



Ackworth Parish Magazine



October 2010/November 2010
50p per copy (£3 per year)

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

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Dear Friends,

In October we find one of the more popular church celebrations of the year; a festival widely celebrated by many non-church groups also; Harvest Thanksgiving. Unfortunately however, the true meaning behind this festival seems to have got lost in the mists of time. Many will remember it as a time when we brought gifts of fruit and vegetables neatly packaged up to school or Church to contribute to a wonderful display. Following the service these gifts were then distributed, mostly to the elderly of the community. Whilst this practice was in the spirit of the harvest celebrations mentioned in the Old Testament (i.e. giving a proportion of the harvest to the poor) the meaning seems to have faded in the memory.

In essence, the feast of the harvest (see Exodus ch. 23 v 16) was a thanksgiving to God by giving of the first fruits of the crops to the poor. This support of the poor ran through many of the Jewish laws, particularly those connected with Harvest. Farmers are told that when they gather in the Harvest, they are to leave some of the crops for the gleaners (poor people who followed the harvesters to pick up any bits that were left over or missed); see Leviticus 19 vv 9&10. So, the practice of giving some of the harvest to the poor in thanks for what God has given to us, is a long established practice.

This charitable principle is firmly embedded in culture, secular as well as sacred, so what does the celebration of Harvest have to teach us in a more distinctive spiritual case? In an environment where we don't need to worry too much about how good the harvest has been, perhaps it is an opportunity to consider how lucky and blessed we are in our rich Western culture. Maybe we could use this time to remember how dependent we are upon God's mercy, not just in the harvest of the earth but also in life itself. In other words, not just the bounty and beauty of God's creation but also for the gifts of good health and the senses with which to appreciate his creation; as the harvest hymn goes; 'He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell'. Perhaps a good motto for our Harvest celebrations might be 'Think and Thank'. Think about all the blessings that God has bestowed on us and thank Him by sharing those blessings with others who may not have been so richly blessed and thank God in our praise and in our service to Him.

May God bless you all richly

Paul

Harvest Time

Driving around on holiday recently and watching the farmers move from field to field gathering in the years crops reminded me that harvest festival was fast approaching.

Ever since primitive man learned to cultivate his own crops, harvest festivals — thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful and abundant harvest have been carried out throughout the world.

Harvest Festival is one of the oldest known festivals. In the UK it is traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon around the time of the Autumn Equinox in September. Unlike the USA and Canada, the UK does not have a national holiday for Harvest Festival.

The celebration of Harvest in Britain dates back to pre-Christian times when the success of the crop governed the lives of the people. Saxon farmers offered the first cut sheaf of corn to one of their gods of fertility, in order to safeguard a good harvest the following year. The last sheaf was thought to contain the Spirit of the Corn, and its cutting was usually accompanied by the ritual sacrifice of an animal - often a hare caught hiding in the corn. Later, a model hare made from straw was used to represent the continuity of the Spirit. This practice eventually led to the making of plaited 'corn dollies', symbolising the goddess of the grain. These were hung from the rafters in farmhouses until the next year. When the harvest was in, a celebratory supper was held to which the whole community was invited.

These traditions continued after Christianity arrived in Britain, sometimes in a slightly different form, and there were ceremonies and rituals at the beginning as well as the end of the harvest and church bells were rung on every day of the harvest. A corn dolly was made from the last sheaf of corn harvested - a figure made of plaited straw, which was held aloft and carried with great ceremony to the celebrations - and it often had a place of honour at the banquet table, and was kept until the following spring. The horse bringing the last cart load was decorated with garlands of flowers and colourful ribbons. A magnificent harvest feast was held at the farmer's house and games played to celebrate the end of the harvest.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843,

when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. This led to the custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

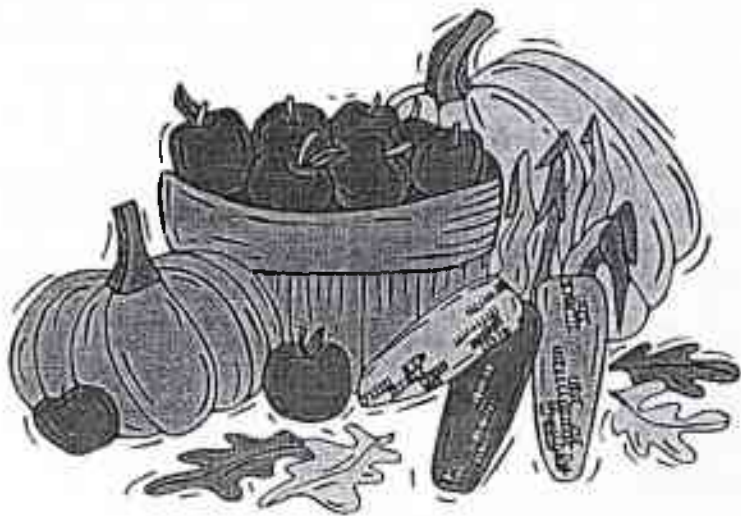
The traditional ways of celebrating the harvest still survive today in rural communities. Nowadays, children also take gifts of fruit and vegetables to church and present them during the harvest service whilst the harvest hymn 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand' is sung. After the service, these gifts are distributed to the elderly and needy of the community.

Harvest festival has changed a great deal over the years but however people remember it the purpose still remains the same, to give thanks to God for his gifts to us. We no longer live in small rural communities and supermarkets have taken the place of locally grown produce but we still have much to be grateful for.

The weekend of Friday 9 to Sunday 11 October this year is a major harvest celebration for both St. Cuthbert and All Saints churches in the village as we put on weekend long activities for everyone to enjoy. Keep an eye out for the posters telling you more about the events. Harvest has always been a time for communities to get together and celebrate the season and the gifts that came from it and this is an opportunity for us to share with everyone the fruits of God's harvest given to us.

David Teece

Curate, St. Cuthbert and All Saints



TWO SHORT EXTRACTS FROM SAYWELL

FRIENDS' BURIAL GROUND 1707

There is in Low Ackworth, at the bottom of Lea Lane, a small enclosure surrounded by a high wall, which has been used for nearly two hundred years by the Society of Friends as their place of interment. Inside, the smoothly cut sward, the parallel rows of small uniform slabs, and the neatly trimmed shrubs and beds, impress the visitor with a transient desire to select it as his lasting resting place. On the north side of the entrance gate inside is the following inscription:-

'Philip Austwick gave for a Buriall place to the People called Quakers in 1707, 12 yards square of this ground'.

And on the south:-

'228 square yards of this ground was purchased of John Barffin, 1780'

The tomb of the original donor has been carefully preserved. It is situated near the centre of the ground, and is in shape a large 'table tomb', the inscription thereon being quite legible:'

'Here lyeth the body of Philip AVSTWICK, who died April 21, 1710'

(There is a register of numerous men, women and children recorded in the Register of interments.)

1848 LOW ACKWORTH BURIAL GROUND

About forty years ago the Plymouth Brethren sect was somewhat numerous in Ackworth. At the rear of Mrs. Howard's School in Low Ackworth, there is a small burial ground, within iron railings, provided by Miss Howard's brother, Mr. Luke Howard, for poor persons of the above sect to which Mr. Howard, originally a Friend, belonged in the later part of his life. The register of burials in the ground is unfortunately missing, but it appears from the fourteen monumental slabs now standing, that at least a score of persons were interred within this little burial ground of nearly thirty years. Of course there were other burials which are only indicated by raised mounds, but it is hoped that the names of those who lie beneath, are all written in the Book of Life.

(There are the names, dates and ages of nineteen men and women recorded there.)

BURNING COALS

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks the vicar decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The vicar found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a chair near the fireplace and waited.

The vicar made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the vicar took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone.

Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The vicar glanced at his watch and realized that it was time to go. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the vicar reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church on Sunday.'

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little.

Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

If you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything!

Anon

LOADS OF MANURE

Large quantity of well-rotted manure available to anyone who has a trailer or is willing to bag it for themselves. Access for cars is possible. Free apart from donation to Church Restoration Fund.
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EMIL GOES TO LINDISFARNE (HOLY ISLAND)

(WITH THE HELP OF RYHILL ST. JAMES)

Wednesday 4th August dawned dull, gloomy and wet; a good day for ducks and as for a day to go on a pilgrimage to Holy Island in Northumbria, not very promising. Nevertheless I joined a gaggle of ducks of the human variety at Normington's corner on the boundary between Havercroft and Ryhill at 8.10 am that morning. The 'gaggle' comprised about fifteen people ranging in age from 8 to 80 patiently waiting for the coach which was to take us to Lindisfarne. Our journey began and after two further pick-ups at St. James Church and St. Luke's we rode the few miles to the M62 and A1 (M) and turned northwards for Durham and a coffee break. Miles of motorway later saw us leave the motorway behind at Washington and cross the Tyne from Gateshead to Newcastle with an excellent view down river of the famous Tyne Railway Bridge and Shipyards. The rain stopped and blue sky greeted us to the north! An hour later saw us cross the East Coast Rail line (level-crossing characteristically with barriers down with a short wait to endure) and approach the little hamlet of Beal, the last habitation on the mainland before the island. We turned a corner over a small hillock and there was Holy Island stretched out in front of us. Of course there was one last obstacle to navigate: the famous causeway.

The tide was out but it still felt strange to be on a road the tarmac of which was level with the sand and mud and pools either side thereof! Soon we reached the village of Holy Island (Lindisfarne is strictly speaking the name of the island, the village is called Holy Island) and found the car park. After noting the time to be back at the coach we stepped out into the brilliant sunshine

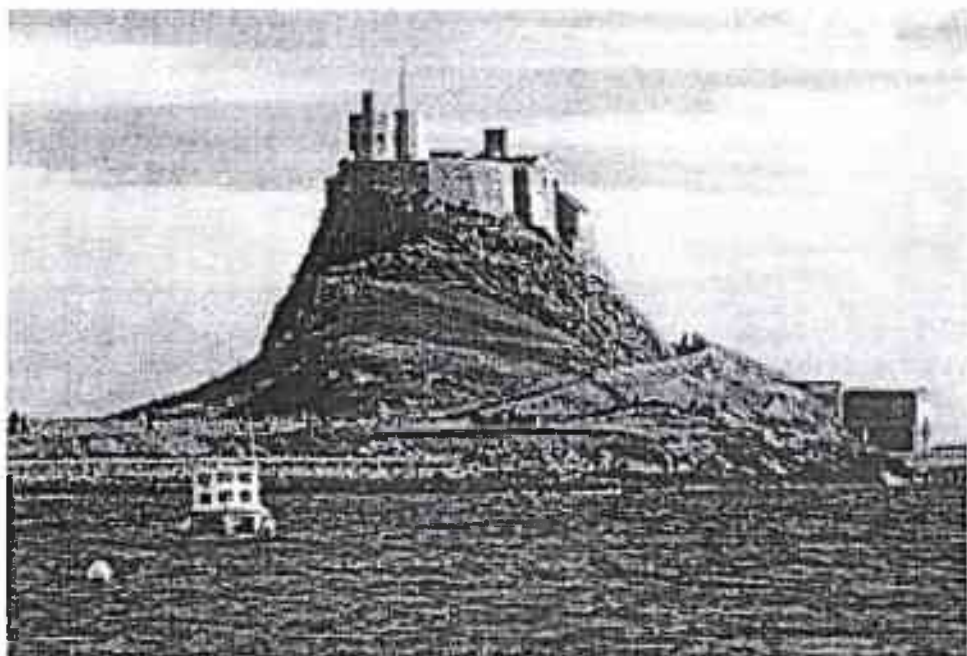
Lindisfarne and Holy Island lived up to my expectations. Although a little on the pricey side, the welcome from the locals was very friendly. Everybody was very helpful. Of course there were crowds of people but they were polite and accommodating. What a contrast to the crowds in many tourist haunts who are renowned for pushing and shoving one! Even the local wild birds (not just sparrows and starlings) were tame and friendly.

I felt unable to visit Lindisfarne Castle because of my disability but it is worth noting that there is a shuttle bus from the village to the castle at a reasonable price and English concessionary bus passes are accepted.

Lindisfarne Priory is quite interesting for those who like historical places of interest, but my own favourite must be St. Mary's, the parish church with its calm, prayerful atmosphere. Within the south aisle is a sculpture of Lindisfarne monks carrying St.

Cuthbert's coffin: it is very imposing at slightly larger than life-size and adds enormously to the gentle calmness of the interior. The church dates back to Saxon times, of course, and the chancel arch is recognizably Norman. Evening Prayer with Father Peter, our vicar at Ryhill and Charlston, at 4pm was my personal highlight, as our prayers joined those of countless pilgrims down the ages.

Emil Brown



ACKWORTH CARERS' GROUP



Enjoy a
cuppa and
a chat

Monthly
Activities

Meet
Tricia Lynch
Carers Support
Worker

3rd Friday each month
1.30pm - 3.00pm

at

College Lane Surgery
Barnsley Road, Ackworth



Contact the Elderly
Reg Charity no 244681
www.contact-the-elderly.org

A national charity, Contact The Elderly is hoping to organise a local group here in Ackworth.

The organisers wish to contact volunteers who would be prepared to host a tea party, in their own home, just once a year.

Drivers who have a few hours to spare one Sunday afternoon each month will be needed for transport.

The group also needs to contact Elderly people in Ackworth who are aged over 75, reasonably fit and active, who might like to join this organisation. So, if you know of anyone in Ackworth, particularly people without a great deal of local family support, then the organisers need to know

So, if you have time to spare or you would like further information about this new venture please contact
Sue Wilkins
Tel. 01977 615608



All Saints' Improvement Works have been completed.

The improvements at All Saints' church are now completed and if you have been to the church recently we are sure you will be very impressed with our new servery kitchen and the spacious new toilet. If you haven't yet seen the improvements please drop in for a Sunday or a Wednesday morning service or, if you cannot make it to a service, call in at the Thursday Coffee Morning 10 am to 12 am for a cup of coffee or tea (with scones and cakes). The church is now fully accessible to everyone.

The new works will be consecrated by the Bishop of Wakefield, The Rt. Revd. Stephen Platten at a Celebratory service and Eucharist on Sunday 24 October 2010 at 10.15 am. All are welcome to attend the service – there will be no service at St Cuthbert's on that Sunday.

The improvements which are intended to benefit the whole community of Ackworth have been helped by a grant from The Bishop's Development Fund of £1500 and a donation of £3000 from the Duchy of Lancaster, our Patron. It is however the generosity of parishioners and some local businesses who have given either single or regular donations to The Repairs, Restoration and Re-Ordering Appeal that we launched in 2001, that have allowed us to fund these improvements and the ramp for the disabled at All Saints' following the completion of essential repairs at St Cuthbert's (which were assisted by an English Heritage Lottery Grant).

A big thank you therefore to everyone for all the donations and efforts put in over the years but a particular mention must be made of the team of ladies who have, since 2001, provided their time, money and effort making cakes and scones for everyone to enjoy and chat at the Thursday coffee morning, which has been held almost every week since 2001 and will continue to run in the new pleasant and more spacious surroundings. Without the donations from the Thursday coffee morning we would not have been able to complete the work that was needed.

It is the intention now that there is heating, a toilet and kitchen facilities at All Saints' to invite and allow new or existing groups in the village and the surrounding area to use All Saint's Church on either a regular or one-off basis as a general benefit to the local community, or to provide a pleasant meeting place for groups needing a place to meet others with similar needs. We would certainly encourage any requests from persons wishing to form new groups where people can meet together for their mutual benefit.

Any requests to use the facilities at All Saints' should in the first instance be made to Bill Branston (Churchwarden) on 01977 610590 who will be pleased to discuss your requirements and show you the facilities. A donation would normally be asked for to cover our heating and lighting costs.

Readings Rota for October 2010, November 2010

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	All Saints'
03/10/2010	Proper 22	Lamentations 1:1-6	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:5-10	Jane Siddall	Mr I Hall
10/10/2010	Harvest Thanksgiving	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Philippians 4:4-9	John 6:25-35	Sue Hartley	Dr McWilliam
17/10/2010	Proper 24	Jeremiah 31:27-34	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8	Keith Shaw	Mrs S Hall
24/10/2010	Proper 25	Joel 2:23-32	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-14	Jane Gosney	Mrs M Walker
31/10/2010	All Saints' Day	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31	Mr I Hall
07/11/2010	3rd Before Advent	Job 19:23-27a	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38	Anne Bullock	Dr McWilliam
14/11/2010	2nd Before Advent	Malachi 4:1-2a	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19	Anne Atack	Mrs S Hall
21/11/2010	Christ the King	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43	Pauline Wong	Mrs M Walker

ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

OCTOBER 3 RD	FLOWER FUND
OCTOBER 10 TH	HARVEST WEEKEND
OCTOBER 17 TH	FLOWER FUND
OCTOBER 24 TH	FLOWER FUND
OCTOBER 31 ST	FLOWER FUND
NOVEMBER 7 TH	JOYCE MORRELL
NOVEMBER 14 TH	MARY WALKER
NOVEMBER 21 ST	ADA PRITCHARD
NOVEMBER 28 TH	ADVENT



ST. CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

OCTOBER 3 RD	JEAN BURT
OCTOBER 10 TH	HARVEST WEEKEND BETTY FELL
OCTOBER 17 TH	WEDDING
OCTOBER 24 TH	STELLA LEE
OCTOBER 31 ST	JEAN CLAYTON
NOVEMBER 7 TH	ADA PRITCHARD
NOVEMBER 14 TH	ANN HILL
NOVEMBER 21 ST	ANN HILL
NOVEMBER 28 TH	ADVENT

BRASSES



IN THE STEPS OF THE BENEDICTINE MONKS

Last year we gave an account of our waterborne visit to St. Benet's Abbey beside the River Bure in Norfolk and as a result we arranged to attend the open air Annual Service, (which has been held there each August since 1939) on August 1st this year.

The ruins of the Abbey lie at a distance from the main road, but a convenient, if narrow, farm lane led us over the marshes to a field set aside for parking, a short distance away. We were concerned that the steep step into the field would cause damage to the exhaust pipe but we need not have worried. We arrived, without the picnic chairs everyone else seemed to be carrying, well in advance of the start of the service, making ourselves as comfortable as possible on one of the ruined walls. We soon moved on as we had sat upon an ants' nest. The next chosen spot was amongst numerous grasshoppers but these were friendly and left us alone.

We arrived in bright sunshine but ominous black clouds were approaching. We could not escape the idiocies of Health & Safety as we were handed a risk assessment, which reminded us that care should be taken when walking near the river and that cowpats are slippery! There were about 300 present, some enjoying picnics with bottles of wine!

The service was led by the Prior of the Abbey in the presence of the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Reverend Graham James who is also the Abbot of St. Benet's. He arrived by sailing wherry and we wondered what numerous hire boat passengers thought of being confronted by a Bishop in full regalia on their journey upstream. He was met at a landing stage by the Brothers of St. Benet's, a group of local men who meet regularly for worship, prayer, study and fellowship and led in procession behind a crucifer and banner uphill to the High Altar, which is surmounted by a large cross of Sandringham oak. There followed a simple service of four hymns, three familiar and one not so, accompanied by a Salvation Army Band and a choir. There were prayers, including two of St. Benedict's, and these were led by representatives of the Roman Catholic, Methodist & United Reform Churches. There was a Bible

reading and an address given by the Bishop.

As the service began so did the rain and we were treated to the sight of the Bishop preaching whilst holding a small irregular shaped umbrella of the type which usually fits into a handbag. He had to remove his mitre in order to fit underneath. We have heard him speak before and last time his theme was 'Jokes from the Bible'. He did not disappoint this time with a most amusing and thought provoking address. He began by saying that the rain should remind us of our Baptism He went on when referring to the Parable of the Sower, which had been the subject of the Bible Reading, to liken a Church member who joins in enthusiastically, is on the PCC within six months and moved on within twelve to 'some fell on stony ground 'Towards the end of the service, just as the rain had ceased, the Brothers sang the Nunc Dimittis. We were asked in this place of placid waters to pray for the people of Pakistan who had suffered from the worst monsoon floods in living memory that very day

It was an inspiring occasion to worship in a place that had been used for this purpose since 800 AD, surrounded by nature's beauty. A herd of cows came over to see what was going on as Marsh Harriers circled overhead.

Sue & Colin Tanswell.



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!
SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER
ST. CUTHBERT'S VESTRY
Making of Christingles at 2:00pm
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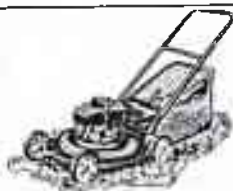
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JEAN'S CRUNCHY SWEETCORN SALAD

1 tin of Sweetcorn

A quarter of a cucumber (diced)

1 small bag of dry roasted peanuts

A handful of raisins

Mayonnaise

Mix all the ingredients together a couple of hours before needed to allow the ingredients to blend. This is a nice accompaniment to a meat salad.

(Not for people with a nut allergy)

J.R.

I WISH I HADN'T SAID THAT

The Princess of Wales, during a walkabout in South Australia in 1993, tousled the hair of a little boy in the crowd.

Princess: Why aren't you in school today?

The boy: I was sent home because I've got head lice.

Anyone in his position needs to be whiter than white. (Said by M.P. Jill Knight about Nelson Mandela on Radio Ulster in 1990)

There's no smoke without mud being thrown about. (Edwina Currie)

Headmasters of schools tend to be men. (Clare Short)

Clearly the Prime Minister's devious hand is afoot. (John Smith)

I can assure you that I definitely might take action. (William Whitelaw)

The green belt is a Labour achievement and we intend to build on it. (John Prescott)

The Prime Minister was said to be very concerned about the large amount of litter as she swept down the M4 recently. (BBC Radio 4 1987)

I'm a great fan of baseball. I watch a lot of games on the radio. (President Gerald Ford)

I have opinions of my own-strong opinions-but I don't always agree with them. (George Bush Senior)

How nice to see you all here. (Roy Jenkins addressing prisoners on a visit to a London jail)

Pastoral Committee Update

You would be well advised these days to check the identity of anyone calling who claimed to be checking your gas or electricity meters or selling at the door! The Pastoral Committee is able to co-ordinate practical help, lifts and friendly support for people who may need this on a short or longer term basis. If this is you – perhaps, for example, you have a hospital appointment that you know you will struggle to get to and have rung Jane to find someone who can provide this – we are aware that in some instances this might mean that the person who volunteers is not someone you have met before. We will make every effort to make sure that someone you know who is a church member introduces you first, but volunteers will also have an identity card with their photograph so that you can be confident who they are. If you have any queries at all, ring the Rector (number on the back of the card) to have your mind put at rest! Contact Jane Gosney (793579) or Lynne Ward (616384) for more information if you can offer help or would appreciate some support in the short or longer term. Just tell us what you can offer – one afternoon a month or occasional lifts, for example – or what you need.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6th November 2010

10-00am to 12 noon

Low Ackworth Community Centre

Raffle and other stalls

£1 including coffee and biscuits

PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPICE

Please bring your friends

From the Registers

Baptisms

- July 11th Grace Diane Margaret Howell & Charlotte Rose Howell
Olivia Grace Gittins
- July 25th Bethany Rose Lloyd
- August 8th Cheryl Jane Shepherd
Jamie Leigh Davies
- August 29th Rubie Florence Hepworth
Roxy Mae Sykes

Marriages

- July 2nd David James Tetchner and Jennifer Marie Lee
- July 2nd Harold & Beryl Tait-50th anniversary celebration
- August 10th Stanley Hodgson and Moira Rennoldson
- August 15th Sam William Fisher and Rebecca Elizabeth Sewell
- August 29th James Richard Barnett and Sarah Kay Moses

Funerals

- July 8th Roy Hepworth (84) 79 Pontefract Road, High Ackworth
- July 19th Horace Howitt (95) 38 Moor Top Ave, Ackworth Moor Top
- July 26th Gladys Dixon (91) Riverside Court N.H. Knottingly
- August 3rd June Chapman (76) New Priory N.H. Featherstone
- August 11th George Askew Pattison (89) 6, Orchard Drive, Ackworth Moor Top
- August 17th James Anthony Lyons (70) 21, Hill Dive, High Ackworth
- August 24th Barbara Anne Heywood (71) 10, Andrews Grove, Ackworth Moor Top

Mass Times for The Parish Of The Sacred Heart RC Father Anthony Fenton

Sacred Heart, Hemsworth, Sunday, 10:45am
Saturday Night Mass, 6:00pm

ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday	10.30am	Worship
	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	9.30—11.15am	Parents and Toddlers Group
Wednesday	9.30—11.15am	Parents and Toddlers Group

All services and meetings are held at the Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane.

Sunday Services for October and November

Sunday Services

8.30am	Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sunday BCP service)	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
3.30pm	Evensong (except 3rd Sunday in month)	All Saints'
3.30pm	Evensong with Healing Prayer (third Sunday in month)	All Saints'

Wednesday Service

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
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Special Services

- 31 October All Saints Day
10.15 am All Saints' - Patronal Festival
joint service of Holy Communion
5.00pm St Cuthbert's - Commemoration of
the Faithful Departed.
NOTE: No 8.30am service at All Saints or
10.15 am service at St Cuthbert's
- 14 November Remembrance Sunday
8.30am All Saints' - Holy Communion
10.00am St Cuthbert's - Holy Communion
(said)
11.00am St Cuthbert's - Service of
Remembrance
NOTE: Wintertime Evensong Services change
to 3.30pm.
- 28 November Advent Sunday
4.00pm All Saints' - Christingle
Service
6.00pm St Cuthbert's - Christingle
Service
NOTE: Morning services as usual no 3.30pm
Evensong