

The Saint

Benefice Magazine

2021
complimentary issue

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JAN-FEB-MARCH 2021

Faith
Hope
Love

PASTORAL MISSION

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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

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Statement of Mission

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

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

| | | |
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NEWS - PASTORAL MISSION

Dear friends,

Welcome to our new look magazine. Before we go any further it might be helpful to try and explain some of what you might expect in this and future issues and why!

As of the 1st of January, a new benefice was created between the parishes of Ackworth and Badsworth. Although we remain distinct in our identity as parishes, we will share areas of mission and ministry across the newly formed benefice. One such area is communication, focusing on building our positive relationships and communication in both Ackworth and Badsworth. For this year the PCC (Parochial Church Councils) have agreed to have a new approach to the Parish/Benefice magazine, producing four copies, each with its own focus. In light of this decision, we have suspended subscriptions and advertising costs for this year. If you would like to make a donation towards your regular magazine you can still do so.

The new magazine will have a benefice focus with articles and contributions made from both Ackworth and Badsworth. The magazine will have a new look, with a new benefice logo and name. St Cuthbert's, All Saints' and St Mary are all rooted in the 'Saints', so what better name than 'The Saint'.

Our communication in the past has come up against criticism, and our magazine is said to have lacked focus. As I mentioned, each of the four magazines this year will have a focus rooted in mission with articles, stories and news based on that theme.

January/February/March – **Pastoral Mission**

April/May/June – **Social Mission**

July/August/September – **Evangelistic Mission**

October/November/December – **Ecumenical Mission**

This issue is Pastoral Mission with a focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing, structured in a new way:

News: updates from the parish/benefice/diocese/wider church.

High Days & Holy Days: the church's liturgy and worship.

Looking at God: inspiration to help you in your faith.

Looking at Church: who we are and what we do.

Looking at the Community: Christians in action locally.

Plus much more....

In addition to this, each quarter we will come together to worship God as a benefice and have a special celebration based on the mission theme.

On the 5th Sunday in January, we celebrated our first missional service, inviting our Bishop to preach on Pastoral Mission, the liturgy was written with this in mind (sermon included).

I hope that in the pages of this magazine you can see that pastoral mission is very

much alive and at the heart of our churches. I hope you enjoy the new format and the contributions from our church families, all of whom have been working so hard during these difficult and challenging times. We don't really know what the long-term impact of this pandemic will have on our churches, on the communities we serve and on people's mental health and wellbeing, but we are making every effort to unite and equip ourselves to help.

Keep safe and God bless you all.

Revd. Charlene, Rector

Facebook Page

If you're not already aware the parish in Ackworth has a Facebook page. This page was set up to have a presence on social media to let people know what was going on in our churches.

The Facebook page is managed by Rev Charlene Smith, Rev Paul Fox and myself (Jackie Fox).

During this pandemic and various lockdown, the Facebook page has become much more important as a way of reaching out to our congregations and community when our churches have been closed for worship.

Rev Charlene has live-streamed services every week, also streamed special services, morning and evening prayers. So even if we couldn't be at church, we could still be together virtually taking part in a service.

Rev Paul has produced weekly reflections, Christingle service, Christmas village carol and crib services, he has also done all the technical stuff putting together of the music group singing and the Advent doors.

I have shared from different Facebook sites: prayers, niteblessings, resources on mental health, support for families coping at home with children, words of encouragement, anything that I thought may lift your mood. Anything that I have thought might be useful as it has been to me.

If you have any ideas of things you would like to see on our page, please do get in touch.

This time is difficult for all of us so if you would like to see what we are up to in our churches, then like our Facebook page you can put in the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/AckworthParishStCuthbertsAndAllSaints/>

Jackie Fox, Ackworth Church
Member and Children's Worker



Foundation Governor

Badsworth CofE School is looking for a new Foundation Governor to join the Governing Body. If you would be interested, then please contact either Headteacher Jenny Griffiths 01977 649157 or Revd. Charlene Smith 01977 599979. Thank you.

Easter Flowers

We invite you to remember your family, friends, and other loved ones with a donation towards our Easter flowers. Donations and the names of departed loved ones will need to be received by Palm Sunday, March 28th and will be displayed in Church on Easter Sunday.

Please send the name of a loved one to Revd. Charlene (contact details at the front of the magazine) and give your donation towards the Easter Flowers to Revd. Charlene (for St Cuthbert's) Christine Williams (for All Saints') or Margaret Leeman (for St Mary's). Thank you.

Weekly News Sheet

I am sure that you will all know and recognise our Church news sheet that is produced weekly to inform the parishioners of service times, special events and particular information that is needed to be announced that particular week. Just 12 months ago, in February 2020, I would put together that info and print 100 paper copies for distribution in All Saints' and St Cuthbert's churches, as well as having them available in both church porches for passers-by to take. By the following Friday, when I was back at church to do another printing session, there would be only a few of the previous week's copies left. I also put the information from the paper sheets onto an electronic News Sheet which was sent out to anyone who requested one, approximately 30 people at that time.

This had to change in March 2020 when we 'locked down' – or maybe 'locked up' is more accurate – and the paper printing had to stop.

Fast forward 12 months and now we have over 70 News Contacts who receive the church news each week. If you are one of them you will know that in addition to this sheet, which has all sorts of news and church service information on, are both a Sunday Link sheet and a Service Booklet so that an online service can be followed without any paper printing needed. For those without the internet I do produce a paper copy if it is asked for and currently that stands at 3 each week.

This electronic way of communicating with the church family has been a lifeline for so many people. Not only for the parishioners but for the clergy too. When the usual lines of communication are broken, new ways have to be found – and as we all know, email is so quick, so immediate. It is also used for giving important information about, for example, rearrangements for the Strawberry Tea when it is lashing down with rain!

If you are not receiving our weekly news and you would like to, nothing could be simpler.

Email me at jane@nomis.org and I will add you to the list. A News Sheet will arrive in your inbox on Friday morning for you, providing information about anything and everything that is going on in our church family that week and in days to come. Things have certainly not stopped happening in our churches in Ackworth over the past year – just that things are happening slightly differently!

Jane Gosney, Benefice Weekly Newsletter

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

As a member of church, you have will have completed a form which allows your name to be added to our Electoral Roll. In years past this allowed the church to contact you as an individual about church related matters.

In May 2018 the law was changed to replace the existing law on data protection, this was to give you more rights and protection in how your personal data could be used by any organisation.

Since then unless you complete a GDPR consent form we, as church, are not allowed to contact you under any circumstances. This might seem rather harsh, particularly if you know someone in our congregation who might welcome a visit or phone call from either Revd. Charlene or Revd. Paul. Sadly, without consent they would be breaking the law if they did make contact.

Completion of a GDPR consent form will avoid this problem.

The information you will enter on this form will be your name, address, and if you are willing, your phone number and email address. You will be asked to indicate how you wish to be contacted, either by all methods, or any combination. Your details will be stored both electronically and in paper form. We promise to keep your information secure and will never divulge it to a third party. You can withdraw consent at any time or change contact method details.

If you haven't already completed a form and would like to do so, please contact either myself or any PCC member and I will ensure that you receive a form as soon as possible.

Under our current situation keeping in touch with each other seems more important than ever. A friendly phone call or email can mean such a lot.

Jackie Dawson, Ackworth Church Warden and GDPR officer

Notice of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 18th April 2021

The meeting will be held on Zoom at 11:30am. The login details, all the reports and agenda will be circulated via our weekly newsletter system prior to the meeting.

Please contact Jane Gosney (Weekly Newsletter Editor) and she can add you to our newsletter circulation list jane@nomis.org so you can receive all the details.

HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS - PASTORAL MISSION

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

Palm Sunday - March 28th

Maundy Thursday - April 1st

Good Friday - April 2nd

Easter Day - April 4th

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following. On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the moneychangers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution. By midweek one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them. Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – The Eucharist. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples. Judas then left to betray him. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He agonised over what was to come 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

March 20th - Cuthbert, beloved monk and Bishop of Lindisfarne

Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c 634-87) has long been northern England's favourite saint. It is easy to see why: Cuthbert was holy, humble, peaceable, prayerful, faithful in friendship, winsome, and really kind.

Cuthbert was born into a fairly well-off Anglo-Saxon family, and he became a monk at Melrose in 651. He and another monk, Eata, were sent to start a monastery at Ripon, but Alcfrith, who owned the land, insisted that they adopt the Roman customs, which Cuthbert's Celtic church did not allow. So, Cuthbert and Eata quietly returned to Melrose, where Cuthbert became prior in about 661. Then came the Synod of Whitby in 663/4, and the Celtic Church formally decided to adopt the Roman customs. After this, Cuthbert was sent on to Lindisfarne as prior, where he sensitively introduced the new ways, and won over the monks there.

Cuthbert was very much loved at Lindisfarne. His zeal was evident in his constant

preaching, teaching, and visiting of the people. He was also said to have gifts of prophecy and healing. Occasionally, Cuthbert reached 'people overload'. Then he would retreat to a tiny islet called Inner Farne, where he could pray in total seclusion. When, to his horror, he was told he had been made Bishop of Hexham, he immediately 'swapped' sees with Eata, and stayed on at Lindisfarne as Bishop. Sadly, Cuthbert died on little Inner Farne, only two years later, on 20 March, 687.

Cuthbert was buried at Lindisfarne, but that is not the end of his story. For it was only now that his travels began. After the Vikings destroyed Lindisfarne in 875, several monks dug him up and set out to find Cuthbert a final, and safe, resting place. For the next 120 years Cuthbert was deposited in various monasteries around the north of England and southwest Scotland. Finally, in 999, Cuthbert was allowed to rest in Durham, where a Saxon church was built over his shrine.

All that travel must have done him good; when his body was exhumed to be put into the 'new' Norman Cathedral in Durham in 1104, it was said to be still in perfect tact, and 'incorrupt'.

March 25th - Lady Day or The Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

* Amid the ongoing pandemic, details of services for High Days & Holy Days will be found in the weekly newsletter please refer to Jane Gosney's news article.



LOOKING AT GOD - PASTORAL MISSION

Faith, Hope and Love Eucharist supporting Pastoral Mission through Mental Health and Wellbeing + Bishop Tony's sermon

This time last year none of us would have dreamt or guessed about what the rest of 2020 would be like. Like nothing any of us have ever experienced before. Since March 2020 almost every corner of our world has been attacked by an invisible enemy. The enemy is Covid-19 which all too often is deadly or debilitating. It has changed our day-to-day living in a manner which we would previously have struggled to imagine or foresee. We are unable to do the same things in the same ways. Most importantly although we look daily for hope about when life will return to some sort of normality, without facemasks and sanitisers, when we can freely mix with families, friends, and neighbours.

Despite the gloom and darkness that the world is facing, we are reminded in the Christmas season which only really ends with the Celebration of Candlemass on Tuesday 2nd February. Christmas says that darkness does not have any power over light. Darkness may try to prevent the light from shining, but it never holds back the light enduringly. Ultimately, the light will shine though. God as the creator of the universe is bigger than the Covid-19 health crisis. All of this will pass. All trials do. But until then, we must trust in the scientists, the doctors and nurses and all people looking after others. But let us also trust in God; God the Father who makes His Son a daily presence in our lives. Let us hand over our fears to Him so that He can conquer them.

Most of us will know of someone who has been taken from us by Covid 19, some who have been very poorly, some who are taking a long time to fully recover and some who have been left with permanent physical damage. It is good to join you for your first joint Sunday service on the 5th Sunday of January. I understand that you are beginning a missional year looking at four key areas, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical mission.

Charlene asked me if I would join you today to talk about Pastoral Mission, looking at Mental Health and Wellbeing and raising awareness. As well as the people who have physically suffered with the effects of the virus, I believe many more have suffered and are suffering mentally because of this virus. And it maybe months or years before we see exactly what that damage is and how it can be repaired with help from others. The damage done by fear of the virus and the enforced isolation from family friends and even neighbours. Don't we all look forward to going to each other's houses for a cup of tea or a meal or even meeting together socially here at church.

I know that you are able to join an 8-week course called The Sanctuary. I want to encourage as many of you are possible to be part of this.

Jesus often gathered his loved ones and did not just talk with them – or teach them – or instruct them. At the Last Supper Jesus gathers his friends together in that special room, the Upper Room and confronts them with the stark reality of what he was all

about. He washes their feet – he feeds them – he touches them – he holds them – he becomes one with them. Jesus would have no one miss the point that just as he and those twelve – even Judas – belonged to one another and were responsible for one another – and related to one another – so we are.

The stark reality of interacting and caring for someone wakes us up to the fact that the other is present. As the wave is connected to the sea and the sunbeam is connected to the sun, so we would learn from Jesus' life that we are connected to one another.

And this seems to be a simple fact – an obvious reality. But perhaps it is not in our nature to accept it easily. Too often we would go it alone and insist that our path should not be cluttered by the other. Every person for themselves – full steam ahead. And it is so difficult to realize that it is then – in the insistence on independence that we cease to function properly – we become dysfunctional.

Just think about the young man who lies in a hospital bed because of his overdose. And just today the hospital social worker and the nurses – all look at him and worry that when he finally gets out – despite all his pain and all his promises that this will never happen again – his ego will insist that he does not need support – doesn't need guidance – doesn't need others to hold him and heal him. It's as if he would say that he doesn't need love. He becomes dysfunctional because he does not know that he belongs to others and others belong to him.

And even in our world scene – we would all be independent and responsible for our own territory – our boundaries we might think protect us. But in fact – the virus has made us realise that if we are to conquer this, we all need to work together, every village even in far off places and if we don't work together people will continue to suffer.

So much of our hate and our hurt come from forgetting what Jesus puts before at the Last Supper as he washes their feet – that in fact we must take care of one another and we are not distant from one another. The alternative is dysfunction.

Perhaps on one level the horror of the scandal that splashes the front pages of our newspapers each day and confronts the church and causes good people of faith to wonder how they can be part of a church that exhibits such sickness – perhaps this dysfunction too is a result of not understanding who we are.

In fact, if we know we belong to one another and revere one another and wash each other's feet – then there are no "others" no objects, no possibilities to abuse those who are in our care and love.

Perhaps the only healing that can happen while we talk and wonder and pray about how we follow Jesus' way and become a servant more than ever to those around us. We have the example of servant in Jesus – we must enter that reality with him.

We are to hold on to one another and heal one another and love one another – because that is the whole reason Jesus journeyed for us. Amen.

Bishop Tony Robinson, Area Bishop of Wakefield

LOOKING AT CHURCH - PASTORAL MISSION

The Pastoral Work of the Church

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Corinthians 1, v. 3-4)



Lockdown again – and all of us have variously struggled with the enforced separation from each other that goes with it.

The work of the Church, however, goes on – and one important aspect of this has been maintaining ways to keep us connected. During times when we have been able to open the Church for public worship we have done so as safely as possible; when we have remained closed to ensure that do not put people at risk, we have looked to online streamed services, a WhatsApp group, the Prayer Chain, training and informal contacts to keep us in touch, informed, praying, worshipping and laughing together!

What is Pastoral Work? Basically, it is sharing and supporting anything at all to do with our joys, sorrows, needs, yearnings, problems and communications, all held in the light of God's love for us and with the knowledge that God is with us in all our life experiences, whether they bring praise or suffering. Ackworth Parish Church's Pastoral Committee has been involved in and supports:

The Prayer Chain: If anyone would like to share a concern for prayer, the members of the Prayer Chain undertake to pray for them daily (in words, action, or through symbols such as lighting a candle) for a week. If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, please let Lynne Ward on 616384 know – you don't need elegant phrases, you just need to name the person or need passed on to you before God – we would welcome new members!

Pastoral Oversight: We try to make sure that everyone has access to some support by keeping our communication networks open – if you know of anyone who might appreciate some help, or if you are able to offer support yourself, please let us know.

Informal Contact: We might not have had opportunities to meet in person, but individuals have shared upsets, news and jokes and tokens as a sign that we are loved, and we have supported each other informally. Do join us!

Training: Mental health and wellbeing is even more important in these difficult times, and we are looking for more ways to support each other and become more alert to each other's needs. We are sharing knowledge, exploring questions, talking about needs and strategies that can help us and strengthen our community through training with the Mental Health organisation 'Sanctuary'.

Ministries to our Community: Please do contact Revd. Charlene/Revd. Paul if you would like to speak about a funeral, a wedding, or another need.

Book of Remembrance: If you would like the name of a loved one entered into the Book of Remembrance, please let us know by writing clearly their name and the date of departing and passing this on either to Revd. Charlene at the Rectory, or Lynne Ward (83 Station Road). Names are entered every few months.

Unfortunately, our groups such as Little Friends, the Dementia Singing Group, the Thursday group, 'Knit and Natter' and the weekly Coffee Morning at All Saints' Church have not been able to meet up in person as usual, and we look forward to the time when they may safely do so. Please do ask us if you would like to know more about the pastoral life of the Parish, or if you would like to join us in sharing a welcome, care, and support.

Lynne Ward, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

An IT Challenge!

The last nine months have been a real challenge, not least, because we have not been able to meet physically. This has also been true for our churches. And although we have been able to worship in our churches on and off over that time, the feeling of being connected has been difficult to maintain. This is true of our church, but also of our community.

One way of doing this has been to use our IT skills. But more than that, many of us have had to learn new skills with such technology, and learn them pretty quickly. How to connect to Facebook, how to use YouTube, how to make yourself live on Facebook, how to record and edit video clips, how to sing together without being together! A rapid learning curve.

But, as time has gone on, those skills have been honed, and continue to be enhanced, by extra training and experience.

We have had regular Sunday morning services "Live-Streamed", reflections on passages of the Bible, services of prayer. We were also able to produce some of our Christmas Services with the Village Carol Service and also the Christmas Eve Crib Service.

We have been able to produce videos which we have sent to all of our schools, that they can use in their Assemblies and Collective Worship.

We hope in the near future to be able to produce a service for Families. And also to be able to produce something for our children's group.

These last months have been challenging indeed. But as time has gone on, we have learnt new skills, and have been able to reach out to our congregations and schools, and young people in a different, and creative way. We believe that this will form part

of how we interact and connect in the future.

Of course we still try to maintain contact in other creative ways (see elsewhere in this magazine), and we look forward to the days when we can meet face to face, when we are allowed, and it is safe to do so.

Because, as Christians, our hope is in our future with Christ.

Revd Paul Fox

Experience of Opening our Churches for Private Prayer

When, in June, the PCC decided that as we were unable to hold services, we would take the opportunity to open our churches for private prayer, we had no idea how this would be received, as there was no tradition of opening.

Looking back, whilst we all felt it was the right thing to do, we had no knowledge of what the response would be or what this would mean to people. As Pam says "Just before St C's (St Cuthbert's) had begun to open for private prayer Dave had been up to church. On his way towards the Lych gate, a visitor to the grounds asked if Church was open. At the time anyone who wished to go in had to contact Charlene to be let in. It was clear that there was a need to make Church opening something that should be done, as people simply needed a place to go to make sense of what was happening. Not everyone is confident asking to be let in and often we don't want to bother people".

Thanks to the support of those people who have been involved, we have continued opening continuously since then, even when we were holding services.

The response in terms of numbers of people has been varied, but there have been very few times when there have been no visitors, apart from bad weather days.

What has it meant?

The answer is that it has meant different things to different people – spiritual, social, support and space, are words that spring to mind. Those members of the church family who have opened the churches each week, members of our congregation who have taken the opportunity to come to church at those times, and those people who have not been traditional church attendees, but have taken the chance to call in, sometimes whilst out for a walk, have all gained from our being open. It has also allowed those who are not technology adept to still have a connection with the church, and for those who feel it is too soon for them to return to church for services, to have found a space in which they feel safe at the moment.

Reflecting on their experience of the experience of being involved:

"For me it meant a huge amount to get into the building and help with opening for prayer. It was something I could do to help others in lockdown. I have always appreciated being on the cleaning rota and coming into church when it is quiet. The smell, the peace and the familiar surroundings are very comforting and never more so than at this time."

"During a time when we had been kept in our homes for weeks on end, often finding the news quite frightening, certainty and the usual pattern of life gone, it was a huge relief to return to the comfort of church. The first lockdown I found very difficult, not seeing family and worrying that they might become ill, walking up to church and opening up for others gave a me sense of perspective."

"When we first came for quiet prayers there was a great need to be back in church. I had missed the presentation of the altar, the stained-glass windows, lighting a few candles together for others on the prayer tree. Seeing others if (only a few) feeling the same need by coming to church for quiet space and special time out with God in his house. We feel opening for quiet prayer gives us the opportunity to continue gods work in this special way."

Our Visitors

The response to the opening has been very positive. Several of our congregation have taken the opportunity to come to the church regularly, appreciating not only being able to continue to come into God's house, but also a sense of a familiar structure, social contact and support during a difficult time, in a quiet safe place. We have also welcomed new people on both occasional and regular visits, even in bad weather. For some people, especially those who have been coping with family illness, or where family members are in the front line, in their words.

"You have given me a place where I have been able to find peace and space for myself for a while, where I knew I would be welcome "

"I don't come to services, but really appreciate being able to come and sit quietly, have a candle lit and say a prayer "

"It is a time and space where I don't have to be strong for others".

"I have really appreciated it. You made me so welcome, being able to come to St Cuthbert's was a joy".

Christmas time was obviously particularly hard for everyone, but decorating the churches, seeing them illuminated on dark nights, candles lit and carols playing, and a chance to pray, helped many face the prospect of a future lockdown and not seeing much loved family and friends with a much more positive perspective. Perhaps, at this time more than ever, we have all felt the need to share our thoughts and prayers in our own way and have found that the church has offered that opportunity in a way not experienced before. As we go forward, and we pray that there is a real 'Light at the end of the long dark tunnel', we continue to open our churches and offer a warm welcome to all who visit.

Opening Times:

St Cuthbert's Wednesdays 2pm – 4pm

All Saints' Thursday 10am – 12noon, Sunday 8.30am – 10.00am, and 3pm – 4pm

With many thanks to those people who have committed their time and support, and who contributed to this article.

Jean Ensor, Ackworth Church Warden

Mission and Music - Badsworth Church Choir

We have been very fortunate in recruiting children from Badsworth school as there is a close link between the school and the church. This has been part of our mission for the church in building community links and expanding our church family. Three children from the school joined before the pandemic. We also were lucky enough to gain two of the children's parents and a grandma in the choir, they were proudly given choir robes and very soon the choir was working for the Royal School of Music awards. We also have three young people two girls and a boy, and they have achieved their red ribbons, The Bishop Award. We have some very supportive senior choir members, but we need tenors and basses. Please do get in contact if you are interested.

Just before Christmas we would normally have a traditional carol service in church. The congregation and the choir sing well-known carols and the choir on their own sing three or four different carols. The service includes readings from the bible. We were very sorry not to be able to continue this during the Pandemic, as usually the church is full, and it gives pleasure both to the singers and the community. This is one of our main missional services in the year, we did however contribute to an online carol service shared with Ackworth parish which was well received, but we very much missed the congregation.

During the year we have met in church when allowed and the choir has sung solos during the services on a Sunday. We are all longing to get back to the normal services when everyone can sing together once again.

Hazel Davies, Badsworth Organist and Choirmaster

World Day of Prayer Service 2021

As many of you will know, the World Day of Prayer is always held on the first Friday in March every year. The country chosen for 2021 is Vanuatu, and, having seen a copy of the service plan, we know that it will be interesting, colourful, joyful, and just as meaningful as previous services. The date for the service this year is 5th March 2021.

Apart from one year when the ice and snow forced us to cancel, there has always been a Churches Together service in Ackworth for everyone – not just women! - to join in the worldwide day of prayer, focussing on a particular country each year.

We have decided to postpone our service in Ackworth because of the Pandemic but will certainly be holding one later in the year, when things have become more settled. However, please do look at the website www.wwdp.org.uk as there will be services from other areas on YouTube to watch on Friday, 5th March.

When we have arranged a date, a time, and a place for the service in Ackworth there will be lots of publicity and we hope that you will join us to add prayer for the women of Vanuatu as well as celebrate the end of this dreadful situation we have been through for so many months.
Looking forward to that day!

WWDOP Committee in Ackworth

Socially Distanced Carol Singing

Our Music Worship Group have had to become quite creative over the last year in how we meet and sing together. We have sung in the church grounds, sometimes in church but spread around and we have attempted to sing over zoom, which wasn't so successful! We have had long recording sessions on a couple of occasions and now have learned to record ourselves individually and combine the music later to make our voices sound 'as one'.

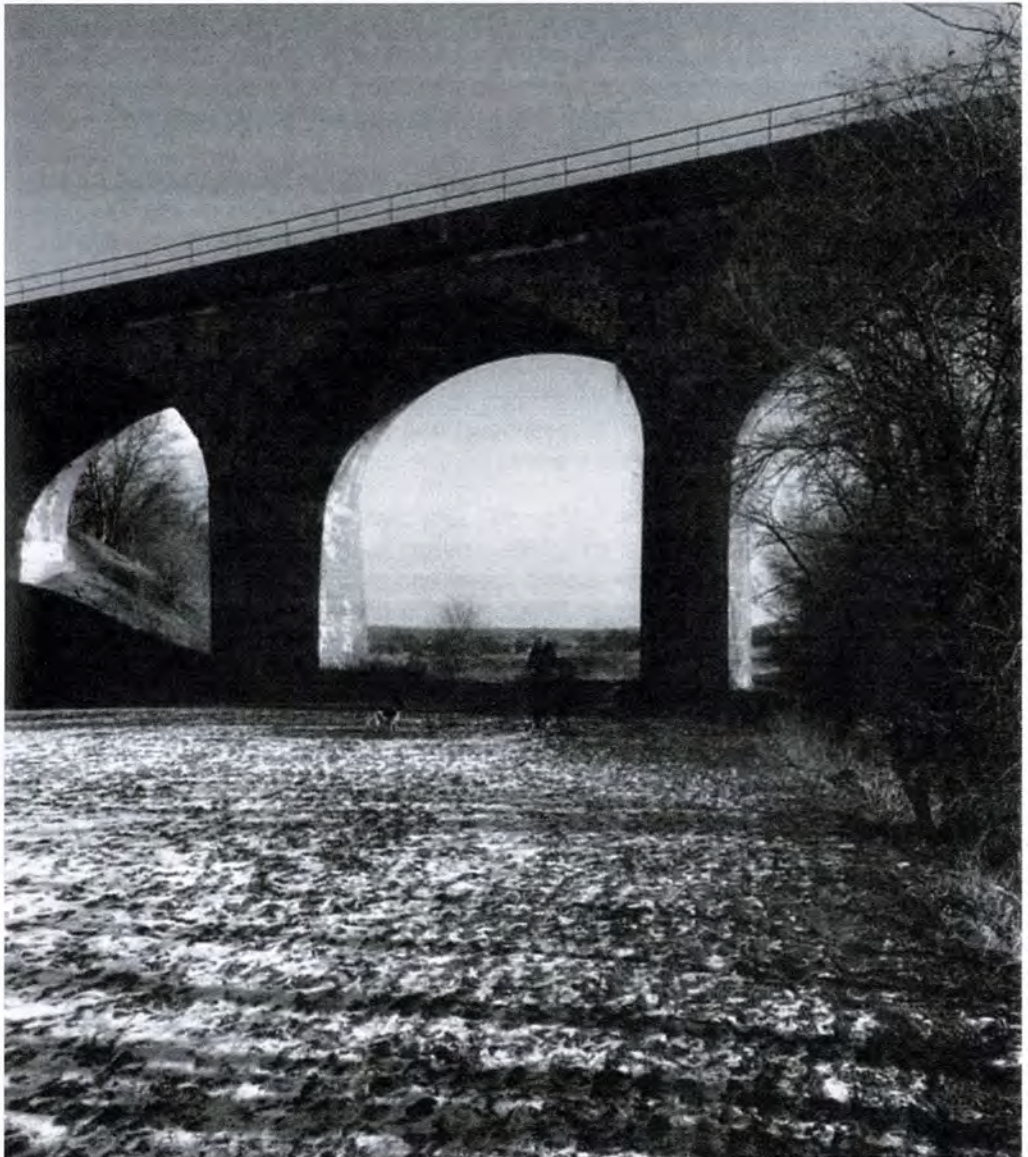
As we went into Advent last year, we felt that we needed a bit of a release from all of this and also we wanted to share our music making with others, as that is one thing we have really missed. We decided to go Carol singing around the village, but specifically for members of our congregation who we hadn't seen for a while.

We were delighted and encouraged by the response of all who we sang for. It was a



great surprise for everyone and we always received a warm welcome. It was lovely to see people from church face to face, several of whom we hadn't seen since March! It was so good to catch up with family news – on one evening we were delighted to find out that some of our congregation had just been vaccinated and we were able to sing with them in celebration. Several of the people we visited joined in with the singing and some were moved to tears. It truly was a wonderful evening and a special gift – both for them and for us.

Julie Davis
Organist and Music Group leader



LOOKING AT THE COMMUNITY - PASTORAL MISSION

At the 'Heart' of a Community - Church and Council work together to support the installation of a Defibrillator Machine.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for St Mary's Church, Badsworth was approached by the local parish council asking if we would be willing to mount a heart defibrillator in the porch of the church.

This had to be approved by the PCC and also agreed by the Diocese. Everyone on the PCC were in agreement and very happy to help, but due to COVID-19 and with the following lockdowns everything stopped.

In November when I became the churchwarden for St Mary's Church, Clr Peter Smith asked if we would be able to continue where we'd left off. With the defibrillator already purchased, Reverend Charlene, Peter and myself worked through the necessary checks and paperwork to success!

This was very much a team effort between the Church and the Parish Council, and we were delighted to help with such a critical lifesaving piece of equipment. The Parish Council has published a photograph of the three of us standing next to the defibrillator for the community magazine for Badsworth and Thorpe Audlin. This is a great example of how the village can work together, building and strengthening relationships between St Mary's Church and the village community.

Karen Barker, Badsworth Church Warden

Pocket Hugs and Much More

During the first Lockdown a colleague showed me a card she had been given with a wooden disc 'pocket hug' on it from her grandchildren as they couldn't physically be with her but wanted her to know they cared, loved and missed her. It touched a chord with me as I feel one of the main things with the pandemic is being unable to hug someone either as comfort, to show you care or that you love them. That was on 21st April 2020, by the 24th May 2020 we had distributed our first round of 'pocket hugs'.

A pocket hug is tangible and tactile, can give comfort and people know that people care about them. They have been given to church members, people who attend coffee morning, bereaved, or 'Little Friends' (tots and baby group) members, people going into hospital, to someone who's loved one is in hospital, neighbours, friends, family and even strangers met on a walk. They bring a smile and often have been received at an opportune moment when someone was struggling.

Derek has made the wooden discs, Kirsty and Jackie have decorated them and Revd. Paul Fox, Jackie, Kirsty and Ute have distributed them (all church members). I feel they resonate with people in a strong and personal way giving a feeling of love, comfort and a smile. It connects the church family together in an effective way in these times when it is easy to feel distanced. Over 120 have been given out, recipients have said "have felt touched by them." They "will squeeze them when feeling low". "Will treasure it". "How lovely they were, a wonderful gesture". "Felt cared for". "Brought comfort on a bad day". "Made them smile".

Since then, we've had knitted flowers, wooden Christmas discs and hand painted cards been distributed to help the community feel connected with each other and know they are cared for and thought of.

It doesn't stop there, Jackie, Kirsty and Carlyne are currently making daffodils at moment and Easter chicks/bags!

Kirsty Morris, Ackworth Church Member and Children's Worker

A Happy Christmas to our Wakefield NHS workers!

I have been asked to give some feedback about the NHS Gifts Bags appeal, how it all came about!

900 bags were very gratefully received by the staff working on the Covid wards at Pinderfields Hospital and at the Ambulance Station in Wakefield just before Christmas. I have heard that they were surprised and overwhelmed by the scale and generosity.

So how did we get to this point?

I work at Pinderfields and, although nowhere near the wards, I was hearing at first hand just how difficult it was for the staff who were already tired from the first wave earlier in the year. Staff were having to work overtime shifts and many were deployed to work in areas that were unfamiliar to them and doing jobs they were not used to, in particularly challenging circumstances. I wanted to help but felt helpless. I did start wondering what I could do.

It was the very end of November and I wondered if we could get a gift to each member of staff working on these wards, to show our appreciation and how they were valued by the community.

I quickly did some research, and it was evident that people were not aware of what was happening. I felt that it would be great if the Christian community of Wakefield could show appreciation for these amazing people. Realising this was a big task I had a major hesitation - this was a personal risk - it might go horribly wrong and I have never done anything like this before and was unsure how to go about it. Words kept going around my head that I had read, posted by a church friend:

"...the greatest risk is that we do nothing, play it safe and stay within our comfort zones".

So, feeling very encouraged and supported by God, a few emails later the process started.

Many people enabled this to happen and many people gave up their time often at short notice!!

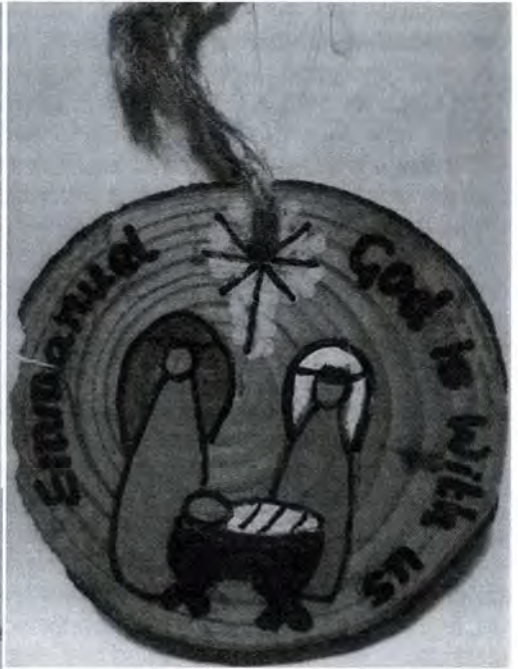
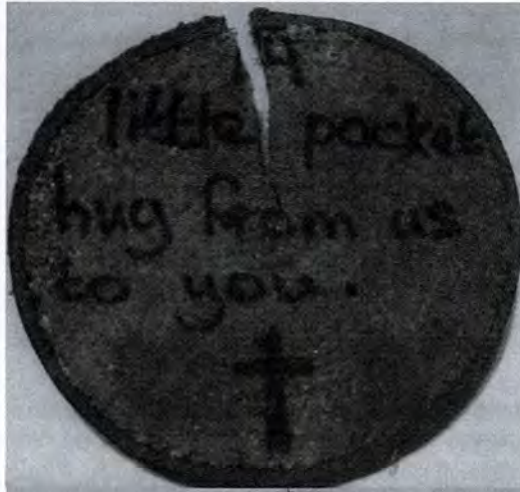
The generosity of individuals in churches, help and support from + Bishop Tony, the list goes on.

A local manufacturing company contacted me out of the blue to offer hundreds of amazing gifts. Lots of bags had to be made up. Lots of boxes had to be unpacked. The gifts had to be moved and moved again!! Wakefield Cathedral kindly offered to be a dropping off point which was a big help. People just kept offering to help and just at the right time! Right at the start, I had bags of gifts that had been generously donated, but I had no separate gift bags at this stage. I remember being in All Saints

Church and asking God what to do. As I got up from my pew someone put some money in my hand - enough to buy the bags I needed. A few days later I heard about a large donation. This came at the right time, when we realised most of the bags were for ladies - so a trip to Home Bargains with the Bishop sorted that problem!!! I was very touched by people who were dropping off gifts, so glad to have the opportunity to help. Everything all came together, and a huge number of gifts were handed over to a very well deserving group of people, as a result of members all the Wakefield churches working together.

The thing I will remember the most, though, is how God's hand was in this from the very start. All the way through, people responding, things being enabled. My Faith grew a lot though all this. I have learned to rely on God for all that is needed, and to see at first-hand what can be done when we all work together.

Chris Croft, Ackworth Church Member



Pocket Hugs which wonderfully appeared on our doorstep during some of the darkest times of the last year.

PRAYERS & POEMS - PASTORAL MISSION

Below are the prayers, readings and poems taken from 'The Sanctuary Course' – Mental Health Ministries.

Members of the Pastoral Team in both parishes have joined this eight-week course, designed to equip our churches in supporting mental health and wellbeing. I hope you find the following useful and inspirational.

Week 1

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. *Psalm 42.1-2*

I am not here to pass judgement or point the finger at anyone. My name was written in the sand as one who is forgiven. Strengthened with hope, impervious to shame, I will walk freely like the freshness of the dry lands after rain. Let light spill out of heaven through my life, dispelling mediocrity and silent blame. Too many people, guilt-stricken, wounded, walk in regret, feeling bad about failing, apologise even for breathing.

Raw belief, a passion for others grows in me, encircling each moment with instinctive prayer. I will carry the freshness of the dry lands after the rain.

Compassion lives in me gain. Amen.

Poem by Andy Raine

Week 2

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope is God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Psalm 42.5-6

The Examen *Ask God to send His Spirit:* We acknowledge that we need God's help in order to perceive the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes, heart, and understanding.

Give thanks for the day: Think back on the events of the day and remember moments of happiness, enjoyment, and blessing. Now thank God for those gifts.

Review the day: Consider the moments in your day where you felt overwhelmed, angry, or lonely. Were there situations where you wish you had responded differently? Bring these thoughts and feeling before God.

Ask for forgiveness: Where necessary, ask God for forgiveness. Take a moment to reflect on the gift of forgiveness, and receive this gift.

Pray for the next day: Now, ask for the presence and help of the Holy Spirit. If there are any particular needs or challenges that you will face tomorrow, bring the before him specifically.

Week 3

My souls is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordon and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

Psalm 42.6-7

May these words be a source of blessing and encouragement as you pray for yourself and on behalf of those struggling with mental illness.

We pray for the fragile ecology of the heart and mind. The sense of meaning so finely assembled and balanced and so easily overturned.

The careful, ongoing construction of LOVE.

As painful and exhausting as the struggle for truth and as easily abandoned. Hard fought and won are the shifting sands of this sacred ground, this ecology.

Easy to desecrate and difficult to defend, this vulnerable joy, this exposed faith, this precious order. This sanity.

We shall be careful. With others and with ourselves. Amen.

Prayer by Michael Leunig

Week 4

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and let them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. *Psalm 42.2-4*

This prayer for peace is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. It is a beautiful expression of our desire to demonstrate the radical love of Christ to all around us.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, it is pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Week 5

By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. *Psalms 42.8*

The changing seasons are a beautiful reminder that suffering and death are followed by renewal and life in the redemptive plan of God.

“Because We Hunkered Down”

These bleak and freezing seasons may mean Grace when they are memory. In time to come

When we speak truth, then they will have their Place, telling the story of our journey home,

Through dark December and stark January

With all its disappointments, through the murk

And dreariness of frozen February,

When even breathing seemed unwelcome work.

Because through all of these we held together, Because we shunned the impulse to let go, Because we hunkered down through our dark weather, and trusted to the soil beneath the Snow, slowly, slowly, turning a cold key,

Spring will unlock our hearts and set us free.

Poem by Malcom Guite

Week 6

When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, While people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”

Psalms 42.2b-3

“The Servant Song”

Will you let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I might have the grace. To let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travellers on the road. We are here to help each other. Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you. In the night time of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you; Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow. Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony.

Born of all we've known together. Of Christ's love and agony.

Song by Richard Gillard

Week 7

I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?" *Psalms 42.9*

Lord, the wounds of the world are too deep for us to heal. We have to bring men and women to you and ask you to look after them – the sick in body and mind, the withered in spirit, the victims of greed and injustice, the prisoners of grief.

And yet, our Father, do not let our prayers excuse us from paying the price of compassion.

Make us generous with the resources you have entrusted to us. Let your work of rescue be done in us and through us all. Amen.

Week 8

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

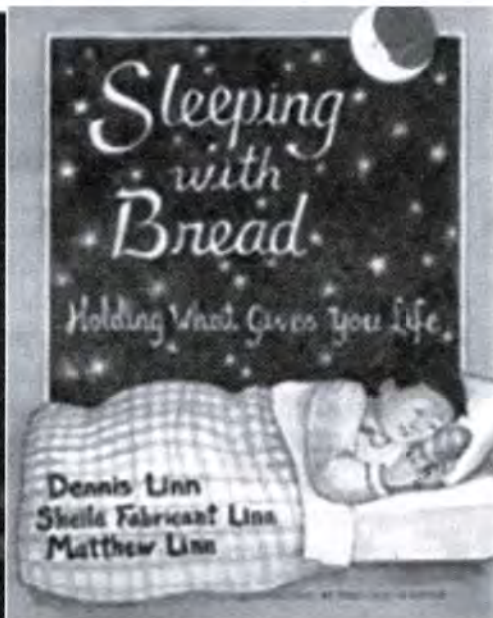
Psalms 42.11

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Numbers 6.24-26



BOOK REVIEWS - PASTORAL MISSION

Sleeping with bread – holding what gives you life, by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn and Matthew Linn.

This is a book that I bought back in 2016 and has been a staple in my life since, the examen prayer has origins in the sixteenth century and has become a helpful spiritual exercise for many Christians since. Sleeping with bread provide simple, easy to follow guidance through the examen prayer and process. Revd. Charlene

From the back page:

"If you were to join us in either of our home at the end of almost any evening, or if you were to attend one of our retreats, we would invite you to do with us the process described in these pages. This book is about asking ourselves two questions: For what am I most grateful? For what am I least grateful? These questions help us identify moments of consolation and desolation. We call this process the examen."

"We have given retreat in over forty countries, and we find that regardless of culture or age group, this simple process is the most helpful way for people to hear the voice of God guiding them from within. For example, people bring us many questions ranging from, 'should I change my job?' to 'What can help me with my depression?' We usually suggest they spend the next month focusing each day on the examen questions. Such people often return a month later having discovered from their own experience of consolation and desolation exactly what they should do more of and less on in order to resolve their problem."

"For centuries, prayerful people have found direction for their days and for their lives by identifying these moments. Since even small children can do this, we have tried here to present the examen in a format that families, friends and communities can share and that will be easily accessible to anyone. We hope the examen will enrich your lives and your relationships as much as it has ours."

You Are Special – A Story for Everyone, by Max Lucado

This is a book which I have given to many people over the years, it has been a favourite of mine to give to baptism families or to individuals who need to know that they are loved. A simple story of the 'Wemmicks' and their relationship with each other and their creator. Beautifully written and illustrated. Revd. Charlene

From the inside cover:

Every now and then there is a story that touches the hearts of all who hear it. A story that speaks to your soul and says, "This is true!" This is one of those stories. It is about the Punchinello in each of us – the part of you that struggles to believe that someone treasures you. Someone who doesn't judge you by what you look like, what you have, or what you do. Someone who loves you just because you are you. It's a vital message we all need to hear. A message we need to share with others: You are special, no matter what.




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Services:

Currently our churches are closed for public worship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At present we are offering services via Facebook on a Sunday.

10am livestreaming of the Eucharist

11am Family Worship 2nd Sunday in the month

3pm Sunday Reflection

Additional services advertised under the section High Days & Holy Days

Private Prayer:

The churches are open for private prayer on the following days

Sunday 8.30am – 10am All Saints' Church

3.30pm – 4.30pm All Saints' Church

Thursday 10am – 12noon All Saints' Church

2pm – 4pm St Cuthbert's Church

Regular Service Times: *(when the churches are open for public worship)*

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 Revd. Charlene 01977 599979.

Book of Remembrance:

If you would like your loved one's name adding to our Book of Remembrance, please contact Lynne Ward 01977 616384.

'Little Friends' Mother and Toddler Group:

At the present time there is no mother and toddler group meeting under the currently restrictions.

Please contact Jackie Fox for further information 01977 613834.



Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL

Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH

Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL

Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY

2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN

Genesis 29:32

GAD

Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:20

OBED

Matthew 1:5

ISAAC

Genesis 21:3

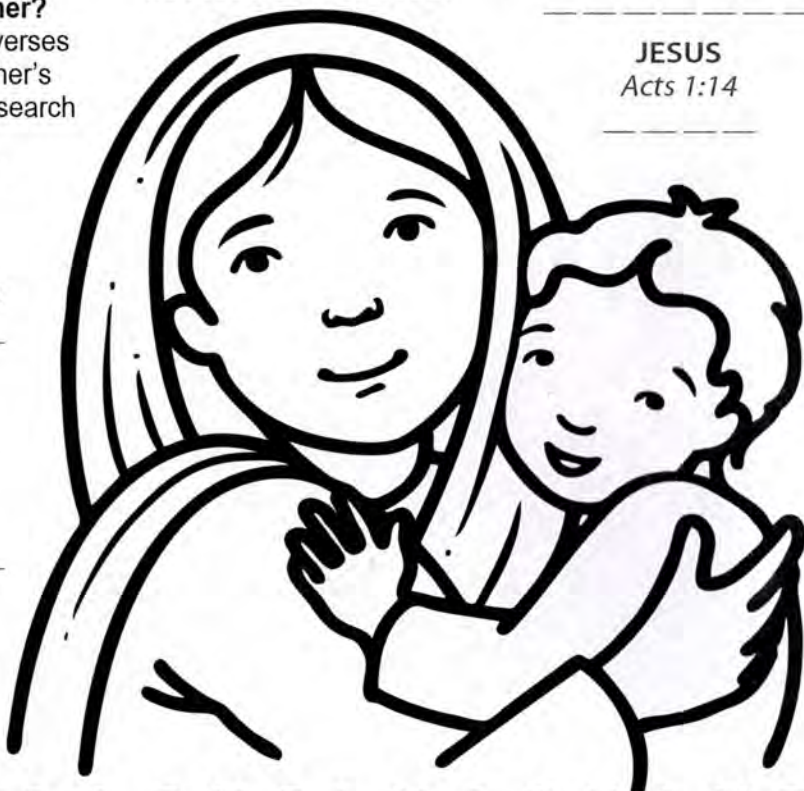
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14



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| E | T | M | U | M | L | E | A | H | N | N | L | P |
| K | M | O | T | H | E | R | R | T | N | I | E | A |
| A | I | S | H | H | A | G | A | R | A | C | G | H |
| H | S | T | A | B | A | T | H | S | H | E | B | A |

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?