

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

The Church of England on Walmersley Road



December 2022 / January 2023

Christmas greetings



Wishing you all the peace, hope
and happiness of Christmas.
Barbara and Nigel

Merry Christmas
and the happiest of New Years

Jenny and John



May the peace and joy of
Christmas be yours
Margery and Alan

I would like to send everybody across the
United Benefice all my best wishes for
Christmas and a peaceful and hope filled
New Year.

David Robinson xx



The Choir and the organist at St. John with St. Mark would
like to wish all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all
the best for 2023. xx

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas from MOB.



Endings and beginnings

What a year it's been!

For Nigel and myself, it probably is one that we want to move on from, for very many reasons, not to forget but to move on from.

December – the ending of a year, can be a time of looking back at times gone by, sometimes with nostalgia, other times with regret at the things we didn't do, or as her late majesty put it - that it had been an 'Annus Horribilis'.

What I look forward to in December is CHRISTMAS when in the midst of long winter nights we remember the Hope that was born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago – Jesus Christ – our Saviour. Light had come into our dismal world. God, giving us a chance of a new beginning.



The words of one of my favourite worship songs by Tim Hughes popped into my head just now,

*'Light of the world you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.'*

Has this happened to you, Jesus letting you see what the world could be like with his hope in our lives? In fact a new beginning for us all for a new year.

2023 will see new challenges for us as a community following Jesus. Will we get a new vicar this year? Will our churches thrive? Can we make Jesus known to people around us? Etc. Etc. But really what we should be asking ourselves is how can we improve our relationship with Jesus? Through service, study and most of all by showing the love of Jesus for all humankind perhaps would be a great way to start. So, my hope for 2023 is a new beginning for both churches, built on faith, hope and love.

Barbara Silvester



BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

Dec 4	2nd of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Dec 11	3rd of Advent	Isaiah 35: 1-10	James 5: 7-10	Matthew 11: 2-11
Dec 18	4th of Advent	Isaiah 7: 10-16	Romans 1: 1-7	Matthew 1: 18-25
Dec 25	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52: 7-10	Hebrews 1: 1-12	John 1: 1-14
Jan 1	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Numbers 6: 22-27	Galatians 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 15-21
Jan 8	The Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 42: 1-9	Acts 10: 34-43	Matthew 3: 13-17
Jan 15	2nd of Epiphany	Isaiah 49: 1-7	I Corinthians 1: 1-9	John 1: 29-42
Jan 22	3rd of Epiphany	Isaiah 9: 1-4	I Corinthians 1: 10-18	Matthew 4: 12-23
Jan 29	4th of Epiphany	1 Kings 17: 8-16	I Corinthians 1: 18-31	John 2: 1-11
Feb 5	3rd before Lent	Isaiah 58: 1-12	I Corinthians 2: 1-16	Matthew 5: 13-20



FROM THE REGISTERS

CHURCH FUNERAL SERVICES

Nov 4 Hilda Melling
Nov 10 Alison Egan
Nov 17 Margaret Schofield

FUNERAL SERVICES AT THE CREMATORIUM

Sep 22 Margaret Gerrard
Oct 25 Ronald Stoney
Oct 27 Robert Gerrard

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Ian led the brief service of Remembrance at the former St. Mark's Church site on Brookshaw Street and we were pleased to be joined by members of the Salvation Army, which now occupies the site, for the laying of the wreath and two-minute silence.



After the service had finished, Sandra Evans noticed a cloud in the sky directly to the side of the memorial cross, which happened to be in the shape of..... a cross. It was as though the sky knew what day it was when it formed that shaped cross. Unfortunately, the sunlight proved too difficult to capture a photo, but we thought we should share the story with you in the magazine. Strange, but sometimes appropriate, how these things happen.

David

Flowers in church



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

At Christ Church

Dec 4	In loving memory of Jennifer Melling and Mary Illsley
Dec 11	Vacant
Dec 18	Vacant
Dec 25	The Congregation
Jan 1	Mr & Mrs R Nicholls in memory of their parents
Jan 8	In memory of Clifford Hawkins
Jan 15	Mr & Mrs J McDermott in memory of their daughter Carol
Jan 22	In memory of Jim Melling
Jan 29	In memory of Mr & Mrs Barcroft Wolstenholme

There is a box at the back of church if you wish to contribute to decorating church for Christmas.

At Christ Church there are now a number of weeks which are vacant through 2023. Please contact Hazel to see if any of these dates are meaningful for you or your family, or simply because you would like to help make the church beautiful and enhance our worship.

Anyone willing to arrange flowers or to help those already in the team, would be most welcome. Flowers are placed on the altar each week, except during the season of Lent.

Interregnum Notes

- * Please support our Wardens and Ministry team during the time of interregnum. We are grateful to Archdeacon Jean, Area Dean Rachel and our Mission Community Leader, Julian Heaton, who are all available for guidance if for any reason the 'home' team can't help you.
- * The Ministry Team (Clergy, Licensed Readers and our Authorised Lay Minister) meets every month – normally on the second Tuesday evening. If you have an issue that you would like them to discuss, please contact one of the team.
- * The Ministry rota for services from January to March 2023 has been filled. As it stands, all the current mix of regular services are covered. Many thanks to our own ministry team and to visiting ministers.
- * There will be no midweek services between Christmas and New Year
- * PCC's meet in December to select their two representatives and look at the Benefice profile.
- * We're awaiting the diocese to address some areas of damp in the vicarage.
- * Tickets are now available for the Band Concert at Christ Church on 10th December – *see page 36*
- * Porch Boxes are always in need of food and toiletries especially in this current situation. A box is available at the back of both churches. Thanks to those who support those in need.
- * A thought from Churches Together: If you do not need all the Energy Bills Support discount being applied to every household, why not make a contribution to the fund Christians Against Poverty locally are using, to help those currently struggling with debt and having great difficulty meeting bills such as gas and electricity. Speak to one of our treasurers if you would like more information.
- * Regular attenders to church are encouraged to join our planned giving scheme. If you would like to do so or would like some further information, please speak to one of the treasurers.

Report of Christ Church PCC meeting on 3rd November 2022

1. The minutes from the 28th of September meeting were proposed and accepted as a true record.
2. The annual income survey has been completed and sent in. The requisite number of forms was obtained.
3. The afternoon tea raised £206 and the Lay chair thanked everyone involved in the organisation of the event.
4. The treasurer noted that the church gas contract was fixed until May 2024 and the electric until January 2025.
5. The treasurer noted that income had held up but that there was a concern regarding increased costs which may be a problem if income does not increase. The diocese has an excellent giving officer and it was considered that maybe we should meet with him.
6. Geoff Hamilton had suggested that the attendance in church should be on the financial report. The Treasurer will do this on a monthly basis.
7. The secretary noted that the relevant forms and instructions had been received from the Diocesan registrar regarding the appointment of a new vicar. The process will start in February next year.
8. The secretary noted that the faculty for the garden of remembrance extension would be sent in to the diocese shortly as the relevant costs for the wall had been received.
9. Hazel Bamford raised that we had three lay trustees for the Church, most recently Stanley Parkinson, Arthur Smith and Hazel Bamford. The PCC agreed with Hazel that the two deceased trustees should be replaced. The secretary is to approach the Diocesan registrar to determine what is needed to be done.
10. It was noted by our contracted heating engineer that the church boiler was 40 years old and was the lowest efficiency rating (G). The secretary was asked to find out the cost for replacing the boiler. The secretary was also asked to get someone to look at the ladies' choir stall heater.
11. The pastoral report was discussed. It was felt we should arrange for someone to take the 11.30pm service on Christmas Eve if at all possible.
12. An increase in the price of the church magazine was discussed but no decisions made until discussed with St John with St Mark PCC.
13. Control of the churches' Facebook pages has now been resolved. We were asked to consider one rather than two separate pages for the benefice.

Summary of the St. John with St. Mark meeting of 3 November 2022

- DBS Latest – One application has recently been completed.
- Faculty for removing pews at back of church – now been approved. Nobody has come forward saying they would like a pew, so these will be removed and taken to auction. It is still intended to remove the piece of carpet at the end of the aisle to make full use of the area.
- Mission Community – A meeting has taken place with members of other Churches in the MC to discuss ways of working together and sharing worship with each other. An Advent service will take place at the Parish Church on Sunday 27th November; the possibility of joint study groups is being considered; a discussion about parish share allocation will take place at a future MC meeting; the Deanery Mission Action Plan was discussed and how best to encourage growth.
- #More Than Sunday – A 7-part course has begun with other Churches in the Mission Community in the Barritt Room, monthly on a Saturday morning. This encourages us to explore our faith and how we can put this into action Monday to Saturday. Anybody can attend future sessions even if you have not been to the first two.
- Correspondence – A letter has been received from Seedfield Tenants & Residents Association inviting us to a meeting to discuss traffic concerns with the new Seedfield housing development.
- Charitable Giving – It was once again agreed to support the same charities as last year as part of our charitable giving commitment. Any loose collection from the Christmas services and the magazine greetings this year will be split between Ukraine appeals and CRISIS.
- Other Finance – Ian made us aware of the tax we have claimed back from the previous tax year; the recent coffee morning raised £316; a list is to be put at the back of Church to see who is keen to resume the 100 Club and whether there is sufficient interest in the New Year.
- Wardens Report – We were made aware that all our regular Sunday and weekday services have been covered following the usual pattern. Thank you to all ministers who have volunteered.
- Interregnum – We need to begin work on our Parish profile in the New Year and this will be done jointly with Christ Church. The timeline and plans for the next few months of the process were discussed.
- Health & Safety – Keith made us aware that the DEFIB needs a new battery and this will be replaced.
- Next PCC Meeting is on Tuesday 6th December at 7.30pm to discuss the parish profile and vacancy.

Following feedback from dioceses and parishes, the Church of England is returning to the popular **Follow The Star** branding to encourage people to attend their local church at Christmas and take the next step on their journey of faith.

The resources for 2022 will focus on **The Great Invitation**

– encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours – especially after two years where this has been impossible for many.

The campaign will include:

- **Reflections** – 12 Advent reflections for us to share on the theme of ‘invitation’. If you have a smartphone why not download the app?
- **Reflections booklet** – which will be available in church
- **National online services** – services broadcast on the Sundays in Advent and at Christmas for those unable to join in our worship
- **Christmas cards** – which we will deliver to as many in our community as is feasible (can you help?)



Please share our social media posts (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) so they are seen by a far wider audience. If you are a member of community groups that is a great way to share the invitation.

Christmas is a wonderful time to encourage others to join you in church – don't be shy of issuing the invitation.

Just as importantly, if you have not come recently, we'd love to see **you**.

In Memoriam: Meg Schofield

Meg Schofield was born in Bury and attended Bury High School where I was one of her classmates. She was very sporting, captaining the school tennis team and playing a ferocious game of hockey. We studied sciences together and at the end of our education were jointly awarded the "Miss Wilkinson prize for character". Neither of us knew what we had done to deserve it.

Meg then went to Liverpool where she studied pharmacy and on qualification worked at Bury General and Fairfield Hospitals. I am sure her attention to detail and organisational skills were put to good use.

In 1959 she married David, and they set up home in Bury and their three children were born. She was a loving and devoted mother encouraging her children and giving them a strong moral compass.

She worked as a volunteer on the reception at the old hospice and also in the shop. To help people experiencing difficulties she trained as a bereavement counsellor.

She was a committed Christian and took a full part in church activities. She led intercessions, was a church cleaner, an enthusiastic member of the Mothers' Union and made insightful contributions to study groups. One of her great strengths was talking to people. If newcomers came into church Meg would be the first to greet them - she was a one-woman welcoming committee.

In recent years she was a devoted carer for David. And in the last months as she suffered from the distressing, disabling effects of Motor Neurone Disease she showed a depth of courage, dignity and resilience which was quite frankly awesome.

Meg lived out the two great commandments, her faith in God never wavered and she served others regardless of who they were. She will be greatly missed.

"Well done Thou good and faithful servant"

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Margery Spencer

Forthcoming Events



3RD THURSDAY LIGHT LUNCHES

Come and join us on the third Thursday of every month for a light lunch. A chance to enjoy a chat in the company of friends.

Lunch is served 12 noon - 1pm.

Christ Church Walmersley Hall, School Lane, BL9 5JU

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!

Upcoming Dates: 15th December, 19th January



CAFÉ CHURCH SERVICES

St. John with St. Mark Church Hall
10.30am on 18 December 2022

Christ Church Hall
10.30am on 22 January 2023

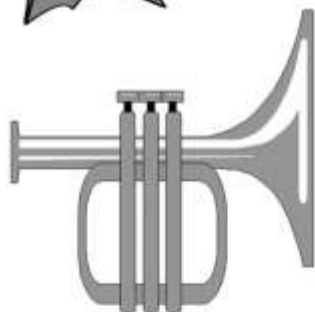
Churches Together in Bury hope to hold the usual **CAROL SINGING** near Bury Market
12 noon – 1.30pm Saturday 17th December



Please look out for details on our weekly sheets and try to support this by joining to sing about the real meaning of Christmas amidst the bustle of Christmas shopping

St James' Tower Street Heywood OL10 3AB

Invite you to



Beer & Carols

with Blackley Brass

**Sing Along to your favourite Christmas Carols
& Christmas Songs with a licensed bar
& Banktop Brewery real ale.**

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

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



**Family fun and surprises.
Friday 16th December at 7pm
Its free no tickets needed just come along**

Quiet Moments in December

A prayer for St Nicholas – 6th December

Loving God,
we thank You for the example
of St. Nicholas,
who fed the hungry,
brought hope to the imprisoned,
gave comfort to the lost,
and taught the truth to all.
May we strive
to imitate him
by putting You first
in all we do.
Give us the courage,
love and strength
of St. Nicholas, so that,
like him, we may serve
you through loving
our brothers and sisters.



Amy Welborn, author of St. Nicholas of Myra: A Saint for Advent and Christmas

A quiet Advent prayer amidst the hustle and bustle of mid-December



God of hope
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
be with us in our meeting
and in our travelling together,
be with us in our worship
and our praying together,
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
our God of hope.

(John Birch) faithandworship.com

Our Christmas Gift



In the crush of buying presents in the crowded stores, look deep into the faces, see the Christ Child there. A gift so freely given, a gift without compare.

When you kneel before the manger, when you worship and adore, remember he is yours to cherish; he is yours for evermore.

We are waiting for your coming, but you are already here, to share each joyful moment, to wipe away each tear.

But we shall still celebrate your arrival here on earth, the moment that the Father chose for you to have your birth.

We shall shout the joyous news with our loudest voice, so that everyone may know the reason to rejoice.

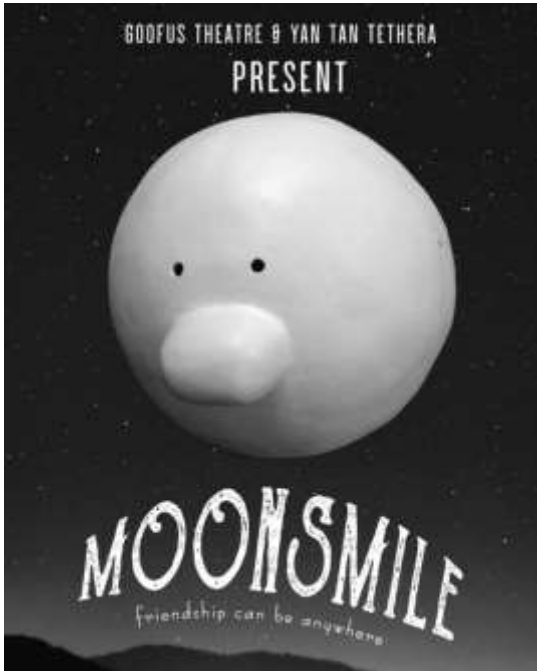
And we shall tell them of your arrival in that stable bare, of the beginning of a new age that all on earth may share. Amen

Suzanne Brough (from Mothers' Union "Dear Lord")

Let us remember the Holy Innocents on 28th December. You can read the story in Matthew Chapter 2 verses 13-18. *The collect for this day:*

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of justice and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen





Friendship can be anywhere!

Our story starts with a lonely museum Caretaker, who loses something quite dear to him. In his quest to retrieve what was lost, he finds himself on the moon where he meets the strange but loveable Moonlings.

Through a ritual of trust and friendship, the Moonlings help the Caretaker restore what was lost to him. Taking this gift back to Earth, the Caretaker rediscovers all that was hidden!

Blending music with movement, puppetry, play, and mask, this non-verbal performance will immerse audiences in storytelling, creating a space for imagination to thrive.

Where: St John with St Mark's Hall
When: Friday, 23 December at 2pm
Who: All ages and backgrounds
How much: Tickets are FREE

For more details: Moonsmile - friendship can be anywhere - St John & St Mark Church Bury (stjohnstmarkchurchbury.com)

Goofus is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company presenting live puppet/mask and clown theatre to local audiences. Their aim is to improve access to the arts, particularly puppet theatre, for those not currently engaging with this form, by producing high quality live arts events and participatory art activities for a wide range of audiences including children and families.

Yan Tan Tethera is a storytelling, environmental interpretation and community engagement organisation led by Dr Oliver Bishop. A professional storyteller and environmental interpreter, Oliver has a decade of experience weaving stories of folklore, myth and nature to share with audiences of all ages.

The Prince of Peace



Dictionaries sometimes give us a different perspective on words that we otherwise take for granted. Isaiah looked forward to the birth of 'an excellent, great and marvellous person' who would give 'counsel and advice'. This person would have 'infinite duration', be 'perfect in power, wisdom and judgement' and be 'worshipped as creator and ruler of the universe'. He would be 'a son of the sovereign who rules over a state of tranquillity or quiet'.

Isaiah described the birth of God, telling us in those words the character and nature of God. He tells us of a God who will listen and teach, be wise and be with us for ever, that he will offer peace.

If someone were to describe the character and nature of you, what words would they use?

Creator God, help me to be more like you and
be for others a good example of your love.
Amen.

From "Christmas Reflections", Lindisfarne Scriptorium

Dear Lord, don't let us miss you this **Christmas** season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on your birth. Thank you for being the Prince of Peace, and we ask you for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank you for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Melanie Chitwood

More Christmas greetings



Wishing everyone in the United Benefice a Happy Christmas and Joyous 2023. We give thanks for all your continued support and kind words of appreciation for the music from Geoff on the organ and the choir at Christ Church. Love and prayers, Tricia and Geoff

Wishing you a happy and blessed Christmas, with all the best for the New Year
From the Christian Aid team



The Open Group would like to wish everybody across the Benefice a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

As you celebrate the glory of this miraculous season, may your home be filled with love, peace, and joy.

Members of Mothers' Union



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 18 December
at 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

9.00am traditional language (BCP)
 at Christ Church
10.30am in both churches

New Year's Day

9.00am traditional language (BCP) at Christ Church
10.30am in both churches

Please note that there will be no midweek services between Christmas and New Year.



#MoreThanSunday

You probably spend at least 90% of your life outside of church.

#MoreThanSunday is a learning journey - exploring what it means to follow Christ, Monday to Saturday beyond church in our work, education, community and family contexts.

Currently there is an opportunity to join this journey, meeting monthly at St John with St Mark. There are seven 'Shifts' in the journey, which began in September. Our most recent session in November focussed on "Faith at Home", with a particular emphasis on how this flourished during lockdown and how some of these incentives continue today. There was then an opportunity to discuss how we can encourage ourselves and our congregations to grow in faith within their homes and families.

The fourth shift is on Saturday 21st January 2023 in the Barritt Room at St. John with St. Mark and the theme is "Small Groups", looking at traditions such as Lent study groups, or courses such as Alpha or Start. We meet in a hybrid environment with other Mission Communities joining us on Zoom. Please note, no December meeting.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to feel more confident about their faith. Why not 'give it a go'? You do not have to have attended the previous three sessions or feel compelled to come to any of the others.

The Priory Highbank Centre

This Centre provides care for people with neurodisabilities resulting from acquired brain injuries.

In earlier years a group visited, around four times a year, the residents of this centre, for a short service of songs, prayers and reading - followed usually by tea and cakes. Since the pandemic we have been unable to visit but are delighted to have been invited to return.

Our first invitation is to join them on December 1 at 4pm for a Lights Switch-on, to include mince pies, hot chocolate and non-alcoholic mulled wine.

We would hope to visit again near Easter. If you would like to join our group please have a word with one of the Wardens.

A reflection for Epiphany

It's the season of starlight, kings and gifts. We hear again stories of the first pilgrims seeking Jesus, of a dove descending on God's beloved Son and of water turned to wine.

It's the season of revelation, light and joy as God, born as man, shows us again his presence among us.

The light shines in the darkness and in the stories we hear there are dark shadows. There is a king, deceitful, cruel and vindictive who seeks the light only to destroy it. There is myrrh, a gift bringing to mind the bitter suffering this child is born to face.

Living as one of us he will know love and hatred, joy and sorrow, hope and despair, worship and crucifixion. He does not flinch from experiencing fully what it means to be human. In the way he lives and loves he shows us what it means to be fully human.

Like the wise men, let us pay homage to the true King and offer the best of who we are as gifts to him. Let us travel through life resisting the shadows of today's Herods (and the darkness within ourselves), seeking instead the paths of starlight and wonder.

*Katharine Smith
first published by Redemptorist Publications*

Lord Jesus Christ,
so work within us that we may not simply talk of light
but also bring it to others,
your love shining out through our life and witness,
your goodness reflected in who we are and what we do.

©Nick Fawcett

Quiet Moments in January

The contemporary version of John Wesley's **covenant prayer**, used by our Methodist friends at the start of each year.

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

In our lectionary on 13 January we remember John Fox who founded the **Quakers**, or the Religious Society of Friends, in the 17th century. A crucial part of their worship is to sit in silence, waiting to hear God speak through the Holy Spirit. However, they do use some prayers such as this one which we could also use.

I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.
I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.
I ask for wisdom, but not for learning, lest I scorn the simple.
I ask for a clean name, but not for fame, lest I condemn the lowly.
I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours, lest I fail to hearken to the call of duty.

Inazo Nitobe, 1909

Each year from 18-25 January we observe the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

As we join with other Christians around the world, we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Gracious and loving God,
expand our vision that it may be wide enough
to recognise the beautiful complexity
of the tapestry you chose to weave
with each and every one of us.
Gather our frayed edges, our loose ends
and bind us together for your glory. Amen.

From ctbi.org.uk

On 25 January we remember the **Conversion of St Paul**. There are many prayers in St Paul's writings which we can use in our own petitions. Here is just one of them.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer.

And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Recent meetings have included a talk by Glyn Heath on the somewhat fascinating topic of **Animal Prosthetics**. We then welcomed a return visit by the engaging Peter Leonard, who this time told us lots about **Blood Bikes** in the North West. Members donated to this great cause and Peter was delighted to send his thanks for over £70. It was good to welcome, a fellow member, Elizabeth Binns to preside at **Holy Communion** with a Celtic influence and focussing on Christ the King, which was followed by a supper of pie and peas with ginger cake as a tasty finale.

Do you still have some presents to buy? Mothers' Union has refreshed its range of **Gifts of Support** and there are now 6 alternative gifts to give. Make a donation to support to help projects and programmes supporting families and communities to bring lasting change. Visit mueshop.org for more details.

In Manchester the **Advent Service** falls on Thursday, 1 December at 11am in St Ann, Manchester. An opportunity to join in worship and hear Archdeacon Karen Lund who will preach. Then maybe a look around the Christmas Markets?

We shall gather here on December 7 for an evening focussed on the season of **Advent**.

Mothers' Union will be sharing the **Carol Concert** from the chapel at Mary Sumner House online on Tuesday, 13 December at 7pm – a selection of carols and choral pieces along with readings – and hope you will join them.

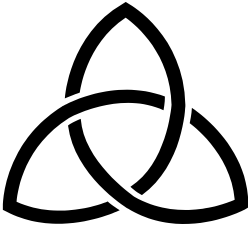
On December 14 we meet at the Red Hall, 12 for 12.30pm for our **Christmas Lunch**. If you did not pay the full amount when booking, please let Barbara Silvester have the balance.

We shall not meet on 4 January but welcome everyone on 18 January for a new year.

Why not join us for some meetings in 2023?

Bob Taylor,
Branch Leader

The Open Group



At the end of this year, it seems right to reflect on the time we have spent together over the last few months. After being missing from our calendar for over two years we felt it was an achievement to resume the Open Group in May for a period of monthly meetings. I am grateful for all who volunteered to lead a meeting and we had some diverse themes. Although our numbers have only been small, I feel we have valued the time spent together. Thank you to all who have attended.

It is also appropriate to mention Joyce Hopkinson, who we sadly lost in September. Joyce was a leading member of the group for so many years since it was first set up and very rarely missed a meeting. As well as organising and planning speakers, Joyce would regularly lead the opening worship at the start of our meetings, and was also known to be quite an entertainer on the stage at the Open Group Christmas productions. She played Snow White one year! Let us also remember her contribution to the Choir and support in the kitchen at our Church Fairs. I am sure everybody has their own unique memories of Joyce.

We are having a little get together on Wednesday 30th November to bring the year to a close and hopefully we can continue with a programme in 2023. We usually wait until March before we commence.

As and when a schedule is put together we will keep you updated, and if you have never attended before or even have an idea for a theme, then please speak to me.

David Robinson

Men of the Benefice



There is not much to report on since last time. We did meet on Monday 31st October, on a rather wet night, at The Towler.

However there was no set theme for the evening and one or two of the regulars were missing. Barry Evans had endured a tough physio session with his injured shoulder so was resting.

We found ourselves huddled into a corner this time as it was darts and dominoes night however we did have the added privilege of being able to share the chips which were on offer. A near half tray to ourselves!

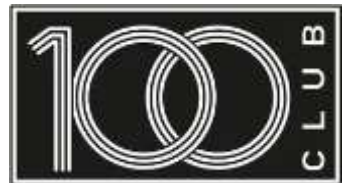
There were the usual topics of conversation around the table, including football, cruise holidays, work, our history, oh and I think the Interregnum was discussed!

It was expected we would meet after the Christingle Services on Monday 28th November at 8.00pm at The Towler, however it is unlikely we will meet in December. If this changes, we will inform you accordingly. Failing that, we will be back on Monday 30th January when we will hopefully set some dates for the year.

David Robinson

ST. JOHN WITH ST. MARK 100 CLUB

We are looking at resuming this in the New Year and a list is at the back of Church for anybody wishing to join who has not yet done so.





Sunday @ Seven

We next meet for our regular Sunday evening informal worship (song/reflection/prayer)

January 29th at 7pm

What's in the offing?



Come and join us for an hour of relaxed worship and reflection. It's a new year. What are our hopes and expectations for the months ahead? Perhaps God has something new in store for us!

We will meet at St John & St Mark Hall.

Or you can join in via Zoom.

Please contact Nigel Silvester or Ian Banks for more details.

THIS JANUARY 2023

**THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF ST JOHN WITH ST MARK
PRESENTS**



BABES IN THE WOOD

PERFORMANCES:

Thurs 26th Jan 7:15pm

Fri 27th Jan 7:30pm

Sat 28th Jan 2:30pm & 7:30pm

**ST JOHN WITH ST MARK CHURCH HALL
PARKINSON STREET BURY**

PRICES

£6.00 FOR CHILDREN & £8.00 FOR ADULTS.

TICKET SALES:

EMAIL

stjohnwithstmarkpanto@gmail.com

TELEPHONE

0161 761 6592 OR 07907725129

Will you change lives this Christmas?

Mary's Story

When civil war and violence broke out in the city of Malakal Mary was forced to leave her home. She fled with her 5 children, aged 6 to sixteen, and arrived 500 km south in South Sudan's capital city, Juba, with nothing but the clothes they were wearing.

Mary found Mothers' Union, made new friends, and is now the leader of one of Mothers' Union groups. She delivers training which includes literacy, trauma healing and peacebuilding to help other members after being displaced or surviving gender-based violence.

Will you help women have a brighter future?

With your help, Mothers' Union could support **600 women** develop vital skills such as literacy, and help them heal from trauma related conflict and gender-based violence. These women could go on to help over **6,670 people** address harmful cultural traditions to bring about positive change in their communities.

Mothers' Union South Sudan will work with local churches and organisations to raise awareness of harmful cultural norms that are contributing to gender-based violence and holding women back from flourishing.

How can you help? Your gift will have double the impact!



All money donated through the Big Give website between noon on Tuesday 29th November and noon on Tuesday 6th December will be **doubled**.

So, if you donate £40, Mothers' Union will receive £80, which can pay for a woman to attend four Mothers' Union Literacy and Trauma Healing days, where she can be safe, learn new skills and start building a better future.

Save the date

www.mothersunion.org/Christmas22

Joint Service

for the congregations of
St John with St Mark
and Christ Church

Everyone is welcome

Sunday 29 January

at 10.30 am

at Christ Church



and every 5th Sunday (in alternating venues)



Everyone is very welcome to put their toe in the water to test out the **Churches Together in Bury** group at any of the bi-monthly meetings.

January 16th will be the AGM – look out for confirmation of the venue. If you would like a lift please contact Barbara Taylor.

Appeal

An appeal on behalf of Eagles Wing, who this Christmas are appealing for items including: sanitary towels, babies' nappies, stationery for children, selection boxes.

These are needed by 15th December so any contributions you have, please bring to church by Sunday 11th December which gives time to take them down to Bury URC.



A mutual support group for asylum seekers, refugees and local people



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday			
8.30am	3 rd	Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
9.00am	All	Holy Communion (BCP)	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Family Service Holy Communion Morning Worship	Christ Church
10.30 a.m.	1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th	Holy Communion Holy Communion Morning Worship Holy Communion	St John w St Mark
10.30 a.m.	5 th	Holy Communion	Joint (venue tba)
7.00 p.m.	Final, Sunday @ Seven		Venue tba
Wednesday			
10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion		St John w St Mark
Thursday			
12.30 p.m.	The Gathering		Zoom
7.30 p.m.	Holy Communion		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.

Both churches have Fairtrade status



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.

Enquiries about baptisms or weddings / marriage banns etc or any other matter, should be made at the Parish Office held at St.John with St.Mark Church Hall any Wednesday evening between 6.30-7.00pm.

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

Check out Facebook [@christchurchwalmersley](#)
[@stjohnstmark](#)

Twitter [@cofewalmersley](#)

Instagram [cofewalmersley](#)

and YouTube [CofE Walmersley](#)

FOR YOUR DECEMBER DIARY

Thu 1	11.00am	Mothers' Union Advent Service (St Ann, Manchester)
	4.00pm	Lights Switch-on (The Priory Highbank Centre)
Sun 4		2nd of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Tue 6	7.30pm	PCC (SJM)
Wed 7	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Sat 10	7.30pm	Band Concert (CC)
Sun 11		3rd of Advent
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family and Parade Service (CC)
		Parish Communion (SJM)
Wed 14	12 noon	Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch (Red Hall)
	1.00pm	School Christmas Show (SJM Church)
Thu 15	12 noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Fri 16	7.00pm	Beer and Carols at St. James, Heywood
Sun 18		4th of Advent
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Café Church (SJM)
		Parish Communion (CC)
Fri 23	2.00pm	Moonsmile (SJM Hall) – <i>see p 16</i>
Sat 24		Christmas Eve
	7.30pm	Benefice Communion (SJM)
	11.30pm	Benefice Communion (CC)
Sun 25		Christmas Day
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)

No midweek services on Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th December

FOR YOUR JANUARY DIARY

Sun 1		The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Parish Communion (both)
Wed 4		NO Mothers' Union
Sun 8		Baptism of Christ
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Family and Parade Service (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
Sun 15		2nd of Epiphany
	8.30am	Holy Communion (SJM)
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJM) Parish Communion (CC)
Mon 16	7.30pm	Churches Together in Bury AGM (venue tba)
Tue 17	7.30pm	Deanery Synod (Zoom)
Wed 18	7.30pm	Mothers' Union (CC Hall)
Thu 19	12 noon	Third Thursday Lunch (CC Hall)
Sat 21	10.00am	#MoreThanSunday (Barritt Room)
Sun 22		3rd of Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Café Church (CC) Parish Communion (SJM)
Thu 26 – Sat 28		Pantomime (SJM) – Please see page 28 <i>(No Holy Communion at SJM on Thursday 26th)</i>
Sat 28	3.00pm	Farewell to Bishop Mark (Cathedral)
Sun 29		4th of Epiphany
	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP (CC)
	10.30am	Joint Communion Service (CC)
	7.00pm	Sunday@Seven (SJM)
Mon 30	8.00pm	Men of the Benefice (The Towler)

And even more Christmas Greetings

Wishing you peace and joy
this Christmas and through the coming year

Barbara and Bob



May God's love, joy and peace be yours
throughout this Christmas season,
and for 2023.

Margaret & John Brennan, Esme & Emmy xx

We wish everyone across the Benefice a very
Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

June and Ian xx



May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

The PCC of Christ Church

CHRIST CHURCH WALMERSLEY

invite you to a

**CHRISTMAS
BRASS BAND
CONCERT**

by

**Whitworth Vale & Healey Brass Band
in the Church**

December 10th 2022 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £8.00 (incl. refreshments)

Available in Church,

from Impressions Hair Design

(Walmersley Old Road)

or online using the QR code

