joy, because one day Jesus will be back. He said so himself!!
Nigel



Advent Word, *by Roddy Hamilton*

it is ancient
as old as the first word
for it is the first word ever
spoken by a God
who was feeling the divine voice for the first time
its sound has taken many forms through
the ages, but it speaks
still, the single truth it always has
some hear it beating swords into ploughshares
others hear it hammering spears into pruning hooks
and still others hear the original word
that shaped these others
the first word:
the word,
love



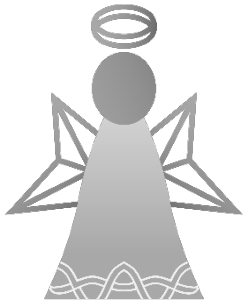
In the centre of our waiting
the seeds of our salvation are
announced in small signs,
in small kindnesses, in humble courage,
in lives of fragile hope, in faithfulness.

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 2001)

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 up in expectation of your birth.
Lord, we wait,
Come soon and fill us with your life.

Christine Sine



By the grace of Advent
we are blessed with the favour of God
in the sending of his beloved Son.

Joy is rekindled in our hearts
as we receive anew the Advent blessing of God;
the majesty of the holy reaching down to earth.

We join with the company of angels;
our praises resound throughout eternity
and mingle with the worship of heaven:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth grace and peace to those
on whom his favour rests.
Amen

Mothers' Union: Praying in every season



Wishing everyone a blessed, happy Christmas and peaceful New Year, from Sandra Walmsley and family xx

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may His light illuminate your path and His peace fill your heart. Wishing you all a Christmas filled with heavenly blessings.
With love from Barbara & Nigel





Wishing everyone a brilliant Christmas.
Hope it's full of fun, laughter and good memories.
Bury Division Rangers

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





Thank you for all your support, encouragement and kind words throughout the year.

May the light of Christmas shine brightly in your lives.
Rosemary Taylor

To everyone across the United Benefice of Walmersley Road, I wish you a Happy and peaceful Christmas and the very best for New Year.

David Robinson



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





Hope everyone has a lovely Christmas and gets
to spend time with the people they love!
25th Bury (Christ Church) Guides

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and the very best for the New Year. Thank you for all who have supported Christian Aid during 2026.

Christian Aid coordinators.





We wish you all across the Benefice a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2027.

Audrey, Joan, Norma and Phyllis
(choir ladies at St. John with St. Mark)





May the Christ Child bless us this Christmas. Best wishes to everyone in the Walmersley Road Benefice.
Alan Thew

Magi, braving distance and desert to find you,
and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel's invitation,
allowed light to be their guide,



And it is still the light that calls us to you;
the light of beauty that whispers its truth
in surprising ways and places;
the light of compassion that kneels,
and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet;
the light of joy that glows
even in the darkness of grief and suffering;
the light that seeks to shine within us,
and through us into the dark corners of our world.

It's always been about the light with you, Jesus;
and it's always about the light for us.
Please lead us, now and always, out of darkness
and into your marvellous light.
Amen.

John van de Laar

In this second week of the New Year, we think about the baptism of Christ.

Father, this was such an important occasion. May we think back to our baptisms and remember the vows that were made for us by our parents and godparents or by ourselves if we were older. May we renew these vows to you and to ourselves, turning to Christ and renouncing the devil. We thank you that we can constantly turn to you in all aspects of our lives and pray that we never forget our baptism vows. In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Each year from 18th – 25th January Christians worldwide observe a time to pray for unity and reflect on our shared faith.

The theme for 2027 is "Do not be afraid"

Help me to journey
beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with you.
Christ of the mysteries,
I trust you to be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness
and know that my times, even now, are in your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
and somehow, make my obedience count for you.
Amen.

Inspired by the story of Saint Brendan the Navigator (c. 484-577).

So as we draw to the end of the Christmas season,
we pray for God's blessing

May all that we are,
everything we think, say and do,
be blessed by God,
constantly renewed
and daily transformed
through his awesome power
and unfailing love.

© *Nick Fawcett*

Epiphany Thoughts

Here we are in Epiphany – at last! The tree is down, the cards are in the recycling bin, the last of the Christmas chocolates have gone, and many of us are quietly relieved that life can get back to normal.

But Christmas isn't quite finished with us. Epiphany means "showing" – the season when we celebrate that the child in the manger is revealed to the whole world. The first to see were shepherds, local lads on a night shift. Then came the Magi, strangers from far away, following a star and bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus is not just for one family, one village or one nation. He is for everyone.

Notice, too, that the wise men did not find him at once. They had a long journey, they asked for directions in the wrong place, and they had to keep watching for the star. Isn't that rather like us? Faith is seldom a straight road. There are detours, doubts and days when the light seems to have gone out. Yet the Magi kept going, and when they found him, they knelt down and worshipped.

Epiphany doesn't stop with the star. In the weeks that follow we see Jesus baptised in the Jordan, with a voice from heaven saying, "You are my beloved Son", and turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana. Each time a little more of who he is shines out. It's as though God is gently turning up the light, so that we can take it in at our own pace.

So, what do we do with it? The Magi went home "by another road". They had met Jesus, and they could not go back the way they had come. Perhaps that is our challenge as the new year begins: not to pack Christ away with the decorations, but to let him change our direction – how we spend our time, how we treat our neighbours, and how we share the good news with those who are still searching.

The world still has much darkness and many who are lost, and it badly needs the light of Jesus. We are called to be a little like that star – not the light itself, but pointing others towards it, by kindness, welcome and an honest word about what Christ means to us.

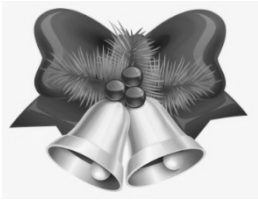
The Christmas season ends at Candlemas, but the light does not. It has been shown to us; now we are to show it to others. Happy Epiphany!

Open Group

We met on 11th November for a talk led by Reverend Paul Sanderson, assisted by wife Diane, on their recent excursion along the Canterbury Walk, inspired by the famous poet Geoffrey Chaucer. There was a great deal of Middle England references to the talk and this set the theme for the evening.

Lots of churches and castles were visited on the route and we had the privilege of being shown many of them, with their historic fonts, organ lofts and altars. Paul and Diane described how a couple of these buildings were made to feel like 'very thin places of worship' meaning that this a location where the barrier between heaven and earth feels much thinner, making it easier to encounter God. There were also many castles featured in the talk and the historic backgrounds and stories they held. As with any of Paul's walks though, there were plenty of images of countryside, hills and classic pubs to top the occasion off.

There was an up-to-date twist on things though, with AI generated images and a lesson on crossing one of the busiest roads on the route! It was a very interesting talk, so thanks to Paul and Diane (and the many historic figures who featured, and weatherman Michael Fish who made an appearance!).



We will meet for our Christmas get together on Wednesday 2nd December at 2pm and will then probably return in March 2027. In the meantime, the Open Group would like to wish everyone across the United Benefice of Walmersley Road a wonderful Christmas and great New Year.

David Robinson

We welcomed the Revd Paul Sanderson to lead us in a reflective service of Holy Communion for All Saints. During the service Paul was admitted as a member along with Luba Smith. Luba joined us last January but for one reason or another there has been no opportunity for her to make her commitment before God and for us all to renew our commitment. Sadly, no-one thought to take a photo of this auspicious occasion – but look out at Christmas for Paul's MU badge pinned to his festal stole.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed to our Deanery Christmas Appeal for the work of Red Door. Those with whom this organisation works will doubtless enjoy, this Christmas, chocolates and biscuits purchased from funds raised at our Archdeaconry 150th celebrations plus underwear and socks donated by so many of you. Thank you.

At our meeting at 2pm in the Hall on Wednesday, 2nd December, Catherine Hilton will be speaking about the 150th Global Celebrations she attended in Durban. Everyone is welcome.
On 16th we look forward to a Christmas Lunch at Park Farm.

We hope you will join us on 6th December at Emmanuel Church Centre at 2pm for our Advent Service. If possible for you, there will be a diocesan service at St Ann Manchester the following day – Monday 7th at 11am. These two services mark a very special season in the liturgical year as we prepare for Christ's Coming.

In January we shall meet in the Hall at 2pm on Wednesdays 6th and 20th and everyone is welcome.

Barbara Taylor
Branch Secretary

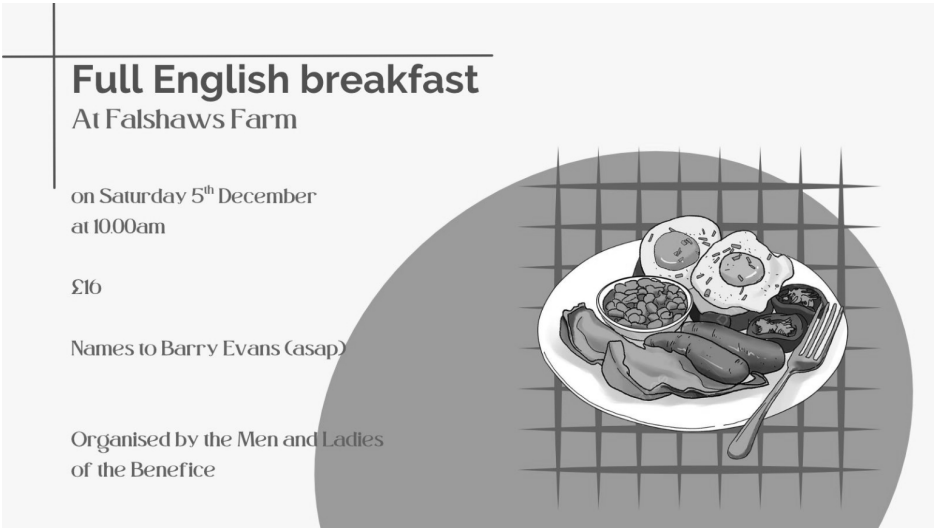


Men and Ladies of the Benefice

We met as usual on 26th October at the Hark to Dandler and then we were expected to gather on Monday 30th November at 8.00pm. On Saturday 5th December a breakfast is being held at Falshaw's Farm. This will be a full English breakfast at £16.00. Please see Barry or David ASAP if you want to go on this and why not wear your Christmas jumper on the day?

Our next regular meeting after this will be on Monday 25th January 2027 but in the meantime, whatever you do over Christmas we hope you all enjoy yourselves and wish you and your families all the very best for New Year. Remember that the group is open to anyone who wishes to come for fellowship and chat, and the now late running 487 bus is handy!

Barry Evans and David Robinson





Wednesday, 2 December
at 6.30pm

at St John with St Mark

Bury & Rossendale Mothers' Union

invites you to share in

Advent Worship



on Sunday, 6th December at 2pm

150 YEARS OF Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in
Lighting the way for generations to come

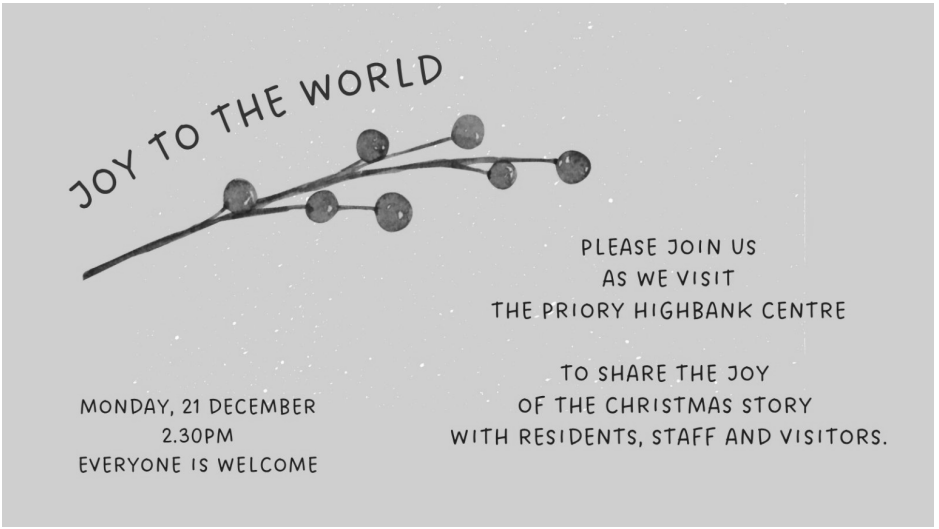
at Emmanuel Church Centre

Longsight Road, Bury


CAMPFIRE CHURCH
Join us for relaxed, informal family worship
15th December at 6.30pm
Come and Meet the Cast
Dress up as a shepherd, angel,
star, or even baby Jesus
as we tell the nativity story in
a fun and interactive way for all
Next one - 26th January 2027
CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk/campfire


School Service
Join our school family
as they celebrate Christmas
in church
Wednesday, 16th December 2026
at 10 am
Christ Church
Walmersley Road BL9 5JU
Everyone welcome
SpringsidePrimary.co.uk
CCWalmersleyBury.org.uk

And There's Even More . . . .



Healing & Anointing

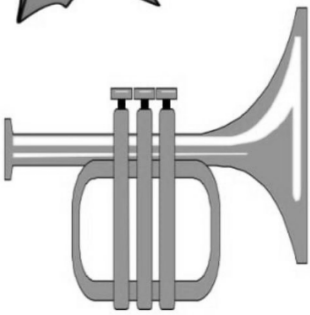


A Service of Healing and Anointing
at St. John with St. Mark's Church
on Sunday 3rd January
at the 10.30am worship,
led by Reverend Margaret Trivasse.

This was greatly received when we did this in September and anyone who feels comfortable is welcome to attend this service and receive the sacrament of anointing and prayers for healing.

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 18th December at 7pm

FOR YOUR DECEMBER DIARY

Wed 2	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
	2.00pm	Open Group (Barritt Room)
	6.30pm	Christingle (SJM)
Sat 5	10.00am	Breakfast at Falshaws Farm
Sun 6		**Second of Advent**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
	2.00pm	MU Deanery Advent Service (Emmanuel Centre)
Sun 13		**Third of Advent**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Tue 15	6.30pm	Campfire Church (CC Hall yard)
Wed 16	10.00am	Springside School Carol Service (CC)
	12.30pm	Mothers' Union Lunch (Park Farm)
Fri 18	7.00pm	Beer and Carols (St. Margaret, Heywood)
Sun 20		**Fourth of Advent**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
		Parish Communion (CC)
Mon 21	2.30pm	Christmas at the Priory (Highbank Centre)
Wed 23		*No Holy Communion at 10am*

See back page for details of Christmas Services

Sun 27		**St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)

No Sunday@Seven or midweek services

FOR YOUR JANUARY DIARY

Sun 3		**Second of Christmas / Epiphany**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both) Healing & Anointing (SJM)
Wed 6	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sun 10		**Baptism of Christ / 1st of Epiphany**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Thu 14	7.00pm	PCC @ CCW
	8.00pm	PCC @ SJM
Sat 16	9.30am	CAP event (Bolton Road Methodist)
Sun 17		**2nd of Epiphany**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM)
		Parish Communion (CC)
Tue 19	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury AGM (URC)
Wed 20	2.00pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 21	12.00 pm	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sun 24		**3rd of Epiphany**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Mon 25	7.30pm	Bury Mission Community Leaders (SJM Chapel)
	8.00pm	Men and Ladies (Hark to Dandler)
Tue 26	6.30pm	Campfire Church (CC Hall yard)
Sun 31		**4th of Epiphany / Presentation of Christ**
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Parish Communion (CC)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (Salvation Army)

Please let us have any dates for February by 14th January

Sunday		
9.00am	All Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1st Holy Communion 2nd Family Service 3rd Holy Communion 4th Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1st Holy Communion 2nd Holy Communion 3rd Morning Worship 4th Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5th Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven	Venue tba
Tuesday		
6.30pm	4th Campfire Church	Christ Church yard
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 is open 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

Third Thursday Light Lunch



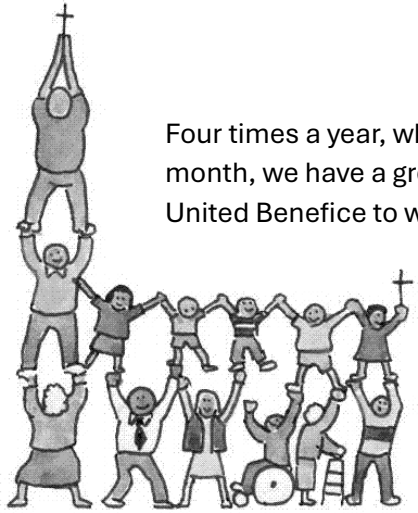
Come and join us
on Thursday, 21st January
for a light lunch.
A chance to enjoy a chat
in the company of friends.

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!

Joint Service



Four times a year, when there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we have a great opportunity to come together as a United Benefice to worship as one.

Sunday, 31 January
10.30am
Christ Church Walmersley

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 31st

AT THE SALVATION ARMY
on Brookshaw Street.

"Walking by faith into 2027"

Come and join us as we sing, pray and reflect on our hopes and fears for the coming year.

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 20 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

