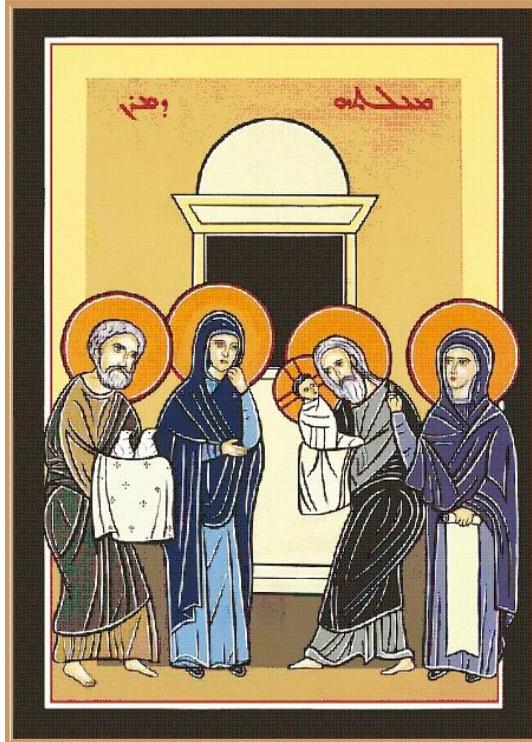




**Christ Church Walmersley
and
St John with St Mark Bury
in the
United Benefice of Walmersley Road**



February 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.



St John w St Mark's Church has the Child Friendly Church award

Both churches have Fairtrade status



Landmarks

For the last 18 months I have been saving for my 60th birthday; every £2 coin I get goes into one of those money boxes that you have to smash to get at the cash (I'm not daft)! It's getting fairly heavy – very heavy in fact and there are still another 18 months to go. Still it is a landmark and it will be lovely to have "a bit of a do" as I have every other decade.

At the moment, however, I don't need to wait for a decade to arrive as my life seems to be full of landmarks. In a few weeks I will start my new job as Head of Library Services and I am looking forward to it very much. Undoubtedly it is going to be a huge challenge particularly in this time of cuts; I will need a pretty big moneybox to solve this one! And, of course, I have another challenge ahead – another landmark in my life. As I write I am still not sure where I will be going when I leave the Benefice but I expect to be hearing very soon.

Strangely, or perhaps naively, I am not at all nervous about either of these challenges because I am confident that in both cases I am doing the right thing and that I will be the right person for the job. Maybe I won't be the right person immediately but, with God's help, I will become the right person. So, no worries there, but what about being the right person for all the other parts of my life – and what about you being the right person in your life as well?

There are times in our lives, for instance when marriage is on the cards, when we are very concerned with finding the right person. Finding Mr or Miss Right seems to be an all-consuming passion for some. There are other times too, my lovely lodger Glyn left just before Christmas (he found his Miss Right) and I am contemplating whether or not I should look for the 'right' person to share the house with me and the boys.

The trouble is we spend so much time and effort on finding the right person – or at least someone near enough for us to knock into shape that we forget about ourselves. It's very hard for someone to be the right person if the person they are being so 'right for' is not making much of an effort. Perhaps the answer is to stop looking so diligently for the right folk and make do with the ones you have?

When Jesus looked for followers any fool could see he picked a most unpromising selection. Somehow he must have thought that there was something there, or, perhaps he just thought "they'll do"? Still, he did have the distinct advantage in being the right person himself and things worked out. The encouraging thing about his choice of the first disciples is that all we who have followed, no matter how unlikely, have been given the chance to be the right person.

As my time in the Benefice comes to an end I have been reflecting on all the folk who have been the 'right person' for me. I am not going to name them – too long a list. Some of you might recognise a time when you did something that helped me with my journey of faith but probably most of you will never have even realised the difference you made to me; perhaps that is how it should be? Being the right person is sometimes just being there and we can all do that can't we? So thank you for being there for me and allowing me to be there for you.

God Bless you – now and always.
Elizabeth



Christianity is not about learning how
to live within the lines;
Christianity is about the joy of colouring.

BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

2 Presentation of Christ

Malachi 3: 1-5

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Luke 2: 22-40

9 Fourth before Lent

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

Matthew 5: 21-37

16 Third before Lent

Leviticus 19: 1,2,9-18

1 Corinthians 3: 10,11,16-23

Matthew 5: 38-48

23 Second before Lent

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Romans 8: 18-25

Matthew 6: 25-34



FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

- February 2 In memory of Fred Williams
February 9 In memory of the Ronson family
February 16 Derek Schofield in memory of his mother Bessie
February 23 In memory of Sarah Melling and Jack Illsley

MEMORIAL FLOWERS AT ST JOHN WITH ST MARK

The new list has gone up at the back of Church.

Please sign it for the week you require.

It is not very expensive to provide a vase on the memorial table
- £5.00 is adequate.

Money can be given to Wardens or Rosemarie Ashworth.

FROM THE VICARAGE

* This year's Confirmation Service is scheduled for Sunday 22 June at St.Anne, Tottington, beginning at 10.30am. Classes will begin after Easter. Anyone interested in being confirmed should have a word with Janet Lyssejko or myself.

At St.John with St.Mark's a course for receiving Holy Communion before Confirmation will take place during Lent.

* A reminder that 2014 sees the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the current church building at St.John with St.Mark.

The celebrations will take place 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.



* More help in the Junior Church at Christ Church is required. If you would like to join the rota to work with our children and young people please have a word with me.

* During the final hymn of each Sunday morning service at St.John with St.Mark's Church please contribute towards the 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 hoped that something similar can be arranged at Christ Church also.

* A service of the Laying On Of Hands will take place at Christ Church at the morning service of Sunday 23 March. This is an opportunity to receive the ministry of healing for body, mind and spirit. Further details about this service in next month's magazine.

* Thanks to those who attended the Watchnight Service at St.John with St.Mark's Church. It was good to be in church at the start of the New Year.

* 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.

* 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.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you are for me the medicine when I am sick;

you are my strength when I need help;

you are life itself when I fear death;

you are the way when I long for heaven;

you are light when all is dark;

you are my food when I need nourishment.

For these and all your many blessing, Lord,

I give you thanks and praise.

Amen.

Thank you Ralph for sharing your find with us.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

January 5 Freddie Heath Dures

We welcome him into the Lord's family

Weddings

January 4 Peter Holden and Heather Charlton

Those who God has joined together let no one put asunder

Funerals

January 2 Charles Lomax

January 9 Trevor Holt

'I am the resurrection and the life' says the Lord

TREVOR HOLT - THANK YOU

A huge thank you for the overwhelming support, good wishes and cards that we have received over the last two months since Trevor became ill.

It has meant a great deal to us to know that so many people were praying for Trevor during this difficult time. We also appreciate the support you continue to give us.

Best wishes, Phyllis and family.



NOTES FROM THE COUNCILS

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PCC MEETING OF 14 JANUARY 2014

Our first PCC meeting of 2014 had a slightly different setting in that it was held at St. John with St. Mark primary school, our Church School on Athlone Avenue. The evening began at 7.00pm with a tour of the school. I was unable to attend this first part but did get a look around the entrance & reception, and was amazed how different this area looked from when I was there. It was over 20 years though!

There were cakes and drinks available for our meeting which began just before 8.00pm in the staff room, and our 2 main topics of discussion were our parade services and the 2013 draft accounts.

It is felt that our parade services may need to be looked at and Paul has put together a revised draft order of service for use on these occasions. Various suggestions have been raised, including the greater involvement of the younger people, music provisions, improvement of the sound system and the possibility of some Parade services being held in the Hall. It was proposed that a separate worship committee be put together to look at these options and any comments be brought to the Clergy. The committee would then feed into the PCC.

Ian our Treasurer also provided us with an informative overview of the 2013 draft accounts and discussed with the PCC the income and expenditure for the last year. He asked to us to think about the budget for 2014 and advise of any potential expenditure for this next year which has currently not been budgeted for.

There were also regular updates on our 50th anniversary preparations, Child Protection and the Child Friendly Church award.

Our next meeting is back in the familiar setting of the Church Hall Library on Thursday 20th February at 8.00pm.

FOR QUIET MOMENTS

With thanks to Alison Fewtrell

Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this.

- verse from "See amid the winter snow"

Week One



Father of all, we remember the lonely and homeless and give thanks for all the volunteers who helped them over the Christmas period binging food warmth, shelter, love, comfort and companionship in the darkest and coldest time of the year.

Week Two

Heavenly Father we remember all the retired people who now have more spare time to give to others. We pray for those who support the younger members of their family. Bless those who care for neighbours and others in need.

Give us all the strength to cope and to give the benefit of our experience to those who need it, whether in a kindly visit, shopping, driving them to appointments or simply providing a listening ear.



We ask your love and support for the young families who do not have older relatives to help them.

Week Three

We pray for all volunteers who help with charities in the community remembering our local charity - Bury Talking Newspaper for the Blind and Partially Sighted. We ask you blessing on the 45 people from all over Bury who come together at the Seedfield Centre to produce the recordings which bring the local news from the Bury Times to those who are unable to read it for themselves. Father, we thank you for inspiring them in this worthwhile service especially praying for the new volunteers who responded to the weekly sheet.



We pray that Christ will travel alongside all people whose life is handicapped, to guide and guard them and send them help when it is needed.

Week Four

Now that the days are beginning to lengthen we give thanks for the signs that our world is once again coming to the time when our hearts are lifted by the sight of the first Spring flowers and we begin to see more activity among our garden birds. Like the psalmist "we lift up our eyes to the hills from whence cometh our help" and see the splendours of sunrise and sunset. As the buds begin to unfurl may our hearts and minds open up to receive your love with joy and gladness.



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



ST JOHN WITH ST MARK OPEN GROUP

We are currently enjoying a Winter break,
however please make a note of our first meeting.

The Reverend Dave Thompson
will lead us with some "Reflections"
on Wednesday 12th March 2014.

*This year, all our meetings will take place at 7.30pm
on the second Wednesday of each month
in the Church Hall Library.*

Please remember, the Open Group is just that, open to all.
We would love you to join us for our meetings.



ART WORKSHOP

Would you like a change from washday?

Join the friendly group on
Mondays 10 am – 12 noon
in Christ Church Hall

Paint, sketch, draw, whatever pleases you

We share our ideas with each other

Contact: Margery Spencer for more details
or simply come along
(the washing will wait!)

CANDLEMAS



Have you taken your Christmas decorations down yet? If you did not manage to get them packed away by twelfth night then they should remain in place until February 2nd or candlemas. At least that is what legend says.

In pre-Christian times February 2nd was a pagan festival being half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, the middle of winter. People also said that Candlemas day determined future weather.

If candlemas day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight.
If candlemas day brings cloud and rain
Winter won't come again.

In the western Christian calendar candlemas is the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, forty days after the birth of Jesus and also the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the temple. In the Jewish tradition, for 40 days after the birth of a boy and 60 days after the birth of a girl, women were considered to be unclean and could not worship in the temple and the purification enabled them to return to worship.

It was also the tradition to present a child in the temple and in Saint Luke's gospel we hear the story of Jesus being taken to the temple where Anna and Simeon recognised him and Simeon said "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation," the words we now know as the Nunc Dimittis.

More recently it was the time when the candles to be used in church services were blessed and for us it is a time to remember that Christ came to be "a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel."





Child Friendly Church Award for St John with St Mark's Church

It has been a long process! We went through self-evaluation, reflected on what we did, what we needed to do, how we were doing things and also to carry on the positives but look at how to improve. On the 27th November 2013, we had an interview with Steve Dixon, the Dioceses Children's Officer.

We discussed our evaluation with Steve and, I can assure you, he challenged us and did not give us an easy time. He advised us of the further necessary requirements and things that we still needed to do for our application to proceed. The outstanding matters were taken back to the PCC, discussed, taken up to be reviewed, actions taken and agreed.

At this point we still needed a children's mission statement. This was to be discussed at the joint Benefice PCC as it was to be a statement that was to cover both of our churches. The mission statement was agreed on 17th December 2013. I messaged Steve Dixon on 18th December, confirming our actions on the outstanding requirements and they had been acted on, and put into place, and also sent our Children's mission statement.

Steve messaged me on the 19th December to say he was pleased to confirm that he agreed with our application and that he would now ask for our Award Certificate to be signed by Bishop David. Although this is to be presented to us at our celebration service on the 8th June 2014, when Bishop David is with us, we are allowed to use the award from 19th December 2013.

This is a great honour for St John w St Mark to have been awarded the CFC. It is through the hard work of everyone who puts in the time, effort, enthusiasm and dedication to the work of, for and with our young people. It is a privilege for me to work and walk alongside this team of people who give their very best. So, thank you Nicky Kelly, Kelly Watson, Pam Kodjer, Revd Elizabeth Binns, Caitlin Cowan, Stuart Ashworth, Darren Dunn, Keith Duckworth (H&S rep) & Vicar Dave.

Child Friendly Church Award - Christ Church

In 2014 I am looking forward to working with a dedicated team from Christ Church in order to obtain the CFC Award. There (as at St John w St Marks) will be a lot of work to be done. Having being through it once, I now have a good idea what is required and what is to be done so we get the award. So, if you would like to join the dedicated team that has already made a start on the process, please contact me.

You never know, we could both be presented with the CFC Award by Bishop David on 8th June 2014!

Revd Janet. xx

Our mission statement



To know, grow and show the love of Jesus



The Methodist Church



The CORE Skills course for Children's Work covers six basic topics to encourage and en-skill those who work with children on behalf of the local church in a variety of settings. But further topics are covered in "More Core Skills" and we are offering a special **one day training event** which will give you the opportunity to engage in these further issues.

The day will offer four workshops (of which participants will be able to choose two) along with a plenary workshop session looking at the latest safeguarding/child protection advice.

The day will take place from 9.15am to 3.15pm on Saturday 1 February 2014 at Heaton Moor United Church, Stanley Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 4HL.

The cost for the day (covering resources and costs) is £5 per person (payable on the day but booked in advance). Drinks will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.

a full programme will be sent to all applicants

Session 1. Choose either:

1. **Working with Special Needs Children:** aims to develop a knowledge and understanding of children with disabilities and explore ways to make all activities accessible, inclusive and welcoming
2. **Challenging Behaviour:** aims to explore issues around challenging behaviour and to identify mechanisms for dealing with it constructively.

Session 2. Choose either:

1. **Children's Advocacy:** exploring the role of advocacy in children's work, the balance between advocating for the child and enabling the child's own voice to be heard and questioning the role of the 'children's advocate'
2. **Young Leaders:** aims to explore issues specific to young leaders in the 14-18 age group, emphasising their unique and valuable contribution to and leadership team, encouraging reflection and developing practical skills.

Session 3:

Good Practice and Safeguarding: to bring participants up to date with the latest information and guidelines in Good Practice.

It is important that participants choose their workshops in advance so that we can organise resources. If you are interested please email

stephendixon@manchester.anglican.org

with your choice of workshop by **DECEMBER 20th**.

A New Year of Branch activities commenced with sharing Holy Communion together followed by our 'Souper' supper in January

We look to reflect on our last year and capture the vision for the year ahead at our AGM on February 5th - please make this meeting a priority.

On February 19th we are holding a Bring and Buy sale. The proceeds will be given to Cath Hilton as she and Jennifer White are making a personal trip to Nairobi and Kisumu in March. They would like to take small gifts to distribute to the MU groups they visit and one possible gift is to take MU badges which are particularly welcome, so our financial assistance will help them purchase some.

February 7th-14th has been designated Marriage Week UK and Mothers' Union is supporting and endorsing the "Big Promise"

Marriage vows are the most long-term promises we ever make – to love and care for someone else for the rest of our lives! They are a commitment to put someone else's interests as equal to our own, and they involve setting aside our own short-term 'wants' for long-term stability and satisfaction.

They are life changing – and have a huge impact on the way our lives work out. For those that make them they are 'the BIG Promise'.

In 2014 it is suggested that on 8th Feb, at 5.15pm, every couple in the UK will have the opportunity to re-affirm their Big promises to each other privately or in a larger venue. Watch out for more details.

We welcome familiar faces and new ones to our meetings in the Church hall at 7.30pm

Kathryn Bailey, Branch leader



We need your help, please!

Messy Church has started well and we are reaching out to our community as well as providing fun mornings for children, parents and helpers alike!

We are aware though of many, many more families who would like to come but whose children are involved in other activities on Saturday mornings. There will be no 'perfect' timing but we would like to determine the best we can.

In other places there are groups meeting on: Saturday teatime, Sunday afternoon, immediately after school one day. Would you please ask the families around you what would be the most agreeable time for them?

Clearly there are other factors to take into account, such as the availability of premises, the commitments of those willing to help, but we shall be meeting soon to plan ahead for the rest of 2014.

If you are willing to spare a couple of hours, on an ad hoc basis or regularly, we would love to hear from you. Do you have craft skills to share? are you an 'ideas' person? is music your forte? is your gift a welcoming smile? or the willingness to work unseen (but not unvalued) preparing food?



Messy Church has four key elements: fun, worship, crafts and food. Why not come along and experience – and then spread the word to others? You can be certain of a warm (if messy) welcome!

CAPTION COMPETITION



Write a caption and send it to wrub@live.co.uk or give to any member of the clergy by February 28.

We received a number of entries for December's competition – thank you. The judges liked:



“We really should have checked before we left home, then we would not all have turned up in the same outfit!”

and

“Right, that's the gold found. Have either of you seen the frankincense and myrrh?”

but the winner this month is

Mrs Kath Parkinson who wins Fairtrade cookies with one of several entries,

“No Elizabeth, it does not matter what Aladdin told you.

That is not a magic lamp.”

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



Together we can make bananas fair

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.

**PLEASE HELP BY PURCHASING FAIRTRADE
GOODS and supporting our TRAIDCRAFT STALL**



More than 1.2 billion Fairtrade bananas are now sold in the UK each year. That is one in every three bananas we buy.

In 13 years that is great progress but there is still a problem and we need to act now to deliver a fair deal to all banana farmers and workers.

Looking ahead: on 7/8 March there will be a product tasting in the Millgate Shopping Centre – watch out next month for more details.

Christ Church Walmersley Tennis Club

During the autumn of 2013 following several years of being in a dormant state CCW Tennis Club decided to call it a day and close down.

Christ Church Walmersley Tennis Club was formed over eighty years ago in 1929. In its heyday the club had over sixty members and very successfully competed in the local tennis league as well as being a major social attraction for many in Walmersley.

In recent years it became difficult to maintain membership and there was an increasing fight against continual vandalism of the courts and the facilities. A fatal blow came when the tennis club hut was burnt down in 2009. With the passing of Mr. Stan Parkinson in 2013 the club lost a major driving force and the remaining committee members agreed that the time had come to officially close the club - a sad but inevitable event.

In accordance with the club constitution, the club funds, which totalled just over £4000, have been transferred to the church and placed in the Repairs & Renovations Fund. The club facilities had been covered by the church's insurance and when the hut burnt down the claim monies (£5000) were set aside by the PCC to help in any rebuilding. In the event the only call on these monies has been some re-fencing of the courts. The remaining monies are now released by the PCC into general funds.

Epiphany Word Jumble - answers

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. CHRISTMAS | 2. BLESSING |
| 3. MAGI | 4. JANUARY |
| 5. NATIVITY | 6. HOUSE |
| 7. BAPTISM | 8. CHRIST |
| 9. JORDAN RIVER | 10. APPEARANCE |
| 11. SON OF GOD | 12. THEOPHANY |



Christmas-Eid Party



The Muslim-Christian Forum organised an enjoyable get-together in early January.

Gill Smith's photo shows Tricia Stokes and Jess Dewhirst talking to Ghulam Mujtaba.



COFFEE MORNING & BOOK FAIR

St John with St Mark Church Hall

Saturday 22nd February from 10.00am

BOOKS BRIC A BRAC CAKES
BACON SANDWICHES TEA & COFFEE
OTHER STALLS

Happy New Year!

I hope you and your loved ones had a great Christmas.

As it's the season for honours, I am delighted to tell you that The Real Easter Egg won 'Gift of the Year 2013' as nominated by retailers at the Christian Resources Together conference. That success is shared by you because of the support you have given the campaign.

Now we launch the next chapter and reveal our new Real Easter Egg range. There are three eggs this year. You can read more at meaningfulchocolate.co.uk and our shop is now open.

The Real Easter Egg campaign aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition. The supermarkets still don't stock enough, so last year more than 120,000 were sent through the post directly to churches and individuals.

To date, more than 450,000 eggs have been bought by churches and more than £120,000 has been donated to charity.

Hope you enjoy this year's.

David and the team at the Meaningful Chocolate Company

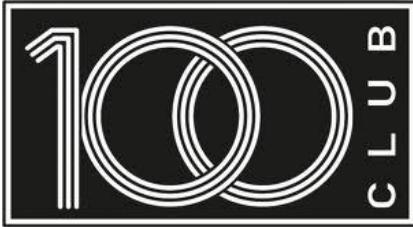
This year you can buy:

- a 150g egg, with buttons and a book about the Real Meaning of Easter
- a sharing box – 20 eggs (20g) each with an 8 page Easter story booklet
- a Special Edition egg (280g) with olive wood holding cross and an orange chocolate bar





Simeon and Anna Thank God
Luke 2



DECEMBER 2013 WINNERS

1st Prize ~ John Peat

2nd Prize ~ Nichola Kelley

3rd Prize ~ Vicky Senior

JANUARY 2014

1st Prize ~ Val Dawson

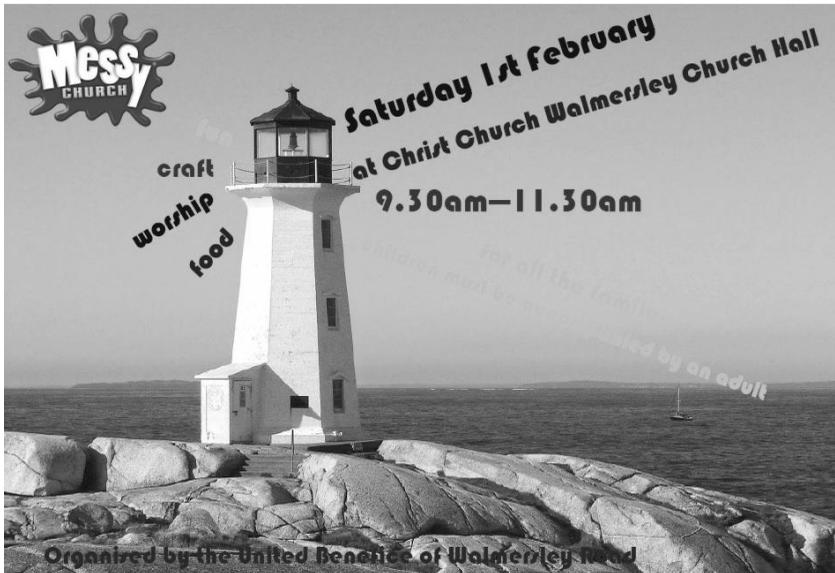
2nd Prize ~ Mike & Alex Frost

3rd Prize ~ Andrew Anderton

CHRISTMAS DRAW

1st Prize ~ Betty Roe

2nd Prize ~ George Hall



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

1	9.30 am	Messy Church
1		CORE Skills (see p16)
2		Presentation of Christ Services as usual
4	7.30 pm	PCC (CC)
5	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union branch AGM (CC)
8	5.15 pm	The BIG Promise
9		Fourth before Lent Services as usual
10	7.30 pm	Ministry meeting (CC)
11	7.30 pm	Muslim-Christian Forum, Women's Centre
13/14/15		Jack and the Beanstalk (see p28)
15		Diocesan synod
16		Third before Lent Services as usual
19	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union bring and buy sale (CC)
20	8.00 pm	PCC (SJSM)
23		Second before Lent Services as usual
24		Fairtrade Fortnight begins

THIS FEBRUARY THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF
ST JOHN WITH ST MARK PRESENT
Jack & The Beanstalk



**ON THURSDAY 13TH, FRIDAY 14TH & SATURDAY 15TH
OF FEBRUARY 2014 AT 7.30PM**

ST JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH HALL ~ PARKINSON STREET BURY

TICKETS PRICED AT £3.00 FOR CHILDREN & £5.00 FOR ADULTS.

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CALL 0161 761 6592 OR CONTACT THE CHURCH WARDENS