



Ackworth Parish Magazine



14th February
St. Valentine's Day

30p per copy (£3 per year)

February 1999

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 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
<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/Brasses:</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/Advertising:</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
<u>Church Cleaning Rotas:</u>	Mr Fred Davies, 40 Barnsley Rd.	610694

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 (except ~ see below)
All Saints'	4.00 pm	Open Door Service (Last Sunday of the month)

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

Many people associate Lent with giving up something for a few weeks. For example, sugar in their tea or coffee, sweets, alcohol or cigarettes and so on. Some try to work up feelings of guilt by being hypercritical about the seriousness of even their smallest sin; others stir up feelings of misery and wretchedness – after



Penitence – a positive act, out of which spiritual growth occurs.

all, you can't appear to be happy during Lent. To these latter groups, I would point them to our Lord's advice on fasting, from Matthew 6:16-18, *"So too, when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites; they make their faces unsightly so that other people may see that they are fasting, I tell you this: they have their reward already. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that men may not see that you are fasting, but only your Father who is in the secret place: and your father who sees what is secret will give you your reward."*

Fasting is a common act of penitence, the central theme of Lent, though the type of fasting popularly

followed by many, as already mentioned (i.e. the giving up of one of life's little luxuries) is hardly likely to be of any real value by comparison with a true fast, as associated with our Lord's forty days in the wilderness. Neither are we likely to gain any spiritual benefits from trying to stir up guilt feelings and trying to look and

feel miserable as is often thought fitting for Lent. Penitence, as many mistakenly tend to think, is not a negative act (depriving oneself or suffering the pangs of guilt) but a positive one, out of which spiritual growth occurs. The negative image probably arises out of that Jewish custom which Jesus criticises in this passage; the practice of dressing in sackcloth, rubbing ashes onto the head and walking in the street, beating ones chest and wailing. True, many of those who attend an Ash Wednesday service have the mark of the cross in ashes placed on their foreheads. This is intended to be a positive reminder of our need for penitence at this time of year; a time to reflect upon the past and put

its negative aspects behind us, turning round to face a positive future - penitence or repentance is derived from the Greek word 'metanoia' which means turning around.

In a book I was reading recently a Methodist minister, who was the superintendent of a circuit in Halifax in 1986 - a Rev'd John M. Turner, likens this turning around to putting on a new dress. He suggests that we should, as a positive act in Lent, take a long hard look at one of the Gospels (yes, a whole gospel!) plus a long hard look at ourselves and ask the question; "*Who is Jesus for US NOW?*" He goes on to say "*We don't only see what we are as we look at Jesus, we see what we could be...*"

Daunting though this may sound, if we choose the Gospel of St Mark, then this would be less than a page a day over the forty days of Lent. If that still sounds too rigorous, then perhaps you should consider joining a study group that will meet during Lent. Lists will be posted in the Churches - please sign up for one of the groups. Let's accentuate the positive this Lent and make it a time for going forward together in faith and an experience of spiritual growth.

Yours in Christ,
Paul

JARS OF GRACE

Imagine fleeing in terror from an armed conflict and then spending seven years in a refugee camp, not knowing whether any other members of your family have survived. This happened to John, who was unable to return to his village in southern Sudan because of the intense fighting.

Then UNICEF photographed John and circulated his photo, along with those of thousands of other children, and the news arrived that John's mother was alive and he was going home.

The few pence required for each photograph taken by UNICEF can transform the lives of children like John. All Proceeds from this year's JARS OF GRACE scheme are to support this project and help reunite families similar to John's.

Please remember jars are now due for return. Thank you.

Lynne Ward

COMMUNICATION

On several occasions during the last few months. members of our congregations have been ill, some seriously and I did not know about it. Please, if you know of anyone who is ill or needs a visit, let me know. Regardless of how busy I may be, I will always attempt to find time to visit, however briefly. Even if you think I may have been told, I would rather hear something ten times, than not at all.

The Rector

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Thurs 11.30 - 1.30 and 4.00 - 10pm

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Ackworth School ~ Ackworth Village

Craft Fayre



6 February
10.00 am ~ 4.00 pm

Gifts ~ Ornaments ~ Cards
Ceramics ~ Paintings
Refreshments
Activities for Children



Christmas Colouring Competition



The two talented winners of our Christmas Colouring Competition were Hannah Wynn and Sam Austwick.

American tourist to Mother Teresa ~

"I wouldn't do your job for a thousand pounds."

"Neither would I," she replied.



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Christian Giving and the Financing of Your Church

Each week we all participate in a church service, the core of which is the act of worship, but with unfailing regularity the collection plate is also passed around. Have you ever asked yourself why Christian Giving is so important and what do we do with the money? I hope to answer these questions and at the same time give some insight into the finances of the your church.

Your church, has financial expenses that it is committed to paying, this includes:- provision and maintenance of the church buildings, electricity, gas etc. expenses for items used in weekly services, donations to charities, costs in producing the magazine etc.

Main Sources of Income

Collections	15%
Stewardship	49%
Covenant	7%
Weddings/Funerals	7%
Parish Events	9%
Appeals	9%

Main Expenses

Parish Share	52%
Heating/Lighting	12%
Ministry expenses	9%
Various Other	27%

The total expenses and income for 1998 are expected to be in the region of £41.5K, and £41K respectively, we will therefore make a small deficit of about £500.

As you can see we are running on a tight budget and are just about covering our expenses. Inevitably 1999 expenditure will increase in line with inflation, and we already know that the parish share will increase by 5%.

How do we address this income gap?

The Rector indicated in his November article that we will be mounting a stewardship campaign in 1999. Stewardship and covenants are our only source of reliable income. Assuming that open collections will not reduce, the annual income from stewardship and collections may amount to £25K. There has been no overall increase in this income for a number of years. If this continues in 1999 and with the expenditure increases already identified, we could be facing a challenging deficit!

Income from social events and appeals do play their part. However, it is only through guaranteed, regular Christian Giving that we can ensure we bridge the income gap and plan for the future.

PCC Treasurer




Readings and Readers

February 7th	2nd Before Lent	
Old Testament	Genesis 1: 1 - 2:3	Mrs Hall/Mr Shaw
New Testament	Romans 8:18-25	Mrs Hall/Mrs Parkinson
February 14th	Sunday Next Before Lent	
Old Testament	Exodus 24:12-18	Mrs Walker
New Testament	Romans 4:13-end	Mrs Walker/Mrs Woofinden
February 21st	1st Sunday of Lent	
Old Testament	Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:1-7	Miss Smith/Mr Firth
New Testament	Romans 5:12-19	Miss Smith/ Miss Walker
February 28th	2nd Sunday of Lent	
Old Testament	Genesis 12:1-4a	Mrs Cooper
New Testament	Romans 4:1-5 & 13-17	Mrs Cooper/Mark Cavill



Flowers & Brasses

St Cuthbert's/All Saints		Mrs Kirk
7th Vacant/Miss Smith		&
14th Vacant/Misses Harrison		Mrs Pogson

From the Registers

Baptisms

- 29 Nov Ella Ray Ashman & Chelsea Jean Ennis
- 13 Dec Tyron Thomas Morgan & Matthew Rhodes

Funerals

- 9 Nov Evelyn Thomas, 19 Victoria Street, aged 82
- 23 Dec Ernest Edgar, 20 Victoria St, aged 87
- 7 Jan Ivor Seymour, 94 Wakefield Road, aged 61
- 7 Jan Stuart Stones, 21 Went Hill Close
- 12 Jan Harriet Firth, 74 Wakefield Road, aged 87
- 14 Jan Irene Mildred Roberts. 'Old Trees', Went Edge Lane, Kirk Smeaton





February Calendar

1	Monday	7.30pm	PCC	vestry St Cuthbert's
2	Tuesday	1.45pm	Home Group	26 Hardaker Lane
3	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		8.00pm	Magazine Committee Meeting	
7	SUNDAY	2nd Before Lent		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		10.15am	Holy Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
		3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'
9	Tuesday	2.00pm	Mums and Tots	All Saints'
10	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
14	SUNDAY	Sunday Next Before Lent		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		10.15am	Family Communion and Parade	St Cuthbert's
		3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'
17	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday		
		9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
		7.30pm	Women's Group Quiet Evening	St Cuthbert's
21	SUNDAY	1st Sunday of Lent		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		10.15am	Holy Communion and Junior Church followed by Lent Hunger Lunch	St Cuthbert's
		3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'
24	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
25	Thursday	2.30pm	Mother's Union	
28	SUNDAY	2nd Sunday of Lent		
		8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		10.15am	Holy Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
		4.00pm	Open Door Service	All Saints'

LENT LUNCH

Sunday 21st February
in St Cuthbert's Vestry
11.45 - 12.45

food provided - financial donations on the day please
please join us - all money raised to Christian Aid

In The Beginning ...

One Year to Go

There is only one year before the new millennium. The year 2000 will be celebrated by many people in many places and in many different ways. We as Christians should be emphasising the fact, that without Christ there would be no new millennium. Perhaps it would be wise to prepare ourselves for that proclamation of the Gospel which should surely accompany the dawn of the new millennium. I hope this series of articles will do just that. What better place to begin, than the beginning.

Genesis: chapters 1 & 2

I am a great lover of fresh starts. I was always the one who enjoyed the beginning of a new term at school, because it marked the beginning of a new subject in the lessons. I still enjoy beginnings of this nature. Whenever there is a new project to be begun, I am the one who shows interest. I think the reason for this is that with a new beginning, we start with a blank sheet. Everything is ahead of us, new opportunities, and a great deal of potential.

Keeping that enthusiasm throughout the school term was not always easy,

but I always made it to the end, because once I start something, I don't stop until it is finished.

Perhaps it is this feeling which draws me to these two chapters in Genesis. You can't get a fresher start than the very beginning of the universe. These chapters tell us about God's purpose, and even more about his power. They are incredibly exciting chapters. It might be seen as surprising that the huge effort of creating the universe could be summed up in such a short space of the Bible. If we read further however, we will find even more references to the beginning, none more noticeable than the first chapter of John's Gospel. John even uses the same words, "In the beginning . . .".

However you view the opening chapters of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, and the two stories of creation (and we must remember that

there are two accounts of creation in Genesis) you cannot ignore them. They contain vital information about The Beginning. The beginning of the universe, the beginning of the world (our Earth), the beginning of

life, and the beginning of human life. Reading through chapter one we can



only marvel at the power of God in creation. The formation of the mountains and the seas, the creation of light itself. The placing of the sun and the moon and the stars. This is the account of the creation of the environment in which we live. I am constantly amazed at the beauty of the natural earth and its formations. I shouldn't be, but I am. I shouldn't be surprised, because I know the power of God. But sometimes I need reminding of just how great that power is.

Further on in the chapter we read about the creation of life, of plants, of fish, of amphibians, of birds and of mammals. This evolution of life represents even further the power, the creative power of our God. Again we can only stand and watch in wonderment at the variety of life forms. We see them day in and day out on television programmes about nature. We might start becoming accustomed to seeing these things but we should never become complacent.

Just think for a moment about the intricate nature and balance of life on earth. Only our God could create that.

But there is more. This story of creation moves apace to its climax; the creation of man (or humankind if you prefer). This is the climax of the story. God does everything in a certain order, and for a reason. He creates the environment. Then he creates the life to live in that environment. Then he creates man to live there, and live off it, and to act as stewards of it.

God creates us as a climax of creation, which is a great privilege. But with privilege comes responsibility. That responsibility is to look after God's creation for him. We are to be stewards of what God gives us, and we would do well to remember that. God created a perfect world for us to live in. Quite clearly, our world is not perfect. What went wrong?

Paul Fox



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Planning for the Stewardship Campaign is now underway for those who feel able to assist the planning committee in this challenging task there will be a list for names in St Cuthbert's church.

WMS News...

1999 Lent Study Groups

This year our Lent study groups will be on the theme 'Thinking about Ministry.'

The five week course commences week beginning February 21st and will meet at the following venues:

Tues. 7.45pm - 36 Flounders Hill

Wed. 7.45pm - 98 Station Road

Thur. 1.30pm - 1 Orchard View

Thurs. 7.45pm - 'Portare' Mill Hill Lane.

Other groups and venues are still to be arranged. Watch out for full details and signing up sheets in Church!



The members of the core group attended their second full WMS study day, this time at St. Peter's Church, Gildersome. The day began with a short act of worship led by our Core group.

The subject for the day's study was Collaborative Ministry. This set the scene for the next 'term,' which also takes in Lent and our parish's Lent study course. This gives every member of our church the opportunity to become involved in what the WMS is all about - involving everyone in ministry.

The Core members are beginning to feel their way forward and besides attending two full days and one half day study have met on various occasions to discuss the information which is given to them by the WMS. This is currently involving them in

compiling a parish profile. Although this has been done in various ways in the past it gives the members themselves an insight into the special characteristics of their home parish. It is envisaged that this project will evolve as the parish changes with new information being added or changed as necessary. The profile itself will be available to anyone who would like to read it.

WMS study days and half days are open to other members of the congregation. The next full day's subject, on the 24th April, is on Ordained Ministry.

The Core group also tries to meet on Friday mornings at 7am in St. Cuthbert's; if anyone would like to join us for a short act of worship - usually about 20 minutes - they would be most welcome



A LIGHT TO THE WORLD



February 2nd is the Feast of Candlemass. It celebrates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth. It is called Candlemass because candles are lit

to remind us that when Jesus was presented in the Temple, Simeon (an old servant in the Temple) said that Jesus was the Light that God had sent to the Gentiles. 'Gentiles' means all the people who are not Jews. Like the shepherds and the wise men Simeon recognised, even with his old eyes in the dim light of the Temple, that the little baby asleep in Mary's arms was someone very special – the Light of the World. You can read about this in St Luke, Ch 2.



By Angela Webb

A LIGHT WORD

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with LIGHT. Can you find them all?

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

* beacon * bright * bulb * candle *
 * dark * day * fire * flame * glow *
 * lamp * light * ray * star *
 * sunshine * switch *



What kind of lights did Noah have on the Ark?
 Floodlights.

What did the little light bulb say to its mother?

I wuv you watts and watts.



What would you use if you swallowed a light bulb?

A candle.

News, Events and Dates for Your Diary

The Mothers' Union

3 February

10.15 am, Deanery Quiet Hour, St. Giles' Church, Pontefract.

25 February

Branch Service and Meeting to be held at the Almshouses, High Ackworth. It is hoped that Mrs. Anne Hurst will be talking to us about her work as a magistrate. Any non-member interested please join us!

26 February

Members of Ackworth Branch will be serving coffee in Treacy Hall, Wakefield from 10 am 'til 1 pm. If you are shopping in Wakefield please call in and have a cuppa with us!

Barbara Firth



ARE YOU
PREPARED
FOR LENT?



Jars of Grace

- Please return your jars to either church as soon as possible or ring **Lynne Ward on 616384** for collection. All proceeds to UNICEF's 'Children in Crisis' Appeal, to help reunite families split up by conflict.

Thank you for your support,

Lynne.



Children's Society Collection Boxes

Please return your boxes by Sunday 7 February for emptying. Leave them at the back of church or contact Helen Parkinson on 614400 for collection.

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