



ACRE MILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER : DECEMBER 2016



	Morning 10.30am	Evening 6.00pm
4 Dec	Rob Winterbottom	Terry HJ <i>Communion</i>
11 Dec	Susan Weston <i>Communion</i>	Choir Musical 'Hope Has Hands' 7.00pm
18 Dec	Sunday School & CBC	Carol Service
25 Dec	Phil Bowden	No Service
1 Jan	Terry HJ <i>Family Service</i>	No Service
8 Jan	John Prior Bible Text Sunday	Celebration and Supper <i>Decorations</i>
15 Jan	D Clegg <i>Thessalonians Series 1 Communion</i>	Our Daily Bread <i>Videos and Reflections</i>
22 Jan	Rob Winterbottom	Phil B and Phil W
29 Jan	World Leprosy Day	D Clegg <i>Communion</i>

	Christmas Breaks	
	Last	Resume
Toddlers	13 Dec	10 Jan
Midweek	14 Dec	11 Jan
Rubicon	21 Dec	4 Jan
CBC	15 Dec	12 Jan
Choir	15 Dec	12 Jan AGM
Drop In	16 Dec	13 Jan

On Monday 28 November at 6.30pm, we are **decorating the church** ready for Christmas and everyone is welcome to help. Mince pies afterwards. The decorations will be taken down after the evening service on 8 **January** which will be a celebration and supper.



Stacksteads Countryside Park Group invites us to the switching on of the **Christmas Lights** at School Street on Sunday 4 December at 5pm.

Friday 16 December. **Carols Round The Tree** at Toll Bar. 7.00pm - with Stacksteads Band, our Choir, Baked Potatoes and a visit from Santa.

November was a busy month! The CBC leaders thank everyone who helped at the **Bonfire**. This continues to be very popular with our neighbours and friends - over **120 people** enjoyed the bonfire, fireworks and supper.

The last of the **'walks of faith'** for this year was to **Heptonstall** where a hardy band of walkers enjoyed a break in the wet weather to explore some more locations with associations to **Baptist History**. Thanks go to Peter Marland for organising and researching the walks - and for so dramatically and effectively warning us of the dangers of slippery gravestones!

We all enjoyed our trip to Burnley Mechanics to see a great production of **'White Christmas'** (some of us even brought snow home!) and hope to do something similar next year. Well done to **Elizabeth** for organising things so well. Also, thanks go to **Katie Heath** for her beautiful design for the cover of our Christmas leaflet.



Deacons' Elections At the Church Meeting Jason Heath was elected as a **Deacon** to serve for the next three years. We send our warmest best wishes and thanks to **Gladys Monk** for her faithful service as a Deacon since 2007.

Saturday 17 December. **Church Christmas Party**. 5.00pm. - 8.00pm. Everyone is welcome. Pie and Peas Supper this year.

We are grateful to **Kyle and Harry** who have been doing voluntary work with us as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme. They organised a successful **Games Night** for young people last week and we have had requests for another one! In late January we are hoping to organise another **Family Bowling Night** and will let you know when details are finalised.

Please Pray For

- Rubicon and its leaders
- Everyone waiting for hospital treatment, appointments, tests and results
- Our Deacons and leaders of organisations
- The distribution of the Christmas leaflets
- All those who live alone, especially at Christmas.
- The work of Tear Fund and Cancer Research
- Safety for those travelling in the winter months
- A safer and more peaceful World
- The Bethany Family in Tanzania
- The people of Stacksteads at Christmas



Give Thanks for

- Our Catering Team, brewers and washers up
- Families who come to Toddler Group
- Christmas events and everyone who works hard to make Christmas a special and blessed time.
- Messages from the Bible and those who bring them to us each week.
- Problems prayed for and answered
- People with creative and technical talents
- Leaders of CBC and Sunday School

Today (and next Thursday) we are presenting all our children with **an Advent Calendar** and a special Christmas Booklet.



LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS

December is the month when, as a church, we concentrate our thinking on the **FIRST COMING** of Jesus Christ to this earth. We know the story so well, don't we? But here at Acre Mill, January is a different month altogether, because our preaching team begin a **new series of messages**, broadly coinciding with our morning communion services. The series will be based on Paul's First letter to the church in **Thessalonica**, where there is much mention of His **SECOND COMING**. We hope that you will look forward to this series as much as the Team Members are doing!

Bethany Project

It was a delight to have the children of the **Bethany Project** with us and we were all moved (to tears) by their beautiful singing and challenging stories. Graham tells me that Shilinde's leg is now completely healed and all the children went **back home safely** in the early hours of Friday morning.



We are hoping to support the project in some way in the future and would welcome any ideas you might have.

Flowers for December



6 December : The Bracewell Family will be providing the Poinsettias again in memory of Mr Ronnie Piper.

For the rest of the month the church will be decorated for Christmas. Many thanks to everyone who has provided, arranged and distributed the flowers during 2016.

Birthday Corner

Lucy Amelia Metcalf who had her birthday on 22 November. **Abigail and Isabelle Sinkinson** will be seven years old on 22nd Dec and Noah Webb will be TWO on Boxing Day! Happy Birthday to all who have a birthday in December - including Kim Chadwick, Philip Webb, Ben Bracewell and **Gladys**, who celebrates her 91st .



Proposed Deacons and Church Meeting Dates 2017

Deacons	Church
Tues 10 Jan	Wed 18 Jan
Tues 28 Feb	Wed 8 Mar (AGM)
Tues 25 April	Wed 3 May
Tues 6 Jun	Wed 14 Jun
Tues 5 Sep	Wed 13 Sep
Tues 24 Oct	Wed 8 Nov

Please let us know if you notice any problems

The Offering on Christmas Day will be for **Tear Fund** and there will be envelopes under the tree if you wish to make a donation to **Cancer Research**.



The Church Tithe for 2016 will be donated as follows : Magdalene Project £100, Vision £100, Tear Fund £350, BMS £550, Home Mission Fund £670, Bacup Family Centre £100, Interserve £100, Bethany Family £150

Christmas Musical The choir present the Musical '**Hope has Hands**' on 11 December at 7.00pm. Please support the choir and invite someone along if you can.



Posters for the musical are ready and this year's Christmas leaflets will be here next week so, if you can help, please take some and note where you have delivered them to on the **list in the Fellowship Room**. If you don't live near church, please feel free to take some for family, friends and neighbours.

Carol Service On Sunday 18 December at 6.00pm, our **Carol Service** will be led by David Clegg. Mince Pies and coffee will be served afterwards.

