



Acre Mill Baptist Church

Newsletter : December 2011



Services	Morning 10.30am	Evening 6.00pm
4 Dec	Jean/Shirley <i>(Waiting 3)</i>	Gladys Monk <i>Communion</i>
11 Dec	Phil B/David <i>(Waiting 4)</i>	Choir Musical 8.00pm <i>O Holy Night</i> 
18 Dec	Sunday School & CE	Carol Service  <i>Led by David Clegg</i>
25 Dec	Shirley Cormack <i>Christmas Day 10.30am</i>	No Service
31 Dec	Watchnight Service 11.30pm	
1 Jan	Rev John Prior	No Service
8 Jan	David Clegg	Terry Haslam-Jones <i>Communion</i>
15 Jan	Rev Sandra Crawford <i>Communion</i>	Peter Webb & Ben Bracewell
22 Jan	Philips Webb & Bowden	Joint Valley Service <i>Central Methodist Bacup, 3.00pm</i>
29 Jan	Miss Marilyn Dearden	Terry Haslam-Jones

Coming Up

Friday 2 December at 7.00pm- We are **decorating the church** ready for Christmas. Everyone is welcome to help. Mince pies afterwards.

Saturday 3 December. **Friends of Bocholt Christmas Market** from 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Bacup Hub, Burnley Rd. Acre Mill Choir are singing at about 11.30am. 

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

Saturday 17 December. **Church Christmas Party**. 5.00pm. - 8.00pm. Everyone welcome.

BMS Boxes and Leprosy Mission Phials are now due and should be given to Christine Clegg as soon as possible, please. 

31 December at 10.30pm
New Year Celebration followed by **Watchnight Service** at 11.30pm led by Peter and Philip.

November

The CE leaders send their thanks to everyone who helped at and supported the **Bonfire**. There was a good attendance despite the heavy rain - and well done to the catering team for swiftly organising indoor dining at very short notice. It was good to hear Tim recently on Radio Rossendale and we wish him well in his new job as their IT Technician.

We are planning our **budget for 2012** and a major consideration will be a requirement from the Baptist Union for churches to contribute to the Baptist Ministers Pension Fund, which has problems arising from the economic downturn of the last few years. Please prayerfully think about your financial support in 2012 and consider joining the **Gift Aid** scheme for your regular giving - or maybe a special Christmas Gift to Church.

Church Meeting

Shirley, Peter and Terry were elected as **Deacons** to serve for the next three years. We discussed finance, dates for Christmas, and reviewed the building work that has been done recently.

The fixing of a **handrail** on the drive from Hammond Avenue was agreed - the Ladies have offered to pay for this.

Ladies' Meetings

On 8th November **Mr. Colin Crawforth** was with us and he collected the 22 shoe-boxes which our ladies and friends had made up, telling us of the appreciation and pleasure they would bring to the people of **Ukraine** who would be receiving them.

Our **AGM** was held on 22nd November and we now look forward to the local **Baptist Women's Carol Service** which is being held at Acre Mill on 6th December at 2 pm. The following week we are once again visiting Sykeside House for a **Christmas Lunch**. Meetings cease until March when, hopefully, the weather will be improving.

Please Pray For (Your suggestions)

- Everyone waiting for hospital treatment, appointments, tests and results
- Our Deacons and Leaders
- Safety in the winter weather
- The distribution of our Christmas leaflets
- The Heath Family
- All those who live alone



Give Thanks for

- Words of kindness and support
- The CE leaders and children
- Christmas Events and everyone who works hard to make Christmas a memorable time.
- Our families and friends
- Answered Prayers

The Branch Street Stone The stone and plaque was provided by the **Stacksteads Countryside Park Group** who carry out many improvement and environmental projects in our area. The plants have been provided by Rossendale Council and look great. **SCPG** wonder if Acre Mill could help to keep the area tidy and look after the plants.

Beechwood Court The church holiday at Beechwood Court from **Monday 13 to Friday 17 February** is now arranged. There are still places and Peter Webb has further details.

Carol Service On Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm, a service of **Lessons and Carols** will be led by David Clegg and feature a specially-formed **brass ensemble**. We are honoured to have as our guest that evening the Mayor of Rossendale, Councillor Gladys Sandiford.

The **Bacup Fellowship of Churches** will be holding their Carol Service at Christ Church, Bacup on Wednesday 14 December at 7.30pm.

Flowers for November

4 December : Ian and Shirley Cormack.

For the rest of the month the church will be decorated for Christmas with Ben and Sheila providing special flowers in memory of Mr. Piper. Many thanks to everyone who has provided, arranged and distributed the flowers during 2011



Birthday Corner

Abigail and Isabelle Sinkinson will be two years old on 22nd Dec (Where has the time gone?). Happy Birthday to all who have a birthday this month.



Deacons and Church Meeting Dates 2012

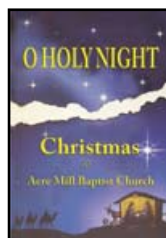
Deacons	Church
Mon 9 Jan	Wed 18 Jan
Mon 27 Feb	Wed 7 Mar (AGM)
Mon 23 April	Wed 9 May
Mon 11 Jun	Wed 20 Jun
Mon 3 Sep	Wed 19 Sep
Mon 29 Oct	Wed 7 Nov

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 2011 will be donated as follows : Magdalene Project £100, Vision £100, Tear Fund £350, BMS £550, Home Mission Fund £648, Bacup Family Centre £100

The new lights on the window sills in church are provided courtesy of the donations from **Annie Dawson's Memorial Service**.

O Holy Night The choir present a new Christmas Musical 'O Holy Night' on 11 December at 8.00pm and posters are now available. Our **Christmas leaflets** will be ready for distribution next week. If you can help, please take some and mark which streets you have covered 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.



Offerings It's encouraging that the **weekly offerings** have continued to rise during November. The weekly average for the last three months is £323 bringing the year average to £296.

Rubicon would like to invite everyone to their **Christmas Party** on Wednesday, 21 December at 10.00 am. The cost is £4.00 and includes lunch.