

Ackworth Parish Magazine



30p per copy (£3 per year)

February 2000

Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who?



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<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mr Bill Branston, 8 Andrews Grove. Mr Fred Davies, 40 Barnsley Road.	610590 610694
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View.	616384
<u>Christian Stewardship:</u>		
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr Bryan Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill.	616074
<u>Covenant Secretary:</u>	Mr John Gardham, 83 Pontefract Rd.	794500
<u>Stewardship Recorder:</u>	Miss Ada Pritchard, 4 Oddfellows Clubhouses.	611086
<u>Car Lifts to Church:</u>	Mrs Ann Tait, 5 King's Close.	612613
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<u>Mums & Tots Group:</u>	Mrs Jackie Fox, 5 Andrews Grove.	613834
<u>Children's Society:</u>	Mrs Helen Parkinson, 48 Holly Bank.	614400
<u>The Howard C E School:</u>	Mr Harry S Armitage, Headteacher.	611243
<u>Third World and Missions:</u>	Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View.	616384
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<u>Parish Women's Group:</u>	Mrs Biddy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove.	610590
<u>Church Flowers/Brasses:</u>		
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<u>All Saints':</u>	Miss Ethel Smith, 'Solentia', Wakefield Rd.	611258
<u>Weekly News sheet:</u>	Mrs Maureen Richardson, 45 Woodleigh Cres.	612859
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Although I could write several articles about the fuss and hullabaloo of the millennium celebrations, I would like instead to get below the surface and look at the underlying and perhaps more meaningful issue for Christians; that of the future of the church. Having survived and flourished for 2,000 years, it now stands at the beginning of a third millennium, beset with doubts and insecurities.

Whatever else may be responsible for those doubts in what seems to be a shrinking Christian community, one thing is for sure, it is down to each and everyone of us to ensure that it does survive. It is the task of every Christian at 'ground level,' living, working and worshipping in their parishes to make sure that there will be a church in another 1,000 year time. The task is too important to simply sit back and leave it up the hierarchy of the churches leadership. We are the ones at the 'coal face,' who live alongside and meet daily those whose needs the church exists to cater for. We are the ones in contact with those who will ensure the continuation of a religion whose leader was very much a man of the people and for the people. I am

speaking of everyday folk who live in the streets and houses of our parish.

We can all contribute in some way to ensure that, even if it is only a small proportion of this community, they find comfort and a spiritual home in our churches. This is something which crops up regularly on the churches agenda, the ministry of welcome. It was a major issue of the Christmas story that when in Bethlehem the Holy Family certainly were NOT made welcome, it was also a major topic to surface on a recent WMS study day on worship which I attended.

In fact welcome is a ministry that, as regards of the survival of the church, is the most important ministry within it. Quite simply, if newcomers, particularly those whom have never been to any church, do not feel welcome or comfortable amongst what to them is strange surroundings, then they will not return.

It is the one ministry we are all capable of, regardless of training or specialist 'gift.' We can all greet people with a smile, an offer of help if struggling with the service or if they seem unsure of what to



The Rector Writes ...



do. It is often difficult to know whether we are striking the right balance between smothering them with attention, or neglecting them and almost impossible to know if we have got it right! However, such a dilemma should not prompt us to leave off completely, even a little attention is better than what might appear to a stranger as a snub. Sensitivity and love are the watchwords; only you can decide what approach to take.

Finally just a comment I heard about how we regard one group of officers in the church for whom the ministry of welcome is paramount, the humble, yet vitally important, sidespeople. Vital because they are in the front line of this aspect of the churches ministry; quite simply the first person a newcomer meets as they come in the door. First impressions will be formed from this first encounter.

Yet, not just this, but every parish I have known takes the election of sidespeople so lightly at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. In a few short minutes, a list of names is read out and quite literally they are 'nodded through.' What sort of signal does this give to those who faithfully

come to church to greet people, offer them help and make them welcome – as well as generally tidying up afterwards and without which our churches would look anything but welcoming.

Let us not neglect this important function in the 'officers' of the church as a group and as individuals who carry out the task, remember whether sidespeople or regular worshippers it is still important that we are there, in church Sunday by Sunday. If we do not attend regularly ourselves how can we know whether someone we have not seen before has not been attending on those occasions when we have lapsed? Failure to realise this or to know anything about a person who has been coming for a short while, will result in the wrong approach, possibly upsetting those who have not been recognised.

As with anything we do in life, it can be very easy to drift away or to break habits formed over many years. If we are not there we cannot offer this most important aspect of the church's ministry; the simple but vital ministry of welcome. So as we continue to welcome in the new millennium, let us make welcome new members of our church as they come in through our doors for generations to come and resolve to give church attendance a higher priority in our millennium resolutions.

Yours in Christ

Paul.



IN THE POST



be my VALENTINE

St Valentine is another one of those saints we don't know much about - but his special day is probably the best known.

Tradition tells of a priest or Bishop of Termini who was put to death for his faith in the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius II. There was a rule that soldiers shouldn't marry but Valentine performed marriage services in secret. When he was finally arrested he was thrown into jail, and the story goes that he fell in love with his jailer's daughter.

One the day that he was led out to his death, he left a little note in his cell addressed to her. It was signed 'Your Valentine'.



In Victorian times printed Valentines were the most popular cards of the whole year - more cards were sent for the 14th February than at Christmas.

All of these words are to do with things that come in the post. Can you find them all?

V A L E N T I N E C
P P H N E A V A A S
A A R V N P L R W A
R P E E T E D T R M
C P R L P I N F I T
E M T O V A E I T S
L A P P E L P G I I
L T L E T T E R N R
I S L I N O P E G H
B I R T H D A Y O C

- * bill * birthday card *
- * Christmas * envelope * gift *
- * letter * paper * parcel *
- * pen * stamp * tape *
- * valentine * writing *



What's the cheapest way to post somebody?

Stamp on their foot.

Why do postmen carry letters in sacks?

Because letters can't go anywhere on their own.

Why is it bad to write on an empty stomach?

Because paper is better.

Dad, there's a man at the door with a bill

It must be a duck with a hat on.





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Calling Members Old and New!



The Women's Group continues to meet on the third Wednesday of the month in St Cuthbert's Vestry. Our agenda for the coming year is still being planned but so far we are hoping to have a talk on Homeopathy as well as a trip to the theatre to see 'Phantom of the Opera.'

We are constantly on the look-out for new speakers – do you, your spouse or friends have an interest, hobby or experience which the group might like to hear about? – a small fee or expenses may be paid.

New members are always welcome, why not come to the next meeting on February 16th for a slide show and talk on the Holy Land which will be given by Kitty Cooper.

If you are interested in finding out about the group contact Bidy Branston for more details.



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Readers and Readings

6th Proper 1

Isaiah 40:21-31 Mrs M Walker Mr Shaw
1 Cor. 9:16-23 Mrs M Walker Mr Shaw

13th Proper 2

2 Kings 5:1-14 Mr D Cook
1 Cor. 9:24-27 Mr D Cook

20th Proper 3

Isaiah 43:18-25 Miss Smith Mr Walters
2 Cor. 1:18-22 Miss Smith Mr Walters

27th 2nd Before Lent

Prov. 8:1, 22-31 Mrs V Cook
Col. 1:15-20 Mrs V Cook Ann Atack



Flowers and Brasses

	St Cuthbert's	All Saints'
6th	Vacant	Miss M Walker
13th	Mrs Reest	Mrs Hardy
20th	Vacant	Miss E Smith
27th	Vacant	Vacant



Mrs Kirk
&
Mrs Podgson

From the Registers

Baptisms

28 Nov Jessican Rhiannon Drabnik-Tate
12 Dec Nathlalie Louise Morris
9 Jan Elisha May Bagg & Olivia Hardwick

Weddings

15 Jan Jeremy David Northern & Sarah Louise Clark

Funerals

22 Nov Kenneth Albert Brown, 2 Ackwoth Park, aged 69
16 Dec Elsie McKernon, 65 Rhyddings Drive, aged 85
23 Dec James Lomax, 21 Town End Avenue
4 Jan Gordon Carr, 34 Chapel Garth, aged 64
12 Jan Herbert Howell, Carleton Court Residential Home, aged 87
13 Jan Derek Holt, 34 Hillside Road, aged 68



Diary

2 Wednesday Candlemas

9.30pm Holy Communion All Saints'

(M.U. Corporate Communion)

7.30pm Eucharist and Procession St Cuthbert's

5 Saturday 7.00pm Fellowship Quiz Night at Low Ackworth Community Hall

7 Monday 7.30pm PCC Meeting vestry - St Cuthbert's

8 Tuesday 2.00pm Mums and Tots Service All Saints'

9 Wednesday 9.30pm Holy Communion All Saints'

14 Monday 8.00pm Social Committee Meeting St Cuthbert's

16 Wednesday 9.30pm Holy Communion All Saints'

7.45pm Women's Group vestry - St Cuthbert's

23 Wednesday 9.30pm Holy Communion All Saints'

24 Thursday 2.30pm Mother's Union All Saints'

7.30pm WMS Meeting

Advance notice - Dates for your Diary

MARCH

1 Wednesday 9.30pm Holy Communion All Saints'

(M.U. Corporate Communion)

3-5 Weekend Parish Weekend Scarborough

MAY

19-21 Weekend Spring Extravaganza Church Event

JUNE

24 Saturday Ackworth Gala Village Event

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2000 Years, or Not?

Paul Fox

So how was it for you? Did you join in any great celebration, or did you, like me, slide into the next millennium quietly, with little fuss. I wonder what you will remember about that night, the 31st December 1999, and what was the highlight of the evening.

For me it was spending the night with family and eating a meal. However, one of the most poignant moments of the night was what I saw on TV. It was the picture of Nelson Mandela returning to the prison which had been his home for so many years, and lighting a candle to reconciliation. I have always had the utmost respect for this man. To have suffered as he did, and then to return to public life as if he had only been on holiday. To see him light that candle in his old cell was nothing short of momentous. I wonder how many of us would be able to do the same, even with the trivial grudges we hold. We would all do well to remember the example of Nelson Mandela and what he was able to overcome, and hand on to future generations.

So what was so special about the celebrations of this night. For most people it was the welcoming of a new year, a new century, and a new millennium. For Christians, it was the celebration of 2000 years of Christ, but how true is that? Since Jesus was born there have been two changes in the calendar, and we must

remember that he was born into a Jewish culture, which had two different calendars of its own. Consequently it has been impossible to work out exactly when Jesus died, let alone when he was born.

There are however, clues to the date of Christ's birth. Luke in his Gospel tries to set out in detail the story of Jesus. In doing so he has given us many historical facts to begin our studies. The census in Palestine at the time of Caesar Augustus, when Quirinius was Governor, and Herod the Great was King of the Jews. This puts the birth of Jesus into a definite time scale, into a definite place.

We read about ordinary people, Mary and Joseph, who make the journey to Bethlehem because of the census. And, whilst they are in Bethlehem, Mary gives birth to a baby boy. This is quite a story, but perhaps not an extraordinary one. This kind of thing could have happened to lots of people. What it does tell us is that Jesus was once a baby. Later on we read a little about him growing up, about his journey to Jerusalem and how his parents lost him. This is the story of a real person, a real human being. Jesus, from this evidence, was a real person, born in real time and in a real place.

We can read about the life of Jesus, we can visit the places where his life-story unfolded and we can work back to the time in the world's

history to when he was born. Scholars however, would agree that Jesus was not born 2000 years ago when the calendar changes from BC to AD. They would argue that Jesus was born in 4 BC, because that is the date which more properly correlates with the historical facts given in the Gospel accounts.

So does all this matter, does it matter that we might have missed the true millennium, and celebrated four

years too late? For me it makes little difference whether we celebrate the millennium now, in four years time, or that we should have celebrated it four years ago. What does matter is that we do celebrate, and remember just what it is we are celebrating. The birth of Jesus, a human being who was to change the world forever.

Over the next year I hope to show why this one man was able to have such an effect.

Parish Weekend

March 3rd - 5th
at 'Green Gables' Scarborough
Only one month to go!

Have you booked your place yet? Singles, couples and families welcome.

There may still be places available - see Paul Fox or Lynne Ward NOW!!

Jars of Grace

Please return your jars to either church as soon as possible or ring Lynne Ward of 616384 for collection.

*Many thanks
for your
support,
Lynne.*



Social Committee News

Plans are now well underway for this years main event

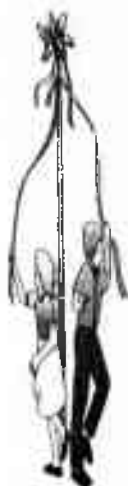
'A Spring Extravaganza'

Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May

There will be a varied programme of events with something happening on each day. Watch out for full details in the magazine and on posters.

Your help and support will be appreciated to make this event a huge success. Book these dates in your diary and tell your friends!

Support your church and your Social Committee.



Youthwork Again

Paul Fox

I am surprised to realise that I have directed Youthwork in our Parish since 1992. Not bad, considering I said I would do it only for three years! Worse than that, it is quite some time since I last wrote an article about youthwork. So here it is.

Mums and Tots still continue to meet on Tuesday afternoons at All Saints' Church. This is now on a monthly basis, and revolves around a children's activity aimed at the pre-school age group.

Junior Church still meets in the vestry of St Cuthbert's Church on Sunday mornings for the first part of the service – except the second Sunday of each month when there is Family Service. This has also been led by the same person for many years, someone who agreed to stand in for just a couple of weeks!!

Trailblazers has increased considerably in size over the last few years and currently meets in a room at The Brown Cow, which was offered to us free of charge for use on Sunday mornings.

Christles is a group for High School aged children which meets on Friday evenings at various venues, and

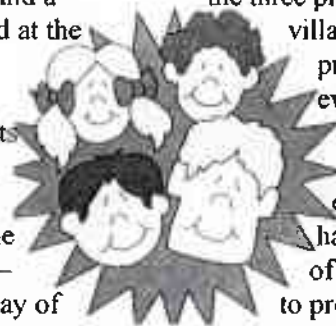
regularly has trips out to places like the Superbowl and the cinema. This is a group which is likely to expand rapidly over the next two years.

The hardworking Youth Ministry Team regularly organises activity days or afternoons for all ages of children. These are usually staged around the major festivals. A recent development has been outreach into the three primary schools within the village. Here we have a

programme of after-school events which aims to spread the Gospel message. An important development over the last twelve months has been the implementation of a child protection policy, to protect children in our care from harm.

I have always felt that the children and young people within our church are an important asset, and one which we would ignore at our peril. I also believe that the rest of the congregation should support and encourage our young people.

As you can see, we have worked hard over the last few years to see our Youth Mission Statement: **"To offer a link with the church to all the young people in Ackworth"** - come to fruition.



News, Events and Dates for your Diary

Mothers' Union

February 2000

- 2nd Corporate Communion, All Saints' Church, 9.30 a.m.
- 7th - 13th National Marriage Week. A display to mark this event will be mounted by Deanery MU in Pontefract Library throughout the week.
- 17th Sharing Day at Lepton.
- 24th Service and Branch Meeting, Mary Lowther Almshouses, High Ackworth, 2.30 pm. Speaker: Mrs Ruth Miles.
- 25th Members of our Branch will be serving coffee in Treacy Hall, Wakefield, from 10 am - 1 pm.
Please call and support us if you are in town. Barbara Firth



Ackworth Parish Church

Spring Extravaganza!

19 - 21 May

Watch out for details

Fellowship Quiz Night

(General Knowledge)

Saturday

5 February

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THE PARISH OF ACKWORTH



St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

Sunday Services

February 2000



6th February		
8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

13th February		
8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion and Parade	St Cuthbert's
3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

20th February		
8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

27th February		
8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
4.00pm	Open Door Service	All Saints'

(an informal service for all ages)