

The Saint

Benefice Magazine

2022™

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JAN-FEB-MAR 2022

Faith
Hope
Love

— THE —
BENEFICE OF
ACKWORTH AND BADSWORTH
FAITH † HOPE † LOVE

“

Statement of Mission

'We are a Benefice which has the desire to nurture a church of Faith, Hope and Love, which reflects God's presence, helping us to serve and transform the communities of which we are a part.'

~ THE BENEFICE OF ACKWORTH AND BADSWORTH ~ Who's Who ~

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<u>Self-Supporting Minister:</u>	Rev'd Mike Croft	611250
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Jean Ensor (Ackworth)	617458
	Ute Plett-Graef (Ackworth)	611244
	Jackie Dawson (Ackworth)	610800
	Karen Barker (Badsworth)	07807224859
	Alison Ferguson (Badsworth)	07547927759
<u>PCC Secretaries:</u>	Pamela Lunn (Ackworth)	615032
	Christine Punnett (Badsworth)	649252
<u>Safeguarding:</u>	Jane Siddall (Ackworth)	07969311166
	Liz Stelmach (Badsworth)	07866218304
<u>Treasurers:</u>	Dave Lunn (Ackworth)	615032
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<u>Stewardship:</u>	Deborah Barker (Ackworth)	610243
<u>Junior Church:</u>	Jackie Fox (Ackworth)	613834
<u>Children's Society:</u>	Helen Parkinson (Ackworth)	614400
<u>Little Friends:</u>	Jackie Fox (Ackworth)	613834
<u>Pastoral Team:</u>	Jackie Fox (Ackworth)	613834
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<u>Overseas Mission:</u>	Lynne Ward (Ackworth)	616384
<u>Church Flowers:</u>	Anne Hill (St Cuthbert's)	
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A very belated Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first issue of our magazine for 2022. The last two years have been a bit hit and miss with publishing. But we think we are now back on track, and able to issue a quarterly magazine on a regular basis from now on. Fingers crossed!

There are no particular themes to each issue this year. But we hope you enjoy reading the many and varied articles in this and future issues.

We were very pleased to be able to celebrate Christmas in a more normal way this year, and we hope that all of you who joined us for our services enjoyed being able to gather again.

Our next big services will be during Lent and Easter. I know! Christmas only just gone and we're thinking Easter already. We are also beginning to plan how we might celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Queen is the patron of our Parish in Ackworth, so we will be looking to mark it in some way. More news of that in the next magazine.

The wheels and cogs of the Church are moving, albeit slowly, to appoint a new Rector to the Benefice of Ackworth and Badsworth. The advert is out there, and we are awaiting responses from potential applicants. This is a confidential process, so we won't have any further news until the announcement of an appointment. We will of course keep you updated whenever we know any news.

Meanwhile, sit back, relax, and enjoy reading!

Revd. Paul Fox

Magazine Subscription is now due

As you will be aware, there was no charge for the magazine throughout 2021 as we had missed most of the issues in 2020 due to the pandemic. However, we are now up and running with our magazine production once again, so we are this year inviting you to make your contribution so that we can cover our costs.

The magazine now has four issues per year – in January, April, July and October. The cost of the magazine will now be £5 per year (£1.25 per issue). We hope that you will feel able to support this so that we can continue to keep

the magazine going. Subscriptions will be collected by our distributors, or alternatively you could make a payment directly to church in the usual ways.

Did you know that this magazine began in January 1892, when it was restarted by the Rector as the Parochial magazine, it was stated that the price of the magazine would be 1 Penny , payable at the time of receiving it or 1 Shilling in advance for the year! Also a copy of the January 1892 magazine was left at every house in the parish, with a statement that the distributors would be pleased to take the names of anyone who wished to take it in. Those were the days!

Half full? Or half empty?

We all know people who are natural optimists, those who always look on the bright side, always positive. They would have a glass half full. And we all know people who are natural pessimists, those who always see problems, always negative. They would have a glass half empty. I wonder which of these two types of people you consider yourself to be.

I know I have said elsewhere, that I see all sorts of people as I carry out work in church. I see optimists, pessimists, anxious people, worried people, frightened people, even reckless people. And the thing is, I can understand why such people may feel the way they do given the events of the last two years, in fact I don't know anyone who has not been affected in one way or another by the pandemic. But what I do see, is lots of people surviving the pandemic. And that gives me great hope. Hope in the future. As a church and as a community.

But we do still face a huge task. Covid-19 is not going away. We have to learn to live with it. Our world has changed because of the pandemic. So we face the task of learning how to live our lives again, in a new world. As individuals, as a church, and as a community.

We need to reflect, and re-evaluate our place in society. And when we think about church, we need to think, not just of what is our place, but also what is our purpose.

One of the things I used to hear was, what would Jesus think of your church today? An interesting question, but not one I can answer, because I am not in the business of second- guessing what Jesus thinks! But I think it is a question worth pondering. And there is a place in the Bible where we can look to begin exploring the answers to that question.

At the beginning of the book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we can read “letters” written to seven churches in Asia. Now, we need to be careful about interpretation in the book of Revelation, but these “letters” are worth looking at, and using, when trying to work out what is the purpose of church.

Over the coming months, our church will be providing the opportunity to have a look at these passages from Revelation, through sermons, discussions, and using on-line technology. Posing questions of ourselves, and thinking through the question of the purpose of the church, so look out for these opportunities.

For those unable to meet in person or attend our churches, we have a Facebook page where we will be posting some reflections on this theme (Ackworth Parish St Cuthbert's and All Saint's | Facebook). We also have a YouTube Channel for those who don't use Facebook (Ackworth and Badsworth Benefice - YouTube). My hope is that during this year, we can begin to live our lives again, and seek out what it means to be Christians in this new world that we find ourselves in. I hope as many people as possible will join with us in this quest. And so build our church for the future.

Let's not be half full, or half empty, but grateful that we have a glass, with something in it!

Rev. Paul Fox

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW 2021

A Thank You

The Grand Christmas Draw was a great success. Thanks for all those who supported it and purchased tickets and also to those who kindly donated prizes. The draw raised £379 for church funds.

The first 5 prizes were won as follows.

Lynne Ward - Christmas Hamper

June Fletcher – Lunch for 2 at the Brown Cow

Ellie Siddall - £20 voucher at Harpins Garden Centre Ackworth

Joyce Waites - £20 voucher at The Card Gallery Ackworth

Janet Tabener – Exciting Food Hamper

There was a grand total of 30 prizes altogether, all of which have been passed on to the winners. A full list has been posted in both churches.

Thank you for your support.

Ackworth Calendar 2022 – now only £3.

It is not too late to get an Ackworth Calendar if you need one. They are still available at All Saints Church and the price has been reduced. Why not drop into Knit and Natter on a Tuesday at 2 pm to 3.30 pm or the Coffee Morning 10 am to 12 noon on a Thursday or enquire after a Service to get yours!!

Christmas Event at All Saints' Church

As we all counted down to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, on the 11th of December, All Saints' Church welcomed members of the community to support their local church with stalls such as handmade crafts, tombolas and the serving of refreshments. This small event made a large impact, with members of the church and the wider community coming together to make this event something to remember. As I entered, I was immediately greeted with the warmth of community and Christmas tunes. People of all ages sitting with their tea and Christmas delights. A short respite from the cold with the sense of Christmas cheer all around you.

Walking through the Church, we were greeted by the handmade crafted goods that were each made with love and passion, such as the beautiful hand carved wooden items made by Derek. There was something for everyone of all ages at this event. With the funds gained going towards supporting the church through this difficult time and the community coming together and celebrating the countdown to Christmas. The love and togetherness we experience during these moments in our lives makes the Christmas season even more special. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

Caitlyn Thomas

Christmas Tree Festival

Christmas is a time for togetherness, love, and reflection, we celebrate the saviour in our homes but also within the community. The Christmas Tree Festival was an event for communities within Ackworth to come together and each decorate their own trees, with groups putting their heart and individuality into each decoration on their Christmas tree. Showcasing their creative Christmas trees, from the Needles and Pins Santa extravaganza to All Saints' Knit and Natter.

From young to old, everyone demonstrated passion for the holiday season. Seeing these trees first-hand brought a smile to my face and the joy and

excitement for the Christmas season motivated each group to show off their beautiful and stunning creations. I asked people who attended the Christmas tree festival about their thoughts and feelings during the event. They wished to remain anonymous, but their reflections highlighted the festival and their hope for it to return next year.

“The Trees were lovely, especially the one made by the kids. They put so much heart into it and it really brings a smile to my face.”

“I hope they do this event next year, would love to contribute my own tree to the event. Maybe local community shops can decorate their own trees. Oh, I can’t believe I didn’t think about doing it, so many ideas are rushing through my head!”

Every tree that was shown off during the festival was a real reflection of the talent that is within the community of Ackworth. However, a particularly powerful addition was the memory tree. A tree where those who have come to see the Christmas Tree Festival can take a paper ornament and write down a name of a person they are thinking of as we get closer to Christmas. I wrote

down my ‘nanny in the lift’ a title me and my sister gave her when we were younger. That moment was special to me, and I am sure was special to others who wrote down a name of those they love. It gave me an opportunity to remember someone I had lost in body, but will never lose in spirit.

This event was a great addition to the Christmas festivities within the community and was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. Alongside the outdoor and indoor nativity trails being a fun challenge. I am one of the many who hope for its return next year and that the events the local churches held this year will only grow more and more.

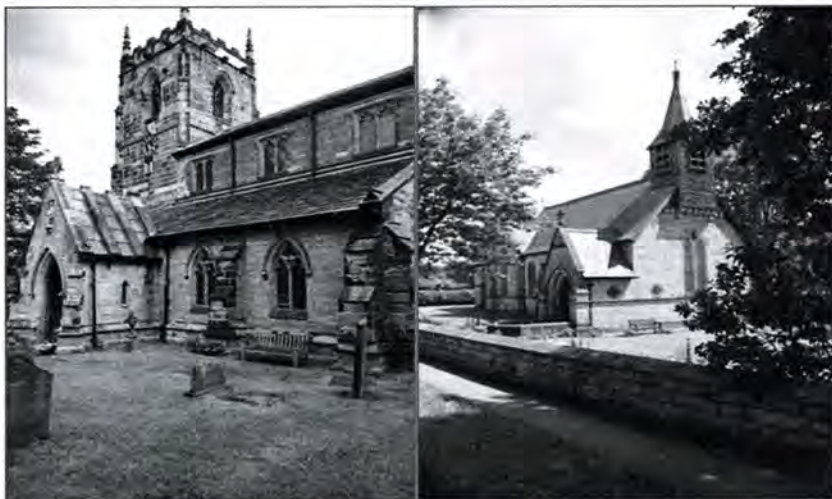
Caitlyn Thomas



Preserving our Heritage and Equipping our Churches for the 21st Century

Is this something that you are interested in? We are looking for people to help us in planning repairs and maintenance in our church buildings and also in planning the future development of our churches.

If you would like to find out more, or become involved and join our Fabric Group, please contact Jean Ensor (Church Warden) or Stuart Ensor (Chair of Fabric Group) on 01977 616183. Thank you.



Watching Garden Birds

Cold dreary days in January, I must admit, are the ones we like the least, however, they do offer up an opportunity to watch nature from our kitchen window.

One such day was Saturday 15th January, cold, foggy and generally dull! but full of colour and activity with our garden birds busily feeding away. One thing we have both learned during recent lockdowns and social distancing initiatives is to explore nature and no place better than a cosy kitchen on a day like today.

During the last weekend in January the RSPB are again organising their Great British Bird Watch which we have done many times in the past (more information at rspb.org.uk) so we had a practice run this morning and were

amazed in the course of an hour to spot twenty two different bird species as detailed hereunder

Magpie, Jay, Blue tit, Great tit, Chaffinch, House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Dunlin, Robin, Kestrel (no he didn't get a meal), Crow, Nuthatch, Goldfinch, Collared Dove, Woodpigeon, Long tailed tit, Wren, Pheasant, Moorhen, Coal tit, Starling and Feral pigeon.

We were particularly pleased to see both Jays and Nuthatches which are essentially woodland birds alongside the more common visitors to one of the many bird tables we have in the garden. We are hopeful that the two nuthatches might take up residence and eventually nest in the garden as do many other birds.

I wonder if other readers might like to add the birds they have seen to this list?

Stella & Ian Hall



Volunteer Gardeners Needed -

You will be given instructions and do not need to have the knowledge yourself!

We are looking for people to help us to keep the grounds in trim at St Cuthbert's and All Saints' Churches. We are already indebted to Jim Lamprey and John, who both work incredibly hard in looking after parts of the grounds in both churches. Their work will hopefully continue.

However, in the summer months, we need to trim back shrubs, tidy around graves and monuments and generally keep summer growth under control. We would like to set up a team of people to work together (maybe one day a month) to tidy up the grounds in both churches.

In addition to a bit of graft, we can offer you fun and friendship, with the possibility of a shared picnic lunch and maybe a celebratory beverage at the end of the day.



Please contact either Jane Siddall (siddall93@sky.com) or Julie Davis (j.e.davis9@btinternet.com) if you are able to help. Alternatively give either of us a ring on the contact numbers given in the magazine.

Thank you.
Julie & Jane

Did you find the missing pound??

In the last magazine I asked if you could find the missing pound? It was quite easy so I expect that you all worked it out. If not, here is the answer I promised.

The pound was not missing. Having returned £1 to each of the 3 men the bell boy kept the remaining £2 for himself. Although the room only cost £25 now the men had each paid £9, a total of £27 and the bell boy pocketed the rest (£2)

The Minimum Wage

A Man owned a small farm in Scotland. Some years ago, the Inland Revenue thought he wasn't paying proper wages to his staff and so sent out an Inspector to interview him

He met the farmer and asked for a list of employees and how much he paid them.

“Well,” said the farmer, “There is my farmhand who has been with me for 3 years. I pay him £200 per week plus free room and board.

Also, the cook has been here for 18 months and I pay her £150 per week plus free room and board.

Then of course there is the Half-wit. He works for about 18 hours a day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about £10 a week and pays for his own room and board, but I buy him a bottle of whiskey every Saturday night. He also occasionally sleeps with my wife.”

“Well that is who I need to speak to then” said the Inspector “The half-wit!”

“That would be me then,” replied the farmer!!

OH DEAR!!! – Just a thought?

Wedding Bells are ringing again at St Cuthbert's Church!

Following the lifting of Covid restrictions we are delighted that we once again have a considerable number of weddings planned for this year and next year. We look forward to supporting many couples on their wedding day and in their future marriage together.

However, this has created a small problem for us which we are hoping that you may be able to help us solve. So that we can make sure that the church is ready for all the Wedding Days, we need to clean the church the day before the wedding (usually on Friday for a Saturday wedding). We do have a loyal band of volunteers who clean our churches regularly, but we really need more help to cope with the extra work created by having a wedding nearly every weekend over the summer.

If you feel that you could help by joining our cleaning volunteers, then please get in touch with any of our church wardens – Jean, Ute or Jackie (details in the contacts page of the magazine). Maybe you could encourage a friend to join you and volunteer together?

Many thanks,
Julie Davis



EASTER

When writing this, I have just seen the first Snowdrops appearing, hopefully followed in the next couple of months by Daffodils and Tulips. Then we will know that Spring has arrived. Lent will be upon us before we know it. Easter is one of my favourite times of year, despite losing two close family members around this time. After the weeks of Lent and sadness of Good Friday we have the joy of remembering that our Lord overcame death and rose in Glory on Easter Day.

A few years ago, whilst I was getting two of my Grandchildren ready for the Palm Sunday Service, I asked Joe, then four, what he knew about Easter. He

thought for a minute and then he told me he knew about the Easter Bunny. I asked if he knew about Jesus and what happened on the first Eastertime? He said not, so I explained that Jesus had died on the cross, in fact he had been killed by his enemies who were afraid of him and the things he said. Before I could carry on, he looked at me in shock and horror and said, "But Gran, he was only born at Christmas!" Hmmm.

The following Easter and now a sophisticated five-year-old and in school, he informed me that the day before he died Jesus had taken his friends out for Afternoon Tea. Immediately a vision appeared in my mind. Our Lord sitting in Cromwell's Tearoom presiding over a large teapot and plates of cakes, with the disciples sitting around the table with him. I still think of this when I think of the Last Supper, despite visiting the building in Jerusalem where the real event is thought to have taken place.

Jackie Dawson

My First Visit to Fairburn

Sometimes in life a memory stays
Of things that touched our heart
A special place, a melody
Can make us stop and start
To think of special times long gone
With family and friends
Re-kindled thoughts can fill our
minds
Why did they have to end?
The treasured moments of our life
We store deep in our mind
But once released, re-capture
the things we left behind.
One moment I remember
as a child of only nine
was my first visit to Fairburn

What a wonderland divine
The beauty stretched before me
The lake, the fields, the trees

The quaint row of cottages
The birds upon the breeze
The gliding swans on water
their feathers white as snow
The colourful wild flowers.

I darted to and fro
Onto the path, over the bridge
to the water-through I went
Such an idyllic place for me
Where childhood dreams were
spent.

Thelma Millar

Beyond the Veil

His Glory hid beyond the veil
I could not see the precious light
Though patiently he bore his time

‘twas long before I saw his might.
In darkness dwelt I, locked and bound
A sinner held in bondage chains
Without God’s grace and mercy full

No entry into heaven gains.
But lo! He searches for the lost
And seeks me out into the fold.

Oh wondrous love of Christ my lord
What glory now my eyes behold!

Thelma Millar

Thursday Club Returns

We are pleased to announce that the Thursday Club is about to start once again, it will recommence in March and it will take place on the second Thursday of each month until September.

The Thursday Club was established to provide a social event for the Parish and is an opportunity to meet old and new friends and enjoy an evening out. At each meeting of the Thursday Club, there is some form of entertainment such as an informal concert, a demonstration, or a talk. We aim to provide a varied programme so that hopefully there will be something to appeal to everyone. The entertainment usually lasts about 45 minutes and is followed with refreshments and a chance to chat.

After the last two years of being in limbo due to Covid, we hope that you will feel able to come and join us. We ALL need this opportunity to improve our mental health and wellbeing by getting together again.

We particularly extend this invitation to our friends across the Benefice in Badsworth and the surrounding area. Our first Thursday Club of this year will be on

**Thursday 10th March 2022 at 7.30pm
at All Saints' Church**

Please come along and join in the fun!



Spring Fair

Saturday 19th March 2022

2pm – 4pm

at

All Saints' Church



Please support this event by coming along, and also by providing gifts/donations in advance for the following stalls:

Cake stall and refreshment stall

Craft stall - homemade items for Mother's Day or Easter

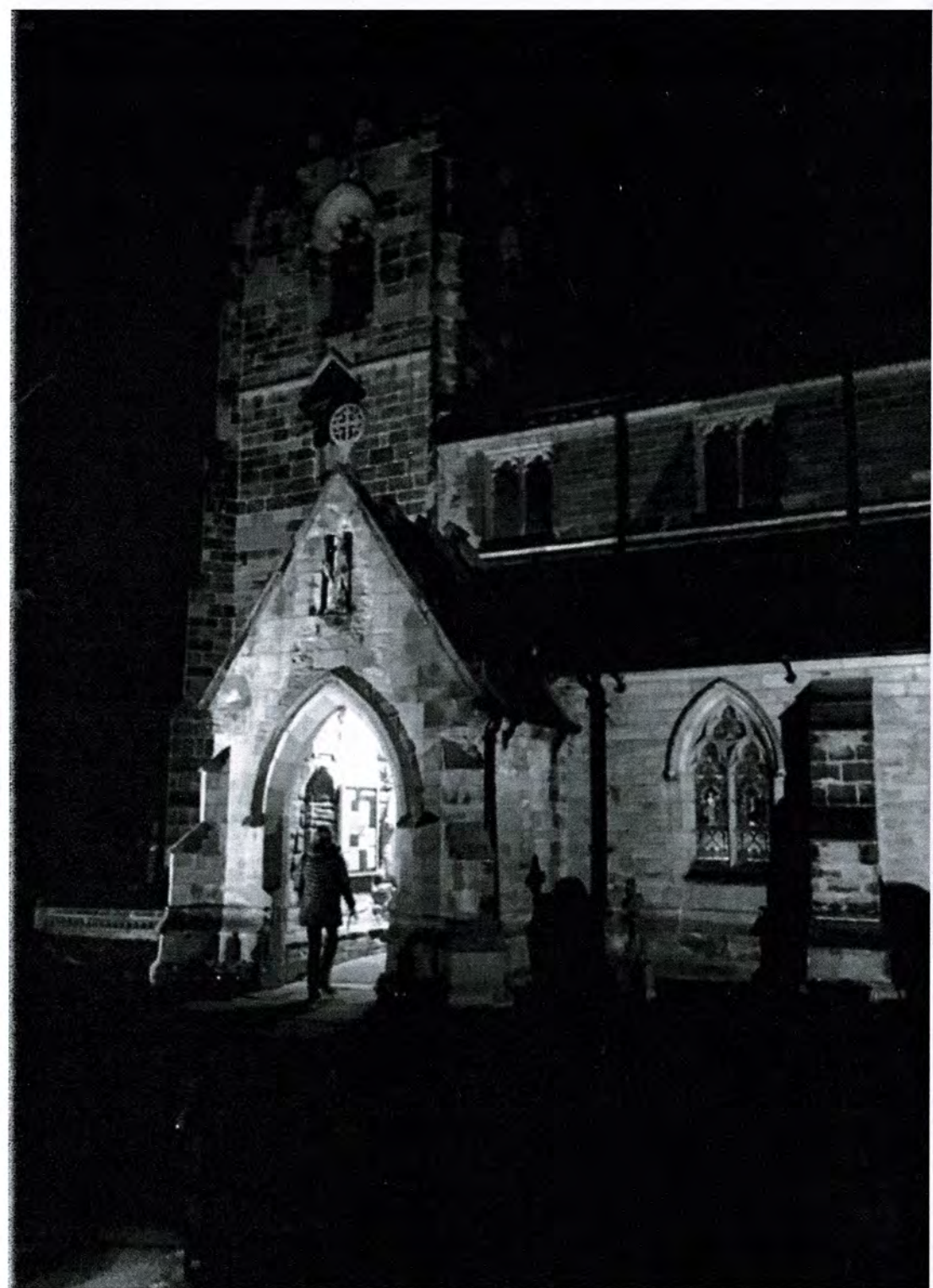
Prize Every Time – on a Spring Theme
(donations in a gift bag please)

Tombola

Raffle

Thank you

We hope to see you there!



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Hippocrates: Let Food Be Your Medicine ...

And Let Medicine Be Your Food

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(Two Pillowcase, Fitted Sheet & Duvet Cover)

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Statement of Mission:

We are a Benefice which has the desire to nurture a church of Faith, Hope and Love, which reflects God's presence, helping us to serve and transform the communities of which we are a part.'

Regular Service Times:

- 8.30am Eucharist All Saints'
- 9.30am Eucharist St Cuthbert's
- 10.30am Morning Worship All Saints'
- 11am Eucharist St Mary's
- 3.30pm Afternoon Worship All Saints'

Baptisms/Weddings:

Enquiries about weddings, banns of marriage and baptisms, please contact 01977 599979 or 07874 607148

Book of Remembrance:

If you would like your loved one's name adding to our Book of Remembrance, please contact Lynne Ward (Ackworth) 01977 616384 or Margaret Spacey (Badsworth) 01977 648491.

'Little Friends' Mother and Toddler Group:

Meet first and third Thursday each month at All Saints' Church 1.30pm to 3pm. Please contact Jackie Fox for further information 01977 613834.

Ivy Hollingworth

Following Ivy's funeral on 6th September, 2021, her family would like to thank all her friends and neighbours who sent cards and their good wishes. As well as a donation for church, £170 was raised for the Salvation Army in her memory.

Christmas Event at All Saints' Church - see page 6

