



**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury
in the
United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



The Baptism of Christ

January 2014

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st Holy Communion 2 nd Family and Parade 3 rd Holy Communion 4 th Morning Service 5 th Holy Communion	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist 2 nd Parade Service	St John w St Mark

Wednesday

10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
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Thursday

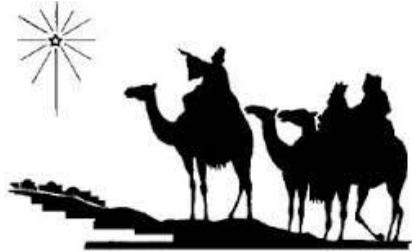
2.00 p.m.	1 st First Thursday Prayer	Christ Church Hall
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark

Saints days and other services as announced
Evening Prayer will be said in St John w St Mark's Church
Monday - Thursday at 5 p.m.

If you need transport to church please contact the wardens.

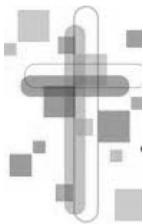
Happy New Year!

This is possibly ringing in your ears as you get January's magazine, but hold on; it's still Christmas - well until January 6th and the Orthodox church hasn't even celebrated Christmas yet!



What's the rush? No wonder those of us over 60 (and perhaps even younger) wonder where the years have gone! It's as if some frenetic madness has overtaken all our lives, and if you can't keep up "It's sorry but get out of the way." We see it in all walks of life, more and more being pushed onto workers no matter what, a feeling that we are no more than a commodity to be discarded or replaced if our batteries run down (a bit like a Christmas toy that broke on Boxing day)

Thankfully for us God doesn't see us that way, we are his creation, and he delights in us and in our company. "Oh" I might hear you saying, "But I don't have time to go to church on Sunday, I have the children to take swimming, then the supermarket, then visit mum....." Hang on, who said being in God's company had to happen in church and only on a Sunday? I've not found that in the bible so far.



So how do we spend time in his company in this hectic life we lead? The obvious way is to set aside a part of every day to pray and read a passage of scripture to take time out to spend with God like you would with a partner or good friend. Perhaps a little less obvious is to include Him in everything we do during the day, and not just compartmentalise Him into our God slot.

How about playing scripture or Christian music on your i-pod /CD on the way to and from work or when at the gym how about meditating on a verse of scripture while working out or meditating? In the past I've swum many a length in the pool saying to myself "Don't you know your body is temple of the Holy Spirit" or run for miles singing (in my head) hymns. Those of us who walk about could take time to wonder at the creativity of God in the things we see around us, take a child's view of the wonder of nature in the complexity of a spider's web etc. and thank God for all we see.

Let us try to make a New Year's resolution that we will keep and in the words of the psalmist David

Be Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD
-PSALM 46:10

May God bless us richly in 2014

Barbara Silvester

P.S. Don't forget we join together to worship on a Wednesday morning, Thursday afternoon & evening as well as Sunday!



WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

at St. John with St. Mark's
31 December 2013.
11.45pm

A service to mark the ending of the year
– and look forward to a new one.

ALL WELCOME

BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY

5 Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

12 Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 3: 13-end

19 Second of Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1-7

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1: 29-42

26 Third of Epiphany

Isaiah 9: 1-4

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Matthew 4: 12-23



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

January 5	Mr J Clegg
January 12	Mr & Mrs J McDermott, in memory of their daughter Carol
January 19	In memory of Mr & Mrs E Todd
January 26	In memory of Jack Grindrod

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK FLOWER ARRANGERS

Is there someone who would like to join our numbers? Please see the clergy, wardens or Rosemarie Ashworth if you think you might like to try this job.

Thank You, Rosemarie

FROM THE VICARAGE



* HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.
May God Bless you throughout 2014.

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the current church building at St.John with St.Mark's. We are having a number of celebrations on the weekend of June 6-8, with the Bishop of Manchester attending the service at 10.30am on that Sunday. If anyone has any memorabilia about the history of St.John's Church building, please let me know and we can begin to arrange a display in preparation for this weekend.

* The 2014 church diary is now available. They cost £1 and are available at the back of both churches.

* Please Help! Volunteers needed for Bury Pipeline talking newspaper for the blind and partially sighted. Commencing January 3 or 4 hours once a month at Seedfield Centre. Details from Alison Fewtrell.

* A celebration of the Chinese New Year will take place on Friday 31 January with a Chinese buffet in St.John with St.Mark's Church Hall, beginning at 7.30pm. Please see the church news sheets for more details during this month.

* During the final hymn of each Sunday morning service at St.John with St.Mark's Church there will be a copper collection as part of our mission giving. It is an opportunity to use those 1 & 2p coins to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The children from Junior Church will be helping with the collection and will also be involved in determining which organisations should receive the money.

It is to be hoped that something similar can be arranged at Christ Church also.

* We hope to hear this month about the outcome of November's Public Enquiry into the application by the Friends of Walmersley Village for Village Green status for the church land at Christ Church. Please continue to pray for this situation and its effect on both Christ Church and the parish.

* The Ministry Team consisting of all the Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister meet every month – usually on the first Monday evening. If you have an issue that you would like us to discuss, please have a word with me.

* Please let one of our Ministry Team know if there any people you want us to pray for amongst the sick. But please also let us know if they can be removed from the list. Similarly please contact us if you know of anyone requiring a visit or if someone enters hospital.

* Evening Prayer is said every Monday – Thursday at 5pm in St.John with St.Mark's Church. Everyone is welcome to join me there in this short service.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

December 8 Zara Ellen Alice Porter

We welcome them into the Lord's family

Interment of Ashes

December 8 Martin Mann

I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord



NEW BISHOP

The Right Revd David Walker was installed as the 12th Bishop of Manchester in a special ceremony at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday 30 November.

Previously Suffragan Bishop of Dudley in the Diocese of Worcester, Bishop David was brought up in the Manchester area and on the morning of his enthronement, attended a service of Communion at St. George's, Mossley – the church where he was baptised 57 years ago. The theme of his first sermon as Bishop of Manchester was "It's good to be home".

One of the most moving parts of the liturgy was the following conversation with a young person at the beginning of the service as Bishop David requested entry to the Cathedral.

Young Person: *We greet you in the name of Christ.*

Who are you and why do you request entry?

Bishop: *I am David, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in His service together.*

Young Person: *Why have you been sent to us?*

Bishop: *I am sent as Bishop to serve you and all people in the Diocese, to proclaim the love of Christ, and with you to worship and love Him with heart and soul, mind and strength.*

Young Person: *How do you come among us and with what confidence?*

Bishop: *I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and in weakness and fear and in much trembling.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR BISHOP DAVID AS HE BEGINS HIS
MINISTRY AS BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.**

NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN W ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 5 DECEMBER 2013

Our main topic of discussion was surrounding the work with children & young people. Our Child Protection Officer Pam attended the meeting to highlight the amendments made by the Diocese this year. Due to changes in the processing of DBS applications - in that they now have to be processed electronically - it has been agreed to purchase a laptop and Broadband facility within the Vicar's Vestry for the purpose of this job. The proposal is that the Laptop can only be used by Pam, and potentially a deputy and the usage will be restricted solely to the Vestry. This will be done as soon as possible.

Still on the subject of young people, Janet shared with us the positive news that we have almost been accredited with our Child Friendly Church award following a visit from Steve Dixon on 27 November. There are a few minor things that need to be addressed, such as the need for a fire drill for young people however we are now almost there!

As we are now approaching the end of the year, it was time once again to discuss our charitable giving. As with previous years, it was agreed to support 10 different charities ranging from overseas mission, relief & development and UK mission & secular by donating 10% of our previous year's planned giving. A discussion followed as to which charities we support with some PCC members nominating charities they have a personal interest in.

There were also brief updates on the 50th Anniversary preparations and on the recent bible studies, which were appreciated by those who attended.

Our next PCC meeting will take place at St. John with St. Mark School on Tuesday 14th January, which will begin with a tour of the school at 7pm.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

With thanks to Margery Spencer.

If you would like to contribute to this page please email wrub@live.co.uk or hand to a member of the clergy.

Week One



Wise men seeking Jesus,
Travelled from afar
Guided on their journey
By a wondrous star.

Almighty and everlasting God, who by the guidance of a star led the Magi to adore the newborn King: guide us by the light of your spirit as we travel on our Christian journey, that we too may come into the presence of Jesus and offer our gifts and our worship to him. Our gifts may not be gold, frankincense and myrrh but if we offer to Jesus our love and our service, those gifts are equally valuable.

Week Two

This week as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, we remember especially those who have been baptised in our churches during the last year. May they grow in faith and come to know the living Jesus. We pray for their families, asking that they will have the wisdom, patience and love to bring up the children in caring, compassionate homes.



We ask that we may be faithful to the promises made at our baptism and always fight valiantly as disciples of Christ against sin, the world and the devil until the end of our lives.

Week Three

This is the week when we pray especially for Christian Unity. We remember the Christian Church in all its forms, giving thanks for its diversity and asking that we concentrate on the things which unite us rather than those which divide us. Help us to remember that there is one faith, one church, one Lord but many ways of finding and experiencing Christ.



We give thanks for the work of Churches together which promotes understanding and encourages us all to work together to spread the gospel of Christ.

O Lord by whose cross all enmity is brought to an end,
break down the walls which separate us,
forgive us the sins which divide us,
free us from pride and self – seeking
overcome our prejudices and fears
give us courage to open ourselves to others
by the power of your Spirit make us one.

Week Four

I have been very aware of the kindness of friends and found this prayer about friendship by William Barclay.

Help me, O God, to be a good and true friend: to be loyal and never to let my friends down: never to talk about them behind their backs in a way which I would not do to their faces; never to betray a confidence or talk of the things about which I ought to be silent; always to be ready to share what I have; to be as true to my friends as I would wish them to be to me. I ask this in the name of Jesus who is the greatest and truest friend.

News from our Church School

St.John with St.Mark CE School's year of celebrating its 10th anniversary came to an end with a visit from the Bishop of Lahore at the beginning of December. The Bishop was in this country to attend the enthronement of the new Bishop of Manchester. In the days following that Cathedral service, Bishop Irfan Jamil visited a number of schools, churches and communities. Our Vicar had previously met Bishop Irfan when he visited Lahore in November 2011 and it was good for Dave to renew acquaintances.

The Bishop attended a service of collective worship and then enjoyed a buffet lunch with staff and governors. He complimented the school on its diversity and community cohesion, mentioning that its 17 different nationalities resembled the United Nations! It was a pleasure to have such a distinguished visitor in the school and it is to be hoped that a link with a primary school in the Lahore Diocese can be established.

The school choir attended the Christmas Fair at St.John with St.Mark's Church on November 30th. They performed the special anniversary song written by a staff member Miss Geelan.

The next meeting of St.John with St.Mark's Church's Parochial Church Council will meet in school on 14 January. This will give the opportunity for PCC members to have a look round the school before the meeting of the council.

PLEASE PRAY FOR MRS MOORE
AND ALL THE CHILDREN,
FAMILIES, STAFF & GOVERNORS
CONNECTED WITH THE SCHOOL





ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

As the year draws to a close, the Open Group met on 4 December in festive spirit to enjoy the annual Christmas party.

By popular demand the fayre was hearty and filling in the old fashioned recipe of meat and potato pie, mushy peas and red cabbage. This was followed by a selection of delicious sweets to suit all tastes. Needless to say there were plenty of requests for second helpings, and as one member said "just like Grandma used to make", indeed a compliment to the caterers.

To round off the evening, a game in the style of the Catch Phrase quiz programme brought about lots of fun and humour as people used their imagination to the full to attempt to find an answer.

A big thank you was given to the Open Group organisers for arranging a lovely evening enjoyed by all and for what has been an interesting and enjoyable programme of events throughout the year.

The Open Group close during the Winter months
and will be back in early Spring,
so watch out for details
of our first meeting of 2014 in due course.

ALL WILL BE WELCOME

In the meantime, we wish you all a Merry Christmas
& a Peaceful New Year.



THANK YOU'S ALL ROUND

Some time ago, it was suggested that we re-surface the toilet floors at St. John with St. Mark, as they looked a little "tatty". We promptly got a quote for the more "tatty" ones and told our Treasurer of the good news. "No way" he said, "we can't afford that".

After a chat with one of my sons, he came up with the idea that the company that he worked for could "donate the stuff" as they quite often did to various charities. What a great idea and before long a brand new roll of the safety flooring was tucked away inside our chair store.

Next, who was going to fit the stuff, as it required too be seam welded professionally? No problem, one of our local floor-covering firms was only too happy to oblige and even fitted all the rest of the toilet flooring for a modest fee, after we had browbeaten him into submission.

Now that the flooring is laid, various people have said how great it looks and how it makes the rooms much brighter.

So it is with all this in mind, that Ray and myself would like to say Thank You to all the people involved: Halstead's of Whitefield, for donating the flooring, Gary Schofield, who's company laid it for us, my son, who liaised with Halstead's to get the roll to us and to all the people who put up with various toilets being "out of action" at some time or another.

thank
you!

A letter of thanks has been sent to Halstead's.

Geoff and Ray,
Wardens at St. John with St. Mark

SHOEBOXES

This year's Shoebox appeal was once again a huge success. A total of 227 boxes were completed and sent off. A huge thank you to everyone who prepared boxes or provided items for them.

Your gifts are gratefully appreciated and will bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas.



CHRISTINGLE

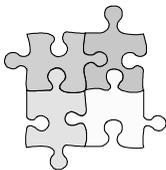
A big thank you to everyone who supported the service; those who made donations to buy sweets and oranges; those who stuck 1600 sweets onto cocktail sticks; those who made the Christingles; those who lit up the church path; those who counted the money; those who provided the music and to everyone who attended.



We raised £408 for the work of the Children's Society which will bring a lot of light into the lives of children who are encountering problems.

Thank you all Margery

JIGSAWS – THANK YOU



I want to say a huge thank you to all the wonderful people who answered my plea for jigsaws. The response was overwhelming. I am so grateful.

Thank you so much, Joan Pearson

Mothers' Union committed to make every Mother's Day.

Since Mothers' Union's Make a Mother's Day was first launched in 2007 approximately £1,000,000 has been donated, through the campaign, to help mums and families all over the world. But there are still millions of mothers all over the world who need your help.

Millions who will not get flowers or cards this Mothering Sunday: mums, grannies and care-givers who despite the most difficult of circumstances achieve amazing things. This Mothering Sunday we are asking you to again pull out all the stops to support more struggling families by buying an ethical gift from Mothers' Union's *Make a Mother's Day* catalogue.

Angelina is just one of the thousands of mums helped by Mothers' Union last year. She and her husband, Eliud, live in a rural village in Uganda – close to the border with Kenya. Here it is worryingly common for children to drop out of school early: girls run away to the city to seek work as maids or marry too young; boys are tempted into smuggling goods across the border or to work in the dangerous gold mines.

With nine children Angelina and Eliud were anxious about their children's future but didn't know where to turn. Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinator, Connie quickly saw the problem and set up a parenting group. Through the group Angelina, Eliud and 38 other parents in the village have found support, learnt new skills and strengthened their relationship.

Now the parents' group visits local schools to promote education and speak out against the risks of early marriage and HIV/AIDS. "There is a great change. Since joining the group we are happy, we work together, we sell pineapples and other vegetables. Now we have the skills, we can nurture our children and bring up our children in the right way."

A gift of £35 supports the work of Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinators like Connie as they reach out to communities like Angelina's.

"We are very grateful, thank you so much. Thank you for remembering us."

Will you support mothers all over the world, like Angelina, and give a gift this Mothering Sunday?

If you would like to give an ethical gift this Mothering Sunday visit www.makeamothersday.org or call +44 (0)20 7222 5533 for a free catalogue.



We have enjoyed Harvest and Advent in Messy Church. The next get-together will be on Saturday 1 February.

Please make a note in your diary and spread the word among friends and neighbours. Messy Church is church with a difference – and it is for all the family. Children must be accompanied.

We hope that this will become a monthly event but we are still looking for the best day and time to hold Messy Church, so please would you let us have feedback?

CAPTION COMPETITION



Could you submit a caption for this photograph?

Entries to wrub@live.co.uk or hand to any member of the clergy, no later than 31 January, please.

In true *Church Times* tradition there will be a Fair-trade prize for the winner. The judges' decision is final! The winning entry (and maybe others) will be published in March's magazine.

Photographers! If you have a suitable photograph for future months please email to wrub@live.co.uk



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2014

February 24 – March 9



Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

Fair trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach that aims to help producers in developing countries make better trading conditions. By paying a slightly higher price in the shops the producers and growers can receive a fair price for the produce.

Fairtrade goods are available in all supermarkets and other shops. The list of fairly traded goods is ever increasing, with items such as bananas, honey, coffee, oranges, cocoa, cotton, dried and fresh fruits and vegetables, juices, nuts and oil seeds, rice, spices, sugar, tea and wine able to be bought.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
next month



Epiphany Word Jumble

Unscramble the letters to make words we use at this time of the year. Answers next month.

1. ICAMHSRST
2. SGILBNES
3. AIGM
4. ANRUJYA
5. YVTNATII
6. USOHE
7. BMTASPI
8. ICRHST
9. EINADRROJVR
10. NAPCEARPEA
11. FOONODGS
12. HYETOAHPN



CHINESE NEW YEAR

BUFFET + SOCIAL

*Friday 31 January from 7.30pm
St.John with St.Mark's Church Hall*



*PLEASE SEE FURTHER DETAILS
ON THE WEEKLY NEWS SHEETS IN JANUARY*

MUSLIM CHRISTIAN FORUM

invite you to

A FAMILY PARTY

Family fun, games and food.

This year's Christmas/Eid party will be held

At The Jinnah Centre, Bury

on Sunday 5th January 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.



Entrance FREE.

Tickets from Gillian Smith



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

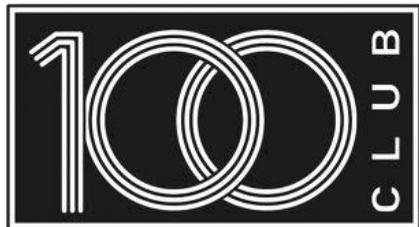
1		No Mothers' Union meeting
5		Epiphany Services as usual
	6.30 pm	Family Party, Jinnah Centre
12		Baptism of Christ Services as usual
14	7.00 pm	Tour of school and PCC (SJSM)
15	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union (CC)
19		Second of Epiphany Services as usual
26		Third of Epiphany Services as usual
27	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod
31	7.30 pm	New Year Social and Buffet (SJSM)

NOVEMBER WINNERS

1st Prize ~ 45 Kelly Watson

2nd Prize ~ 46 Val Dawson

3rd Prize ~ 38 Elizabeth Alty



MISSION IN ACTION



Operation Christmas Child has made a difference to 227 children and the gospel is shared with them



Light shines in the life of many children who live in poverty, as a result of our Christingle services