



Ackworth Parish Magazine



December 2011/January 2012
50p per copy (£3 per year)

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

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Dear Friends,

We come round again to the greatest festival in the Christian calendar, the birth of our Saviour.

Oddly unlike many other of the churches festivals it is also one which is celebrated with equal, if not greater, enthusiasm by the secular world. Before December begins we start to see the rounds of parties, television advertisements, decorations and special offers in shops and so on. Early in November I received three Christmas cards and have known for some weeks that the turning of the Christmas Lights in Ackworth will be on Friday 25th November! It seems never ending and hardly surprising that some people dread the approach of Christmas. Certainly there may be more than most this year as the recession continues to bite and unemployment rises, more homes are lost, pensions are eroded and inflation carries on going up.

Christmas for many people will put extra pressure on their already dwindling budgets and what is meant to be a time of joy and celebration will be marred by worry and depression. So, what are we to do? The answer is at the heart of what Christmas is all about. In simple terms we seem to have lost the plot as the central message of Christmas has become lost amidst a fog of commercialism and excess. Christmas is the celebration of a holy birth which would free us from the chains of materialism and the sins which form the links of those chains. A saviour who will deliver us from the pains of evil and oppression; free us of our selfish and greedy lives where some people have so much that they throw it away whilst others starve.

Jesus Christ was born at this time to save us from ourselves and show us a better way; a way in which we help one another, share our possessions and simple human joys of love and happiness and yet every Christmas we try to prove the opposite by spending beyond our means only to buy unhappiness!

Christmas is about people! It began with people - two poor people, Mary and Joseph who rejoiced at the birth of a son into their lives, who turned out to be God in person; one of us. This is

what we should celebrate this Christmas; simple human joys; the joys of sharing happiness with one another. Recessions will come and go; true happiness cannot be stifled by any such event, but when hardships are shared so will we share happiness also.

I would like to leave you all with a short poem by W H Davies which I feel sums up this sentiment.

Mangers

Who knows the name and country now
Of that rich man who lived of old;
Whose horses fed at silver mangers.
And drank of wine from troughs of gold?

He who was in a manger born,
By gold and silver undefiled -
Is known as Christ to every man
And Jesus to a little child

W H Davies. 1871-1940



A happy and holy Christmas
from Paul and Sue

2012 Ackworth Calendar

This year's calendar which generally has a 1950's theme is now on sale in both churches and from the usual outlets including Bell Lane Stores; The Brown Cow; Brackenhill Post Office; Hair Plus Wakefield Road ; and Amanda's Hairdressing shop in Bell Lane.

Alternatively you can get your copy direct from either Bill Branston tel: 610590 or Pauline Locket tel: 619356.

The price is still £6.99. Make sure you get your copy early.

In Memoriam Ada Pritchard 1919-2011

Ada was born in the village at Dixon's Yard in Low Ackworth was schooled at Hemsworth Grammar and Pitmans College. She spent all of her life in this village working right up until her retirement at 60. She began her working life as a secretary in Leeds moving to Hickson and Welch at Castleford and finally to a position as personnel officer in Horbury with Dunlop/Slazenger.

For Ada work didn't end at the 'factory gates' though, it was just part of a busy life which continued in the village and the church. She sat on the parish council - as leader for a while - was the 'relief in need' trustee of Ackworth United Charities (who oversaw the almshouses) and was treasurer of the Derby and Joan club. She served the church as a PCC member, stewardship recorder, sidesperson and frequent fundraiser.

Most of all Ada was a much loved and highly respected member of our Church family here in Ackworth. Her strong faith and dedicated service to our Lord has been an example and an inspiration to many people for many years. As Sunday School teacher, organist and choir leader she inspired many to become Christians and be faithful members of the Church. Her help and encouragement to young people both musically and in other ways has left a legacy that can never be repaid. Both this church and this village are indebted to Ada whose influence will long continue to inspire generations to come.

God bless you Ada, and may you long continue to live our hearts and minds.

Paul

TEN YEARS ON

Ten years ago the Restoration Fund was launched to raise badly needed money and at All Saints we decided to take up an idea from Sue to have a weekly coffee morning for a while to see what we could raise. So on the 6th of December 2001 we, (Sue, Wendy, Ann & Stella), opened the doors on a cold morning with just coffee, tea & biscuits and a small portable heater for warmth! We had three or four customers. After a while the numbers began to grow and a few buns were added to the biscuits. Then a cake was tried and then another cake and so it grew. The first month raised 46 pounds but by the fourth month the total was over 500 pounds.

After a while Jean moved into Ackworth and joined the 'team' and later still when Janet came to live in the village she also became part of the coffee morning group. As well as the weekly meetings other fund raising efforts have been included such as 'New to you' sales, table top sales, plant sales and sales of recipe books. So far we have raise forty seven thousand pounds.

Sadly during these ten years we have lost some of our customers. We have had some very generous donors too without whose help we could never have hoped to have made such a considerable sum. Unfortunately some of them did not live long enough to see the kitchen and toilet facilities which were completed last spring. We were grateful to all those who continued to brave all the obstacles and disorder to come each week during all the work which had to be done and to those brave souls who came during the dreadful weather last December and January.

Ten years seem to have flown by and what started as a temporary event now seems part of the life of the village. It is not just for the ladies to get together for a chat we do have a group of men who also enjoy a Thursday morning out too.



Pastoral News

'Pray inwardly,
though thou sensest nothing,
though thou seest nothing, yea,
though thou thinkest thou canst achieve nothing,
for in dryness and barrenness,
in sickness and in feebleness,
then is thy prayer completely pleasing to me,
though it seems to give thee but little pleasure.

And thus all thy living is prayer in my eyes.' (Julian of Norwich)

Julian of Norwich ('Mother Julian') lived through difficult times 600 years ago; the Black Death killed over half the population of Norwich and she witnessed riots, assassinations, war, the Great Schism and moral collapse, yet her life of prayer enabled her to recognise that 'all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'. This is no refusal to see the consequences of pain and violence; these words have brought great comfort to many because they acknowledge that, ultimately, God's love is the final reality. Although she saw and experienced suffering she was able to see that God is present in that suffering, and that to reach out to God brings peace and wholeness, often in unexpected ways.

If you have experienced or are experiencing distressing or worrying times yourself, have you considered coming along to our healing service? The healing services take place on the **third Sunday of each month at All Saints' church at 3.30 pm** and are not only concerned with physical ailments. We all experience what it is like to feel 'broken' – perhaps because of depression, bereavement, stress, anxiety, or feeling 'far from God'. The services are open to everybody and give an opportunity to sit quietly in church in God's presence and think, light a candle for a loved one, and listen to God's word. The Rector, curate or one of the pastoral team can give more information so do ask us if you would like to know more, or simply come along – you will find friendship and a warm welcome.

Lynne Ward

SOME SEASONAL THOUGHTS

Christmas gift suggestions: to your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. Oren Arnold

One of the nice things about Christmas is that you can make people forget the past with a present. Anon

It is the one season of the year when we can lay aside all gnawing worry, indulge in sentiment without censure, assume the carefree faith of childhood, and just plain 'Have fun'. Whether they call it Yuletide, Noel, Weinachten or Christmas, people around the earth thirst for its refreshment as the desert travellers for the oasis.

D.D.Monroe

To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult with every year. E.B. White

Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when they ran out of money. Anon

No matter how carefully you stored the lights last year, they will be snarled again this Christmas. Robert Kirby

Perhaps the best Yuletide decoration is being wreathed in smiles. Anon

We should all give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers. Seneca

Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection. Pindar

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present. Anon

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: peace on Earth, Goodwill to men and batteries not included. Anon

May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's Resolutions. Joey Adams

New Year's Day, now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving Hell with them as usual. Mark Twain

ACT - Ackworth Churches Together

Please note these future events and ventures and look for what interests you... join in our village life and be part of the Community!

Churches Together Service

6th November at 7.00pm in the Methodist Church

Service of Lights

Friday 25th November at 6.00pm on the Village Green, High Ackworth
The Howard School Choir will be there - do join us.

Carol Singing at the Co-op

Saturday 3rd December at 11.30 am - something to cheer you as you do your shopping !

Methodist Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 10th December, 12 noon to 3pm at the Methodist Church

Village Carol Service

Sunday 11th December at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Church - a wonderful family event to put us all in the mood for the celebrations to come!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity :

18th to 25th January 2012

WEDNESDAY 18th - All Saints' Church, 12 noon led by the Anglican Church

THURSDAY 19th - All Saints' Church, 12.15pm led by the Community Church

FRIDAY 20th - Quaker Meeting House, 7pm led by the Quakers

MONDAY 23rd - All Saints' Church, 12 noon led by the Catholics

TUESDAY 24th - Methodist Church, 8pm led by the Methodist Church

WEDNESDAY 25th - Agape - All Saint's Church, 7.30pm

Everyone is welcome to one or all of these services.

Ackworth Churches Together (ACT) consists of people with strong Christian values and beliefs who live in and around Ackworth, who really want to make a difference in our village community.

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Readings Rota for December 2011, January 2012

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's ser	All Saints'
27/11/11	1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37	Pauline Wong B	Mrs S Hall
04/12/11	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40: 1-11	2 Peter 3:8 - 15a	Mark 1:1-8	Jane Siddall	Mrs M Walker
11/12/11	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4 and 8-end	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Sue Hartley P	Mr I Hall
18/12/11	4th Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1 - 11 & 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38	Keith Shaw	Dr McWilliam
25/12/11	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14	Jane Gosney	Mrs S Hall
01/01/12	2nd Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21	Anne Bullock	Mrs M Walker
08/01/12	The Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	Briony Lewis P	Mr I Hall
15/01/12	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Revelation 5:1-10	John 1:43-end	Pauline Wong	Dr McWilliam
22/01/12	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Genesis 14:17-20	Revelation 19:6-10	John 2:1-11	Jane Siddall	Mrs S Hall
29/01/12	4th Sunday of Epiphany	Deutonomy 18:15-20	Revelation 12:1-5a	Mark 9:21-28	Sue Hartley B	Mrs M Walker

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ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

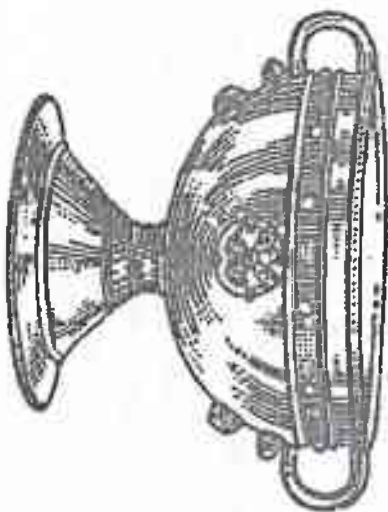
DECEMBER 4TH ADVENT
 DECEMBER 11TH ADVENT
 DECEMBER 18TH ADVENT
 DECEMBER 25TH ADVENT
 JANUARY 1ST ADVENT
 JANUARY 8TH ADVENT
 JANUARY 15TH ADVENT
 JANUARY 22ND ADVENT
 JANUARY 29TH ADVENT
 JEAN HANCOCKS FLOWER FUND
 MARY WALKER FLOWER FUND
 JEAN HANCOCKS FLOWER FUND

ST. CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

DECEMBER 4TH ADVENT
 DECEMBER 11TH ADVENT
 DECEMBER 18TH ADVENT
 DECEMBER 25TH ADVENT
 JANUARY 1ST ADVENT
 JANUARY 8TH ADVENT
 JANUARY 15TH ADVENT
 JANUARY 22ND ADVENT
 JANUARY 29TH ADVENT
 JEAN CLAYTON FLOWER TEAM
 JEAN CLAYTON
 JEAN CLAYTON
 BIDDY BRANSTON
 JANET BATEMAN
 VERA MCWILLIAM



BRASSES



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A CHRISTMAS GREETING

Hello Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you fro God our Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's that time of year again and Christmas is almost upon us again; a time to celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Saviour for you brothers and sisters in Christ we can celebrate all year round that Jesus, born of a humble birth in a stable yet still He is a King. Isaiah said of him that the spirit of the Lord would rest upon Him a spirit of wisdom and counsel a spirit power and knowledge and the fear of the Lord would be upon Him. He would be called King of Kings and Lord of Lords and He chose to give up all that and become man. Yet He is still God without sin, born of a virgin just as God had proclaimed throughout the bible. Jesus was there from the beginning when God said let us make man in our image! -the Three in One, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is what makes God the one true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus born of the line of David of Jewish descent All the promises of God, just so you and I can come to Him and repent of all our sins and be reconciled back to God. Jesus said 'I am the bread of life, anyone who comes to me will never be thirsty or go hungry, and all that the Father gives to me will come to me and I will never drive away'.(John 6:35-37). What a wonderful promise, knowing that the temple curtain was torn in two and that we can come to him freely and without fear of being rejected. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas doing all that you have to do- baking, buying gifts for your family and remembering the most precious gift of all "Jesus". God bless you all and keep you.
Your friend Pauline

MINCE PIES

Mince pies have been around as a seasonal treat for over 400 years. Forbidden fruits are often more exciting and this may be why they are so popular for once they were banned by law. Originally mince pies were made of a mixture of meat and spices such as ginger. Sweet ingredients such as dried fruit were added to give a more interesting flavor and also to help preserve the filling rather than smoking or salting. It may seem strange today that the original filling was mainly meat

and they can still be partly made with meat in the form of suet. However most are now meat free as modern tastes prefer vegetable to animal fat. Mince pies can be all shapes and sizes but the original form was probably a large oblong like a manger, giving a link to Jesus being laid in one in the stable at Bethlehem. Often the topping is a cut out star shape to represent the star seen and followed by the shepherds and kings to find the special new born Child. Nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves added to the filling is said to represent the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh from the kings.

Christmas was abolished in England by Oliver Cromwell's Puritan Council in 1657. The Council seemed to be against any kind of enjoyment or celebration and viewed the festival of Christmas as pagan and over indulgent, leading to gluttony an encouraging too much drinking of alcohol. If this wasn't miserable enough they then passed a law banning among other things, mince pies. To this day the law has not been repealed. This makes the mince pie illegal fare. So the next time you bite into one, at Christmas, remember you are breaking the law as well as putting on those extra pounds!

NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE

Saturday 1st September 2011

Three weeks before the event I reconnoitered my proposed route by car, finding it to be too long, I made adjustments, cutting out three churches with too long a distance between them, but adding two others which I did not check out!

The long range weather forecast was not promising: the remnants of Hurricane Katia were advancing across the Atlantic, with strong winds and rain predicted.

Came the day we awoke to a mild, still, cloudy morning but by the start time the sun had come out, but a stiff easterly wind had also risen, from the direction of the first twelve miles of my route along the coast. I assessed the wind strength to be '3' on my personal scale i.e. strong enough to retard.

I arrived at my first church by 09.00 to discover that my rear tyre, checked earlier, was going down; I pumped it up hoping that it was a

temporary valve problem, not a puncture, fortunately it was. At my second church I broke my pencil, essential for making notes to write this article, not to worry I had laid on plenty of spares, although they were of no use lying on the seat outside our caravan! Two mishaps already, a third was sure to follow? (There were to be four).

I made my way along the coast following part of my route from last year, I commented that one hill seemed steeper than last time; the recorder, who gave me a spare pen, replied that it would be worse next year when I would be a year older! The first few miles were challenging, not only against the wind but also due to the undulating nature of the route, don't let anyone tell you that Norfolk is flat. At Trimmingham the recorder remarked that he had not been to Yorkshire since WW2, when he was recovering valuable spare parts from a crashed Sterling bomber from his base at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. On to Mundesley where I interrupted a game of handball in a church hall which I mistook for the church. A lady recorder there told me that she was from Doncaster and had played tennis against girls from Ackworth School.

The next stretch I had been dreading, as it included a long steep ascent past the picturesque preserved Stow Windmill, onward to the two churches I had not checked out. One appeared nearby across the field but I found out that it was not as near as it seemed. At least I had now turned west, with the wind no longer in my face, onto designated 'quiet lanes' for the next twenty five miles. As intended there was very little vehicular traffic, although it did come as a shock to be confronted by four motor cycles riding in tandem on one occasion. At Trunch I was greeted by what appeared to be a welcoming party but it was just a changeover of recorders! The wind had increased and blowing from my left was twisting my map case, on a string, round and round and at the next church I had difficulty removing it as it had twisted up so tightly. At Antingham we had to report to the kitchen, as a wedding was taking place, and my arrival was greeted by four Labradors in the garden opposite. At Suffield, about half way as I thought, I arrived to find that the rotating map case was missing; I retraced my steps for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile before finding it lying in the road, the force of the wind had torn the knotted string out of the holes. I resolved the problem with an old shoe lace I had used to tie up my tools to stop them rattling. The next, an isolated Wesleyan Chapel was the smallest building I came across. It was hardly any larger than a double garage and the recorder was sitting outside although it had started to rain, fortunately only a shower. At Colby I met two ladies who were also taking part, the first fellow travelers since leaving Cromer twenty three miles earlier.

At Erpingham I commented on a fine old iron bound chest (12th C I was

told) near the door and the recorder was keen to give me a potted history of the church, but time was of a premium if I were to meet my goal. Shortly afterwards I turned north for the welcome relief of a tail wind. At Aldborough I discovered that I had lost my glasses, I could only have left them at the last church two miles back into the wind and up a long hill. I decided that the extra effort was not worthwhile, the glasses being my sun ones and dispensable. (Four days later I recovered them as we passed by). Next I came to Thurgarton, a redundant church since the 1980's, not surprising as it stood isolated far from any habitation, although this had been the case with many I had visited! On to Sustead where the recorder lady had laid on a fine buffet for callers, unfortunately I felt unable to partake.

Into the last quarter of my route I had to contend with ascending the Holt/Cromer ridge which rises 300 feet and contains the highest point in Norfolk, but there was the compensation of a long downhill stretch afterwards back towards the sea.

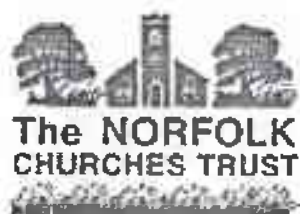
I finished at 16.30, half an hour before the cut off, having visited 40 churches and covered 45 miles, five more than planned and my longest bike ride for 13 years (28 churches & 35 miles last year)

I visited 8 Methodist chapels, 1 Catholic Church, 1 Wesleyan Chapel, 1 Care Home Chapel, Quaker Meeting House & 27 Anglican Churches dedicated to All Saint (6), St Margaret (3), St Mary (3), St Peter & Paul (3), St Andrew (2), St Giles (2), St. Martin (2), and 1 each to St. Botolph, Holy Trinity, St. John, St. Joseph, St. Michael and St. Peter.

I expect to raise over 350 pounds again this year and am grateful to all those who have so generously supported me in this joint fund raising effort; whether I do it again remains to be seen!

PS-On line I have gleaned that there were once over 1,000 medieval churches in Norfolk, 659 remain. There are more churches per acre and per person than anywhere else in the world.

Colin Tanswell





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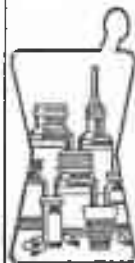
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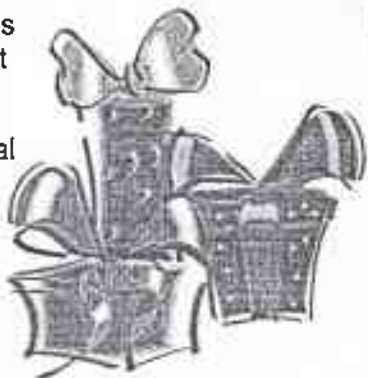
Gift Service

**Sunday 4th December
5.30pm at St Cuthbert's**

This is your opportunity to make a child's Christmas special. Please wrap your gift and mark 'boy' or 'girl' and suitable age.

All gifts will then be collected by the local Social Services to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Please note that any gifts brought to church after the time will not be distributed until next year!



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

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

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.
Ring 01977 795450 if interested!



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From the Registers

Baptisms

- Sept 11 Jessica Mary Grindrod & Oscar Ian Harris
Sept 25 Ewan Ewart Briggs & Coby Jack Barton
Oct 9 Iris Rae Pickering & James Arthur Walpole
Oct 23 Zak David Harrison & Charles Louis Amery

Marriages

- Sept 3 Justin Lee Trevor Binks and Claire Elizabeth Reeve

Funerals

- Aug 18 Peter Scarrot (71) 22 Denton Gardens, Ackworth Moor Top
Aug 26 Paul Wilfred Hirst (64) 1 Mill Lane, Ackworth Moor Top
Sept 2 Donald Roe (80) 11 Beech Drive, High Ackworth
Sept 6 Madge Marson (101) 69 Townend Avenue, Low Ackworth
Sept 13 Shirley Donnelly (74) 24 Lime Tree Avenue, Pontefract
Sept 23 Stephen Hazelgrove (57) 7 Brackenhill, Ackworth Moor Top
Oct 6 Brian Williams (76) 3 Whindale, Cecily Close, Normanton
Oct 20 Imogen Grace Young (15) 32 Richmond Road, Upton
Oct 25 Thomas Robertshaw (91) Burntwood Hall, Brierley
Oct 26 Nora Alice Fearnley (91) 10 Orchard Drive, Ackworth Moor Top

Special Services

- Nov 27 Christingle Services at 4pm All Saints & 6pm St Cuthbert's
Dec 4 Gift Service at 5.30pm St Cuthbert's
Dec 11 Village Carol Service at 3pm St Cuthbert's
Dec 18 Carol Service at 3.30pm All Saints'
Dec 24 Carols Round the Crib at 5.30pm St Cuthbert's
Midnight Mass at 11.30pm at St Cuthbert's
Dec 25 Parish Eucharist at 8.30am at All Saints'
All -Age Eucharist at 10.15am St Cuthbert's
Jan 29 Eucharist and Procession of Candlemas at 5.00pm St Cuthberts'
(transferred from Feb 2nd - a candlelit procession revisiting the festivals of Christmastide and then we turn to face the cross preceded by the season of Lent)

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.

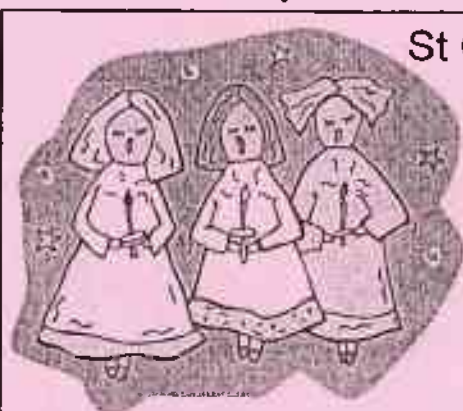
Sunday Services for December 2011 and January 2012

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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St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

Christmas Services

11th December		
3.00pm	Village Carol Service	St Cuthbert's
18th December		
3.30pm	Carol Service	All Saints'
24th December - Christmas Eve		
5.30pm	Crib Service	St Cuthbert's
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Cuthbert's
25th December - Christmas Day		
8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
	<i>(no other services on this day)</i>	