

COMPLIMENTARY COPY.



# Ackworth Parish Magazine



**December 2016/January 2017**  
**50p per copy (£3 per year)**

*Delivered by Mrs Jean Reast (611590)*

**~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~**

<b><u>Rector:</u></b>	Rev'd Paul Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	<b>602751</b>
<b><u>Assistant Curate:</u></b>	Rev'd Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove EMAIL: revpaul.fox@gmail.com	<b>613834</b>
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<b><u>Christian Stewardship:</u></b>		
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<b><u>Parish Giving Officer:</u></b>	Mr Donald Marshall, 17 Hill Drive	<b>700961</b>
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Dear Friends

As you read this, I shall be convalescing following my operation at the end of October. It will also be my last Christmas letter before my retirement in 2017; an article which in some ways is more emotionally poignant than ones I have done previously. My problem, as always, is how to write about a subject on which so much has been written before? Indeed it will be the 20th time I have written about the Christmas season myself. But, difficult though that can be, it is none-the-less something we cannot ignore. Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, lies at the very heart of our Christian Faith, alongside that other 'pillar' of Christianity – Easter.

With that in mind, it set me thinking about what is probably our greatest and most important aspect of how we respond in terms of our faith in God and Jesus Christ – emotional response. Faith touches the very heart of our souls. God is love and faith without love would be nothing; dry and useless. It is in that vein I turn towards something that many find emotionally moving – the arts, and in particular poetry and music. It would be impossible for me to say which song, hymn or poem is my favourite, I love so many. Fairly near the top of my favourite Christmas poems, also a popular hymn is 'In the Bleak Midwinter', which is a poem by Christina Rossetti known as 'A Christmas Carol'.

There is much I could say about this poem, but what I consider to be the central theme of this beautiful carol is that which I feel is most mind-blowing about this wonderful event of our Lord's nativity; that of the meeting of earth and heaven; God coming down to share our ordinary, lowly existences. As we hear in the second verse of the poem:

'Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain.... In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed. The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ'.

The magnificence and glory of God takes the form of a helpless human baby. The God who sustains us is sustained in humility by a mother's love. Verse 4 describes this in a wonderful yet humanly touching way:

'Angels and Archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But only his mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss'

This is the wonder of Christmas, that God loved us so much that he came down from highest heaven to our lowly, insignificant lives, to share that life with us. And what can we do in response? How can we adequately give thanks for this, the greatest gift we could ever receive?

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part,

Yet what I can I give him, Give my heart'

Our response to the greatest gift – the gift of God – is nothing more, nothing less than our very selves – our love and our utmost devotion. What will you give to God this Christmas?

A Happy and Holy Christmas,

From Paul, Susan and family

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### They Gave Their Lives in the Great War

Please remember these brave men in your prayers, who gave up their lives for their country in World War 1:

**ELLIS John – 121908 Corporal** (shown as Lance Corporal on Memorial)  
died Friday 5.1.17 (20)

Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 12th Battalion

Buried at Saily-Au-Bois Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

Son Alice Emma Turton (Formerly Ellis) & the late William James

3, Bell Lane Terrace, Moor Top, Ackworth

**CLEMENTS Fred -19916, Private**, died Monday 18.12.16 (31)

West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own) 9th Battalion

Buried at Bradford (Bowling) Cemetery.

Husband of Ada Pritchard (formerly Clements) 5, Francis Buildings,

Moor Top, Ackworth.

## What is it to be a Pilgrim?

One definition of the word 'Pilgrim' is:

"a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion" and that is what you probably recognise a pilgrim to be. Of course, some very famous ones, in the 17th Century, journeyed as far as Massachusetts to establish a religious colony, the Pilgrim Fathers. However, these days and here in Ackworth, you would not need to journey far in distance physically, but your journey could be a long way spiritually and visiting many interesting places along the way!

Pilgrim is a major new teaching and discipleship resource from the Church of England. It aims to help every local church create a place where people can explore the Christian faith together and see how it can be lived out each day.

Pilgrim takes a different approach to other Christian programmes. It approaches the great issues of faith not through persuasion, but participation in a pattern of contemplation and discussion with a group of fellow travellers.

Pilgrim is comprised of two stages: the Follow stage for those very new to faith, and the Grow stage for those who want to go further. Each stage contains four short six-session courses which focus on a major theme of Christian life.

Pilgrim assumes very little understanding or knowledge of the Christian faith, it starts at the very beginning. It aims to equip people to follow Jesus Christ as disciples in the whole of their lives. It flows from the Scriptures; the primary focus of each session is a group of people engaging with the Bible together drawing deeply from the Christian tradition

In the Early Church, the Christian faith was taught by the transmission of key texts which summed up the heart of the Christian message. Pilgrim restores this approach for the twenty-first century honouring the Anglican way and its many streams

Currently, there are two groups running in Ackworth which are proving to be very successful and valued by all members. Each group meets one evening each week for a six-week focus, co-ordinated by Rev Paul Fox and following the plan in the booklet we have. But there is more than following a prescribed course – there is discussion, a respect for different views, a totally non-judgemental atmosphere of the problems and difficulties of faith in the times in which we live and work and a sense of shared understanding by the time we finish. Each session is kept to time and everyone has the opportunity to share

views and opinions, ask questions or just listen. The first group that started almost 2 years ago is now preparing for the 5th of the series and no-one has left this group, so it must be working!

If you may be interested in joining the 3rd group of Pilgrims, or want to know more, why not visit the website:

[www.pilgrimcourse.org](http://www.pilgrimcourse.org) or contact Rev Paul Fox on 01977 613834 and he will be happy to give you further details.

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### **Ackworth Calendar 2017 is now on sale**

This year the Ackworth Calendar for 2017 contains old photographs of Ackworth taken by Mr Harry Miles and is a joint venture with the Ackworth and District Heritage Group in memory of Harry who died earlier this year.

The calendar is in two alternative formats this year so you can choose the size of the calendar that you prefer. Both contain the same 12 interesting photographs of our wonderful village in previous years.

We feel that this calendar will again be valued and sought after by local people and visitors and will make a splendid Christmas present for friends and relatives who have moved away from the village, carrying fond memories of Ackworth to them at Christmas.

Make sure you get your copy, as the calendar will again be a sought-after collector's item. The calendars, sold by the church to benefit the Church's Repairs and Maintenance Fund, are now on general sale. If you have not purchased your copy yet, don't delay, purchase it or reserve it now as we only have limited stock of the two separate formats

We don't want you to be disappointed! Make sure you get your copy.

**The calendars (with envelopes)  
are available at only £5 each (A4 size) or £6 each (double A4 size)  
(in the double A4 format the pictures are larger)  
at**

**All Saints' Church (Thursday Coffee morning)  
St Cuthbert's Church  
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The Card Gallery, Barnsley Rd  
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The Ackworth Heritage Group  
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Or telephone Julie Davis on 01977 616121  
or Bill Branston on 01977 610590  
to arrange delivery.

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Tickets for the Grand Christmas draw are now on sale from some PCC members and the Churchwardens and at the Thursday Coffee morning (10 am to 12 noon) at All Saints' Church, Wakefield Road. The draw will take place around 11 am on Thursday December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Coffee Morning at All Saints' Church.

Please support this effort and come along to the Coffee Mornings to join in with the activities planned for 15<sup>th</sup> December.

If you would like tickets and cannot get to church or the coffee morning ring Bill or Bidy Branston on 01977 610590 and one of us will bring some to you at your home.





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## Readings Rota for December 2016, January 2017

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	ser	All Saints'
27/11/16	1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44	Jane Gosney	B	Mr I Hall
04/12/16	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12	Sue Hartley		Mrs S Hall
11/12/16	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11		P	Mrs M Walker
18/12/16	4th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25	Keith Shaw		Mrs H Hunter
25/12/16	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-4	John 1:1-14	Jane Siddall		Mr I Hall
01/01/17	Christmas 2	Isaiah 63:7-9	Hebrews 2:10-end	Matthew 2:13-end	Anne Bullock		Mrs S Hall
08/01/17	Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 42:1-9	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17		P	Mrs M Walker
15/01/17	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42	Jackie Dawson		Mrs H Hunter
22/01/17	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23	Jane Siddall		Mr I Hall
29/01/17	Presentation of Christ	Malachi 3:1-5	Hebrews 2:14-end	Luke 2:22-40		B	Mrs S Hall

## ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

and

## ST. CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

4th Dec	Advent
11th Dec	Advent
18th Dec	Advent
25th Dec	Christmas
1st Jan	Flower Fund
8th Jan	Flower Fund
15th Jan	Flower Fund
22nd Jan	Flower Fund
29th Jan	Flower Fund



Thank you to all who donate to the Flower Fund for both churches.





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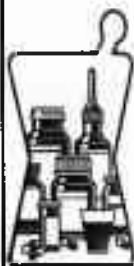
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## From the Registers

### Baptisms

11th September James Hultz  
 18th September George Barnett  
 25th September Zeb Kekoa Harris and Gracie Margaret McMullen  
 30th October Reuben James Bruce Harrison and  
 Oliver James Camp

### Marriages

11th September Jeffrey Hultz and Helen Charlotte Cook-Hultz  
 (Blessing and Rededication)  
 17th September Aidan Moss and Melanie MacKay  
 21st September Adam Ives and Gemma Elizabeth Fox

### Funerals

12th September Reby Smith (82) The Caravan, Warmfield Common  
 13th September Pamela Sutcliffe (85) 31, Hill Drive, Ackworth  
 16th September Annie Firth (89) Victoria House, Ryhill  
 23rd September Anthony Dockerty (74) St Clement Court, Ackworth  
 Moor Top  
 27th September Kenneth William Rappit (80) Charlestown, Ackworth Moor  
 Top  
 11th October Mary Wilson (78) West St Bungalows, South Kirkby  
 13th October John Wright (82) Orchard Drive, Ackworth  
 20th October Harry Miles (85) Low Green, Ackworth  
 27th October Raymond Askham (77) Trees Residential Home, Pontefract

### SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers)

Ackworth School Meeting House, Sundays, 10:45am

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**Mass Times for The Parish Of The Sacred Heart RC**  
**Father Anthony Fenton**  
 Sacred Heart, Hemsworth  
 Sunday, 10:45am Saturday Night Mass, 6:00pm

# **Sunday Services**

## **for December 2016 and January 2017**

### **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 Events and Services**

4th December	4.00pm St Cuthbert's	Gift Service
8th December	6.00pm St Cuthbert's	Mill Dam Xmas Service
9th December	1.30pm St Cuthbert's	Combined schools Christmas Celebration
11th December	3.00pm St Cuthbert's	Village Carol Service
15th December	10.00am St Cuthbert's	Howard School Xmas Service
18th December	3.30pm All Saints'	Carol Service
24th December	5.30pm St Cuthbert's	Carols round the Crib
24th December	11.30pm St Cuthbert's	Midnight Mass
25th December	8.30am All Saints' Holy Communion	
25th December	10.15 St Cuthbert's All Age Eucharist	
THERE WILL BE NO MIDWEEK SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS'		
18th – 25th Jan	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	

### **ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH**

<b>Sunday</b>	10.30am	<b>Worship</b>
	6.30pm	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30—11.15am <b>Parents and Toddlers Group</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30—11.15am <b>Parents and Toddlers Group</b>	
<b>All services and meetings are held at the Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane.</b>		

### **Little Friends Mother and Toddler Group**

1st Thursday of each month  
2pm to 3.30pm

All Saints Church - Sue Tanswell 612913 for information.