



Ackworth Parish Magazine



All Saints'



St. Cuthbert's

30p per copy (£3.00 per year)

FEBRUARY 1998

Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who?

<u>Rector:</u>	Revd. Paul Hartley, The Rectory, High Ackworth.	602751
<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 Richard Beavis, 5 Lindale Avenue.	614072
<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 Anne Tait, 5 King's Close.	612613
<u>Children and young people:</u>		
<u>Junior Church:</u>	Dr Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove.	613834
<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
<u>Women's Groups:</u>		
<u>Mothers' Union:</u>	Mrs Emmie Upright, 21 St Clement's Court.	617537
<u>Parish Women's Group:</u>	Mrs Erica Davies, 21c Hill Drive.	700413
<u>Church Flowers:</u>		
<u>St Cuthbert's:</u>	Mrs Phyllis Asquith, 70 Pontefract Road.	704732
<u>All Saints':</u>	Miss Ethel Smith, 'Solentia', Wakefield Rd.	611258
<u>Parish Magazine:</u>		
<u>Publishing:</u>	Mrs Linda Steer	614716
<u>Weekly news sheet:</u>	Mrs Maureen Richardson	612859
<u>Magazine Distribution:</u>	Mrs Mollie Gardham, 83 Pontefract Rd.	794500



Sunday Services

St Cuthbert's	10.15 am	The Parish Communion and Junior Church
All Saints'	8.30 am	Holy Communion
All Saints'	3.30 pm	Evensong

Morning and Evening Prayers

Monday to Thursday 9.00 am and 5.00 pm St Cuthbert's Church

Guide, Brownie and Rainbow Parade and Family Communion:

2nd Sunday in the month 10.15 am at St Cuthbert's Church

Baptisms and Marriages: Please contact the Rector for an appointment

From the Rector's Study

One last look back to Christmas

February is a month which seems to be between things, and without much significance in itself as far as the Christian calendar is concerned. Do you remember those advertisements in magazines, newspapers and television which were used to show what a startling difference their product could make; those before and after ads, usually for things which improved our personal appearance? How many of us have been even slightly attracted by the look of the models in the 'after' picture; the before looking rather like us. Perhaps we should call them 'us' and 'them' advertisements! Anyway, the point I am getting to is that February is a bit of a before and after month. In the lectionary, Sunday the 8th and subsequent Sundays are designated "before Easter" or "before Lent" whereas Sunday the 1st and the three previous Sundays being "after Epiphany" hence a "before and after" month.

The long, dark, damp and cold nights

It all sounds rather dull after the splendour of Christmas and Epiphany and long before the glorious celebration of the resurrection at Easter. Although there is Ash Wednesday on the 26th, I suppose many would not term that a glorious celebration. The climate at this time of year doesn't offer much encouragement either. The long, dark, damp and cold nights are with us for some time yet and the prospects of snow and ice does not delight most of us. I sometimes wonder if certain members of the animal kingdom have got it right when they disappear and hibernate for this period.

If I haven't thrown you into deep fits of depression by this stage, let me now try to point you towards some hope and encouragement to keep us going spiritually through this 'in between time' so to speak. We've had the bad news as the old jokes go; so what about the good news, or we've had the before picture, so what about the after. Well, there is in fact a festival in February which seems to be getting squeezed out; forgotten alongside the main attractions if you like. The early Christian Church when moving into and evangelising a pagan country as ours was, didn't completely throw the baby out with the bath water, when they began to plan the Christian year and lay down the times of high feast and celebration days (the icing on the cake which keeps us going through our mostly routine ordinary observance).

Look at existing pagan festivals

The main criteria the early church used in deciding upon when its festivals would be in the year, was to look at existing pagan festivals and set up in competition more or less. Living as they did in a similar climate and with less of the home comforts than we enjoy today, our ancestors not only got fed up, but downright terrified by the thought that the sun was deserting them through the long dark winter nights.



So to give them hope and a few creature comforts such as light and warmth they lit bonfires.

A light which gives us hope

Light is a symbol not unknown in Christian theology and ritual, and so it is probably no coincidence that on February 2nd we have a festival which uses light as it's main theme; Candlemas or to use its newer name "The presentation of Christ in the Temple". The portion of scripture from which this festival takes its precedence, reasserts the joy of Christmas and Epiphany in the words uttered by Simeon as he pronounced our Lord *"...the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a LIGHT to reveal you to the nations; and the glory of your people Israel ..."* A light which gives us hope and the promise of salvation to hold onto through dark and difficult days. Yet at the same time that we are reminded again of the joys of Christmas and Epiphany, and the celebration of our Saviour's birth, it also turns us round to face the passion of our Lord. Also in Simeon's words; *"...you see this child: he is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - a sword will pierce your own soul too - so*

that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare." Poignant reminders to the destined suffering of our Lord, coming as they do at the very end of Christmas (at the end of the magical figure of 40 days!) and with Lent very close, they make Candlemas a kind of pivot in the Christian year. "One last look back to Christmas and now, turn towards the cross" we might say.

Keep this feast alive

This festival is the turning point of the before and after and marks a crucial point in the Christian year. With little else to focus our attention upon, spiritually speaking, let us try to remember this day in our thoughts and prayers or perhaps by going to church if possible (there will be a service of Light at All Saints on Sunday 1st February at 6.00pm and a said communion at St Cuthbert's on Monday the 2nd at 7.30pm). Let us remember and keep this feast alive and not die away as many of the old Christian festivals seem to be doing. Let us hope that those prophetic words of Simeon that our Lord was *"..destined to be a sign to be rejected..."* do not also become a sign to be forgotten.

Yours in Christ

Paul

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

- 14 DEC Amy June Fearnley
11 JAN Christopher James Hudson

FUNERALS

- 15 DEC James Green, 1A Tan House Lane, Low Ackworth, aged 74
6 JAN Joan Ward, Holmeside, Pontefract Road, High Ackworth, aged 67





Lenten House Study Groups

Beginning the first week in Lent (week commencing 1 March) and continuing through Lent there will be a series of Lent studies at various houses throughout the Parish. There should be a day, time and venue to suit most people! Please look at the notice board at the back of church and sign for a group so that the host and leader will know how many to expect.

Although Lent is often thought of as a time to give something up (e.g. sugar, alcohol, cigarettes etc.), I would alternatively encourage people to take something on to aid their spiritual/faith development. I have written the course to meet the needs of our own parish development and I would appreciate as many people as possible taking part in these groups.

Yours in Christ
Paul Hartley

Jars of Grace

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

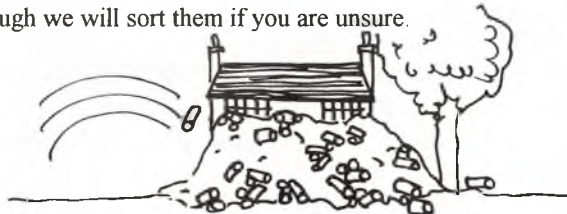
All proceeds this year are to help UNICEF prevent the needless suffering and deaths of thousands of children in developing countries by immunising them against the six major childhood diseases - polio, diphtheria, tuberculosis, tetanus, whooping cough and measles. Over two million children die each year from these preventable diseases - around a million from measles alone. UNICEF's priority is to ensure that all children receive life-saving protection, and each Jar of Grace or donation returned will help send a lifeline to an innocent child.

Thank you.

Cash from Aluminium Cans!

Yes, we are still collecting aluminium drink cans (preferably squashed) and if you have any spare please pass them on to Bill Branston. We can sell the cans at £600 a ton raising each year at least £20 for Church funds. Aluminium cans are those to which a magnet does not stick, although we will sort them if you are unsure.

Just drop them on the
doorstep next time
you are passing
8 Andrews Grove!!!!





'DOORS OF HOPE'

DELEGATES' REPORTS

On Advent Sunday during morning service the delegates who represented our parish at the 'Doors of Hope' conference presented their impressions of the conference to the whole parish. Last month we printed the first of their reports, this month we print the remaining reports from some of the comments made by them at that service -

"What made the conference a success? The friendly smile, a hug, meeting with a large group of Christians from all parts of the diocese, exchanging ideas and hopes, listening to the speakers, all of these plus the interaction and fellowship which flowed from person to person. I came home full of joy and with a feeling of excitement and an urge to tell others what had happened. The challenge now is to find ways of bringing all that enthusiasm, love, joy and hope into our everyday life in the parish."

Kitty Cooper

"The weekend showed me how the church can work together when it really tries. So much of our time is focused on our differences that we forget how much we agree on. I saw many different ways of worshipping God, and reaching out to the community. This was encouraging and

challenging. I thought will this work in my Parish? I was particularly taken with the Jester - I can't think why - perhaps it was the outfit! The whole event strengthened and confirmed my spirituality. Passing on the word of God to future generations is the most important task the church has to fulfil. This is a task for which I am ready to play my part. I would encourage others to consider their role also."

Paul Fox

"Apart from spiritual worship, which included dance, drama, poetry, film images and excellent comedy we were made to feel part of something ready to move forward. The overriding theme was that WE ALL have something to offer and there is nothing to fear in being yourself! A smile, an action, our own faith can all be a DOOR OF HOPE! We can make a difference!"

Marie Lewis

"There was a tremendous sense of atmosphere in the hall during those two days. The message from the Archbishop was for Christians to stop 'apologising for the resurrection.' From the whole conference there was a feeling of being strengthened by association with people from all walks of life sharing the same faith. As individuals we can do no more than 'be ourselves' as Bishop Nigel said, and by our attitude, example and encouragement, show that a collective act of witness to our commonly held beliefs each Sunday is as natural a thing to do as anything else we may do in the week."

Fred Davies

As a church we will be hearing a lot more about Doors of Hope during the coming months as we look at ways in which we can open those 'Doors of Hope' in our parish.

Calendar for February

1	EPIPHANY 4		'The New Temple'
	Jeremiah 7.1-11 (Mrs Hall/Mr Davies); Hebrews 12.18-end (Mrs Hall/Mr R Firth); John 4.19-26 ASB 478		
	NB No 3 30 pm Evensong at All Saints'		
	6 00 pm Candelight Service		All Saints'
2	Monday	CANDLEMAS	
	7 30 pm Communion (Said)		St Cuthbert's
3	Tuesday	1 45 pm Home Group	1 Orchard View
4	Wednesday	9 30 am Holy Communion	All Saints'
8	NINTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT		'Education Sunday'
	All Saints:	BCP 1 Corinthians 9.24 (Mrs Walker); The Gospel St Matthew 20.1	
	St Cuthbert's:	Luke 8.4b-15 ASB 489	
9	Monday	2 00 pm Women's World Day of Prayer Committee Meeting	27 Orchard Drive
10	Tuesday	2 00 pm Mums & Tots	All Saints'
11	Wednesday	9 30 am Holy Communion	All Saints'
15	EIGHTH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER		'Christ the Healer'
	2 Kings 5.1-14(Miss Smith/Mrs Walters);2 Corinthians 12.1-10(MissSmith/MrCook); Mark 7-14-end ASB 492		
18	Wednesday	9 30 am Holy Communion	All Saints'
22	SEVENTH SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER		'Christ the Friend of Sinners'
	Numbers 15.32-36 (Dr McWilliam);Colossians 1.18-23 (Dr McWilliam/Miss Parker); John 8.2-11 ASB 497		
24	Tuesday	2 00 pm Mums & Tots	All Saints'
25	ASH WEDNESDAY		
	9 30 am Holy Communion		All Saints'
	7 30 pm Imposition of Ashes		St Cuthbert's
26	Thursday	2 30 pm Mother's Union	Meeting Room, Almshouses

St Cuthbert's

1 February	Mrs Reest
8 February	Vacant
15 February	Mrs Bateman
22 February	Vacant



BRASSES

First two weeks - Mrs Kirk and Mrs Pogson
Second two weeks - Vacant

All Saints'

1 February	Mrs Hardy
8 February	Vacant
15 February	Miss Smith
22 February	Mrs Common

Through a glass darkly



Though he is a character of fiction, created by the novelist Ellis Peters, Brother Cadfael has opened up a world of medieval history for countless people through the 21 novels and the ITV series starring Derek Jacobi. Crusader and sea-captain turned Benedictine monk, Brother Cadfael is also a detective. But in and among his probing of crime, he has many observations to make on aspects of the Christian faith, apposite for his day and for our own.

In 'The Heretic's Apprentice' for instance, a canon visiting Cadfael's Shrewsbury abbey of St Peter and St Paul is anxious to purge the Church of those who fall into error on doctrine. We, along with Cadfael, get the first smouldering whiff of what will flare up later that 12th century into a determined hunt for heretics. Several centuries later it will take shape as the Spanish Inquisition. When a young man is questioned about his beliefs and asks questions in return, the canon says it is presumptuous for an obscure layman to consider mysteries that the wise alone may dare to explore. But the wise Bishop Clinton says that the young man is right to use his wits, but must remember that he too can make mistakes.

God is truth, but we need to acknowledge with humility that none of us knows the whole of it. *The Heretic's Apprentice* by Ellis Peters, Warner Futura paperback, £5.99.

Ian Yearsley

Collections at Christmas

We are pleased to report that the collections prior to Christmas enabled us to support three worthy causes. Thank you for your generosity.

The Village Carol Service - Sunday 21 December

£77.27 was collected and sent to St George's Crypt at Leeds to help the homeless.

The Children's Toy Service - Christmas Eve

£302.10 was collected and passed on to The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract. The toys given by the children were gratefully received by Social Services for needy children in 1998.

The Mara bottles from both churches were emptied and counted and the handsome amount of over £85 was sent to Mara for use in our twin diocese. As the contents were mainly coppers, Richard Beavis had to carry over 67 lbs of cash to the bank!! Our friends in Mara were, of course, sent a cheque.

As Our Saviour taught us...

Our Father...

The first two words of the Lord's Prayer.

I have always said, that in order to communicate with God you have to be tuned in. That way there can be two way conversation between us and our maker. Using these two words we are addressing God. We are calling on God to listen to us. It is a way of logging onto the heavenly internet, if you have a computer mind.

In the New Testament, many of the books, especially the letters of Paul use a similar sort of introduction. In these cases, Paul is addressing his letter so that it is read by the right person, and the person who is reading it knows that the letter was meant for them.

In using the words 'Our Father' at the beginning of the Lord's Prayer we are addressing God. Therefore when God receives the message, we can be sure that He knows we are talking to him, that the message is meant for Him.

When praying there are many other ways of beginning a prayer, 'Dear God', 'Heavenly Father'. Many of them have the same meaning, they are certainly all addressed to the same person. However, the words 'Our Father' have a special meaning.

God within our reach

Firstly, in using these words we are recognising that God is our Father. We are acknowledging that God is our creator. There is another significance to the word Father. This word is translated from the Greek word 'Abba'. In the time of Jesus, the

only words used for God would have had a meaning that put God far away from us in another place. There was never any contemplation of a close relationship with God. Jesus, however, shatters this culture by using the word Abba. To the Jews of his day, that would have been like calling God 'Daddy'. Something which was unthinkable to them. So in using this word, Jesus is bringing God very close indeed, bringing Him even into our reach.

Part of a Community

The other important part of this introduction to the prayer is the use of the plural 'Our'. This is significant, because it makes us part of a community. When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we can be assured that we are praying with our Christian brothers and sisters. It is probably true to say that the Lord's Prayer is being prayed continuously in a global context. So when you pray the Lord's Prayer, you will never be praying alone. What a thought! Being so close to God and the rest of the Christian world at one and the same time!

Paul Fox

Tell us what you think about...

The Millenium Dome

Should it be based on Christianity?
Would the money have been better spent on some other project?

Do write and let us know your opinions. Perhaps there is a silent majority whose voice needs to be heard.

Mollie Gardham

A Thank You from The Prince of Wales Hospice Ackworth Support Group

Members of St Cuthbert's and All Saints' Churches have always supported the Hospice in many ways, and the Ackworth Support Group has very much appreciated their physical help and financial contributions to their coffee mornings and other activities over the years. I'm sure you are all very familiar with the wonderful knitted Easter Novelties that circulate every year and add very considerably to our annual receipts (**look out for this year's version, coming soon!**)

We thought you would like to know that our last Christmas Coffee Morning raised a total of £675 and that our total for the year was a magnificent £2668. A big thank you to all church members and friends for their share in producing such a satisfactory total. We do hope that you will be able to keep up your support.

Watch out for details of future events in this magazine!

Monica Mann (Chairman of Ackworth Support Group)

Peace

*Wouldn't it be lovely
If all the fighting ceased?
And nation lived by nation
In harmony and peace.
If love and understanding
Ruled implicitly,
And each one helped the other
In real sincerity.
If each one shared and really
cared
For his brother's need
We wouldn't have the world
we've got
Bowed down by lust and greed.
If only we could practice this-
It's not beyond our reach,
The law of love would be fulfilled
That Jesus came to teach.*

Kathleen Gillum

Etcetera...

One of the questions in an exam at a Church of England secondary school was: What does a bishop do? One child wrote: Moves diagonally across the board.

From Feast of Laughter, Lichfield.



PARISH WEEKEND
March 27 - 29, 1998
at Green Gables Hotel, Scarborough

Cost: £50 per adult

Children will be paid for by the Church - but we would welcome any donation to offset some of the cost!

Places still available - see Paul Fox or Lynne Ward for more details and booking forms

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