



Acre Mill Baptist Church

Newsletter : January 2014



Services	Morning 10.30am	Evening 6.00pm
5 Jan	John Prior Bible Text Sunday	Celebration and Supper <i>Decorations</i>
12 Jan	Stephen Crook <i>Family Service Lunch</i>	Terry Haslam-Jones <i>Communion</i>
19 Jan	Rev Sandra Crawford <i>Communion</i>	Service of Christian Unity 4:00pm Kay Street Baptist.
26 Jan	Rev Derek Allen <i>World Leprosy Day</i>	Focus on the Philippines <i>Tear Fund Report</i>
2 Feb	Rob Winterbottom	David Clegg <i>Communion</i>
9 Feb	Terry Haslam-Jones <i>Family Service Lunch</i>	Ben Bracewell
16 Feb	Tim Doggart <i>Communion</i>	No Service <i>(School Holidays)</i>
23 Feb	Rev Marshall Goff	Annual Celebration 5.00pm

Coming Up
On Sunday 5 January , we will be having a final Christmas and New Year praise service, starting at the usual time of 6.00pm. After taking down the Christmas Decorations , a supper will be provided at about 7.45pm. 
The Toddlers are back in action on Tuesday 7 January and CBC starts on Thursday 9 January.
Rubicon and the Drop In resume on Friday 3 January.
The Midweek Meeting begins again on 22 January and the Choir have their Annual General Meeting on 9 January.
Tues 6 Jan 7.30pm Deacons' Meeting Wed 15 Jan 7.30pm Church Meeting
Friday 24 January Family Bowling Evening 7.00-9.00pm

A Happy 2014 to Everyone!

Thanks to everyone who helped with our services and Christmas activities in any way - especially those who worked so hard 'behind the scenes' to make Christmas 2013 a really memorable time. The services were again very well-attended and it was good to see so many children at the party. We all enjoyed the Christmas musical '**Bethlehem Morning**' and thank Peter, the choir and the technical team. The choir begin rehearsing for Easter soon and new members are always welcome.



It was an honour to have the **Mayor of Rossendale** with us at the Carol Service and our thanks go to David for organising things so well.

Christmas Leaflets again went out to advertise our Christmas activities and to send a Christmas message into the neighbourhood - a 'well done' to everyone who helped with the distribution.

A Christmas newsletter from **the Collins family** in Australia was received recently and is on the noticeboard

Offerings during the last three months of the year were encouraging and the average for the year will be about **£311 per week**. This is above our budget target but please pray for our finances in 2014, especially in view of the further rise in fuel costs next year. We will be discussing the budget for 2014 at the next Church Meeting. Will treasurers of church organisations let Terry have their **2013 accounts** when convenient, please.

Next year we are hoping to finish painting the outside of the window frames, complete the refurbishment of the loft and do some work on the CBC store room. If you have **any time to spare**, help would be very welcome.

You are invited to **bring a packed lunch** on 12 Jan and 9 Feb.

Ladies' Meetings In December we had our AGM and Christmas buffet meal at Church (with carols) which was enjoyed by all. We have a **break now** for the winter months and look forward to March when we hope the worst of the winter weather will have passed. The ladies have **donated £300** towards improvements to the sound system which Phil B and Chris Smithson are planning.



Flowers for January

5 Jan - Shirley Cormack in memory of Ian
 12 Jan - Jean Cormack in memory of Harold
 19 Jan - Vacant 26 Jan - Vacant
 We have a number of vacancies in the first part of the year so, if you would like to provide flowers for one of these dates, please see Jean Naylor.

Please Pray For (Your suggestions)

- Those suffering from mental illness
- All who work in Children's Hospitals
- The work of Cancer Research, Tear Fund, BMS, Bacup Family Centre and the Magdalene Project
- Our local Councillors.
- Friends and family near and far away
- The people of Stacksteads
- Safety in bad weather
- All our activities in 2014

Give Thanks for

- Our Christmas services and activities and the opportunities they gave to witness and serve the community.
- The Gift of Christmas Music-new and traditional
- Faithful helpers
- Light in dark places
- The work of the Bacup Fellowship of Churches
- Our babies and toddlers (and their parents!)
- Our church building at Christmas

Don't forget to check the **church website** at www.acremill.org.uk for updates and those of you who use Facebook might like to join the **Acre Mill Facebook Group**. If you have items for prayer, thanks, news or coming events, please see Joan, Elizabeth or Terry - or you can email items to info@acremill.org.uk We now send out the newsletter **by email** and, if you would like to receive it this way or know someone who would, let us know.

Christmas Giving There is still time to give to **Tear Fund** and **Cancer Research** using the envelopes on the piano. These may be left under the tree or placed in the offering.

.Our church text for 2014 is Psalm 73:28 (RSV).
 Text cards will be available from David next week.

--o-0-o--
 BUT FOR ME IT IS GOOD TO BE
 NEAR GOD;
 I HAVE MADE THE LORD GOD
 MY REFUGE
 --o-0-o--

Birthday Corner

Shannon's birthday is on 7 January and Nikita celebrates her 14th birthday on the 24th. Best Wishes to them and all who have birthdays this month, including Pamela on the 1st, Elizabeth Heath on the 2nd and David Clegg on the 9th. Please let **Joan Spencer** know if you would like a birthday including in the newsletter.



Deacons and Church Meeting Dates 2014

Tues 7 Jan	Wed 15 Jan
Tues 25 Feb	Wed 5 Mar (AGM)
Tues 29 April	Wed 7 May
Tues 10 Jun	Wed 18 Jun
Tues 9 Sep	Wed 17 Sep
Tues 21 Oct	Wed 12 Nov

If you have any items for these meetings, please let Shirley have them. If you are unable to come to a meeting, **copies of the minutes** are available.

Gift Aid The new **Gift Aid** year starts on 1 January so please think about joining the scheme for your regular giving or any single gifts. Registering is a simple process and **David Clegg** (Gift Aid Secretary) will be delighted to provide help and further details. 'Gift Aid' will increase your giving by 25%.

The Annual Celebration will be held on **23 February** at 6.00pm and will be preceded by pie and peas at 5.00pm. All our organisations report on **2013** and what they hope to do in 2014.

Family Bowling Evening

We have made a booking at **MFA Bowl**, Finsley Gate, Burnley on Friday, 24 January from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. The cost will be £5.00 per person (same for adults and children). **Booking forms** with further information are available. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to come so we can finalise numbers.



Apologies for the spelling of MINCE pies last month!