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# Ackworth Parish Magazine



30p per copy (£3 per year)

May 1999

## Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who?

<u>Rector:</u>	Revd. Paul Hartley, The Rectory, 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 &amp; 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 Barbara Firth, 7 Lindale Ave.	611728
<u>Parish Women's Group:</u>	Mrs Bidy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove.	610590
<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'	6.30 pm	Evensong (except last Sunday of the month)
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

## The Rector Writes...



This month we celebrate a very important birthday, one which many people share in common, not because it is a date on which they or a member of their family was born, but a day which a much larger family whose membership numbers millions share.

It's difficult to know with absolute certainty, but the birthday we will be celebrating this year will be somewhere in the region of 1,996<sup>th</sup> give or take a few years. If you haven't guessed it's the Church's birthday which we remember and hopefully celebrate together in church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month – Pentecost or Whitsunday.

The Church was born when the Holy Spirit came down upon a few disciples in an upstairs room and empowered them to go out and tell others what knowing Jesus Christ could do for their lives. After years of following, observing and listening to their Lord and Master, seeing him overcome the worst that evil could throw at him, even death, they find the strength, courage and inspiration to go out and pass on to others the Good News about the abundant life which they had received in full measure.

And so a church was born and we continue to celebrate its birth almost 2,000 years later. But what are we celebrating? What does the church mean to you? Is it a magnificent

edifice of stone where we worship, sing God's praises and offer him our prayers? That place where people are baptised, married, confirmed and are committed to God's care through the funeral service? Is it that place where we go to find peace and commune with God both spiritually and sacramentally? Is it a place where we first learnt about God and Jesus in Sunday school or grew up in through youth clubs or the uniformed organisations? Is it to do with Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and lay ministers, General Synod and other hierarchical structures or a one-to-one relationship with fellow Christians through which we find comfort, support and encouragement? It can be any one of these or many other things, and we should not despise any of them.

The Church is many things to many people, it is a vision that can change at different points through a lifetime. Whatever way, style of approach or objects we use under the wide umbrella of the Church, they are all symbols whereby God communicates Himself to others – meeting points of the earthly and the heavenly.

However we find God, one



thing is for certain, without people the Holy Spirit cannot continue the work it began on that first birthday. Far and above anything else the church is comprised of and concerned with people! Spirit filled though that body of people may be, they are still merely that - people - with all their faults and imperfections who are reliant upon all the paraphernalia of what the church is to each individual.

In a perfect world we would not need elaborate buildings, rituals, ceremonies etc. to communicate and celebrate the love of God come down into the hearts and minds of ordinary people through Jesus Christ; but then only one was perfect. People are far from perfect and there are as many different ways of thinking, behaving and understanding as there are traditions, denominations and styles of worship within the universal catholic church. For as long as there is such diversity in the human race we need to maintain as many ways of bringing God to that mass of humanity as possible.

In the world in which we live today, that means using that which is said to make the world go round - money!

Not only do we need to maintain what we already have, but to look to the future also, and to look with faith to where the continued activity of the

Holy Spirit will stimulate growth.

As we stand at the threshold of a very significant 'birthday' for the church, with the dawn of a new millennium at the end of this year, we need to think carefully about whether we are in a fit state at present, but also whether we are in a good enough shape to face the future - the next 1,000 years. As a result of this thought, later this year, we will be launching a Stewardship campaign to try and effect a recovery in our seriously failing financial condition. More of that later!

There are various reasons why we are struggling, one is simply that there are fewer people giving than twenty or even five years ago; yet that can be changed if we - the few - can make a sacrifice today, that the many might easily bear the burden tomorrow. We need not despair if we remember that the Church was born from just a handful of people who were open to the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate the Church's birthday this year, let's think about what the Church means to us - what priority it has in our lives and then as we open our own lives to the Holy Spirit let's give our Church the best birthday present ever. As we have been given new life through Jesus Christ, let us offer our church in this community that same gift of new life; a fresh start and the opportunity to go forward without having to worry whether it merely has the means to stand still.

Yours in Christ,  
Paul





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# Time and Talents Audit

There was an open meeting on the 22nd February to discuss how we could review our commitments both individually and as a congregation in providing skills and our time in both maintaining our church as worshipping centre and developing our mission in the parish.

The sub-committee formed at that meeting feel that the best way forward is to carry out an audit of what we are doing now in our church life, whether any of us feel the need for a change of direction and whether there is support to meet any need that may be identified. Therefore, from the 2nd May we will be asking everyone to complete a 'Time and Talents' questionnaire. This needs to be completed and returned by Whit Sunday, 23rd May (certainly no later than the 30th May).

There will be a presentation by the Rector on the first Sunday in May and it will also be mentioned during the Family Service. The questionnaires will be available at all of the services in May and it is hoped that the magazine distributors may be able to deliver one to those who are not always able to attend church.

We will compile the results of the survey during June and hope to be able to report back during early July. However, it may be some time before all offers of help can be taken up, changes made and any initiatives considered.

Please help us by taking part in this important review of our talents.

*Bill Branston*



## Eggs, Eggs and More Eggs

On Maundy Thursday 41 children descended on St Cuthbert's church for our Easter activity afternoon. Twenty 3-6 year olds and twenty-one 7-11 year olds went through the events of Easter, using the contents of plastic eggs. Each egg containing something to remind them of the things that happened from Holy Week to Easter Day.

We had a fun filled egg filled afternoon with plastic eggs everywhere we looked!

Many thanks to everyone who offered help, whether practically, financially or with prayer.

*Jackie Fox*

## ★ @ SPRING HARVEST @ ★

This year 17 members of our church attended 'Spring Harvest' at Butlins Skegness. The theme this year was Church, Society and Family.

This Christian conference involves seminars, discussions, workshops and worship, all age groups are catered for. For the more intrepid amongst us there were after hours sessions from 10.45pm til midnight, these included drama by 'Saltmine', 'Praise Parties', 'Youth after Hours' and a visit from the 'Worldwide Message Tribe.'

The trip was well received by everyone in our group and we all agreed that for fellowship and fun 'Spring Harvest' was worth a visit. It was great to be with 10,000 people all focusing on Jesus. Nothing is compulsory and the facilities - recently refurbished and of a high standard - were available for us to use.

If you are interested in attending 'Spring Harvest 2000' then please see our tireless group organiser Mrs Jackie Fox.

*Marie Lewis*



# May Rotas

## *Readings and Readers*

<b>May 2nd</b>	<b>5th Sunday of Easter</b>	
O.T.	Genesis 8:1-19	Miss Smith/Mr Davies
N.T.	Acts 7:55-60	Miss Smith/Miss Parker
<b>May 9th</b>	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>	
O.T.	Genesis 8:20 - 9:17	Mrs Cooper
N.T.	Acts 17:22-31	Mrs Cooper
<b>May 16th</b>	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>	
O.T.	Ezekiel 36:24-28	Dr McWilliam/Sue Hartley
N.T.	Acts:1:6-14	Dr McWilliam/Mark Cavill
<b>May 23rd</b>	<b>Day of Pentecost</b>	
O.T.	Numbers 11:24-30	Mrs Hall/Mr R Firth
N.T.	Acts 2:1-21	Mrs Hall/ Sarah Hartley
<b>May 30th</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	
O.T.	Isaiah 40:12-17&27-31	Mrs Walker
N.T.	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Mrs Walker/Mrs Parkinson



## *Flowers & Brasses*

St Cuthbert's/All Saints'

- 2 May Mrs Bateman/Vacant
- 9 May Mr Lamprey/Mrs Upright
- 16 May Vacant/Mrs Hardy
- 23 May Congregations
- 30 May Congregations



## *From the Registers*

### Baptisms

14 Mar Shanelle Jade Ryan

### Funerals

25 Mar Patricia R Lomax, 21 Town End Ave, aged 66

25 Mar Gwendoline S Howitt, 38 Moor Top Ave, aged 79







# May Calendar

1	Saturday	<b>St Philip and St James</b> 10.30am Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
2	Sunday	<b>5th Sunday of Easter</b> 8.30am Holy Communion 10.15am Holy Communion and Junior Church 6.30pm Evensong	All Saints' St Cuthbert's All Saints'
4	Tuesday	1.45pm Home Group	5 Andrews Grove
5	Wednesday	9.30am Holy Communion <i>MU Corporate Communion</i> 8.00pm Magazine Committee Meeting	All Saints'
9	Sunday	<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> 8.30am Holy Communion 10.15am Family Communion and Parade 6.30pm Evensong	All Saints' St Cuthbert's All Saints'
11	Tuesday	2.00pm Mums and Tots	All Saints'
12	Wednesday	9.30am Holy Communion	All Saints'
13	Thursday	<b>Ascension Day</b> 7.30pm Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
16	Sunday	<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> 8.30am Holy Communion 10.15am Holy Communion and Junior Church 6.30pm Evensong	All Saints' St Cuthbert's All Saints'
19	Wednesday	9.30am Holy Communion 7.45pm Women's Group	All Saints' vestry - St Cuthbert's
		Wakefield Chantry Chapel - Ms Kate Taylor	
23	Sunday	<b>Day of Pentecost</b> 8.30am Holy Communion 10.15am Holy Communion and Junior Church 6.30pm Evensong	All Saints' St Cuthbert's All Saints'
25	Tuesday	2.00pm Mums and Tots	All Saints'
26	Wednesday	9.30am Holy Communion	All Saints'
27	Thursday	2.30pm Mother's Union	All Saints'
30	Sunday	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 8.30am Holy Communion 10.15am Holy Communion and Junior Church 6.30pm Evensong	All Saints' St Cuthbert's All Saints'

**Don't Forget!**

**Saturday 19th June - A Summer Fun Day**

# God Saves

## Exodus Chapter 3

Exodus is one of those books of the Bible which contains one of the great biblical figures, that of Moses. Many people will know something of the story of Moses, the bullrushes and a Moses basket, the burning bush, the plagues, the Red Sea, The Ten Commandments, the journey through the desert. Mention Moses, and most people will think of Charlton Heston who exchanged a shepherd's head-dress for a Hollywood hairstyle.

Chapter three of Exodus is the chapter which deals with the burning bush. On Mount Horeb, Moses meets with God in the burning bush. Moses is commissioned to carry out God's work. God works through people, and on this occasion He chose Moses. However, Moses was not the willing follower of God's will that Abraham was. Moses does not feel he is able to do what God asks, and questions his own ability, but we all know that he gives in eventually to God, as do all who hear His call.

Moses moves closer to the bush and is told to take off his shoes. He is on holy ground. Moving into the presence of God is like that; moving onto holy ground. God then tells Moses that He has heard the cry of His people. That must have been a great comfort to those who were crying to God. How often have you cried out to God for help? How often have you petitioned God for yourself,

or on behalf of someone else, for assistance in coping with today's world? The Jews were enslaved by the Egyptians and were being treated cruelly. They had much to cry to God for.

In this chapter we read that God has heard their cries, and will act to save them. Good news indeed! This is God's way. When we cry to Him, He listens, and we can be assured that He will act - in His time.

God promises His people, through Moses that He will come down and save them from the yoke of slavery - the slavery of Egypt.

We must also be assured that just as God will hear us when we cry to Him, He will come down also to save us, His people. Once we have dedicated ourselves to His service as Abraham did, we can be sure that He will save us, and that He will do it on a personal level.

*Paul Fox*





### HIDDEN STORIES

Jesus taught his followers by telling stories that are called parables. These stories are ways of explaining things that are difficult to understand - they have a truth hidden inside them, not easy to see at first.

When the disciples could not see the meaning hidden in the story Jesus had to show them so that they could begin to understand and discover the truth.

One parable that Jesus told is the Parable of the Sower. You can read it in Luke's Gospel, chapter 8, verses 4-8, and it is explained in verses 9-15.

The seed and the soils show the different answers that people give to Jesus and his message of love. We must be good soil so that the message of Jesus can take root, grow and spread.



By Angela Webb

What is the difference between a farmer and a dressmaker?

One gathers what he sows and the other sews what she gathers.



### HIDDEN ANSWERS

1. What question must you always answer YES to?
2. What question can you never answer YES to, even though it's true?
3. If a group of people contains; a father, mother, uncle, aunt, sister, brother, nephew, niece and 2 cousins - what is the smallest number of people they can be?
4. What occurs four times in every week, twice in every month and only once in a year?



Do robots have brothers?

No, only tran-sisters.

4. The letter E

1. How do you pronounce YES?
2. Are you asleep?
3. Four (the father and mother are not married to each other but are brother and sister, one having a son, the other having a daughter.

Answers to puzzle:

# Jubilee 2000 and Debt Relief

## FACTS & FIGURES

Jubilee 2000 is a coalition of over 50 organisations, including Christian Aid, Oxfam, VSO and the TUC.

Jubilee 2000 wants to cancel £100 billion of debt owed by 'Heavily Indebted Poor Countries', (HIPCs).

This sum, £100 billion, is less than 10% of the world's currency market's daily turnover.



It is 28% of what Americans spend on gambling each year.

Britain's share is 2.5%, or £2.5 billion.

That's 10% of our annual defence budget.

Or 12.5% of building society 'windfall' profits.

Or 21% of what we spent on cigarettes last year.

Or about the same as we spend on chocolate every year!

## DEBT RELIEF & MARA

Tanzania now owes the 'north' £4,750,000,000.

*There are 27,000,000 Tanzanians. Most don't earn money - they grow food and eat it. Most of the 2,000,000 or so who do have paid jobs work for the national minimum wage of £4 a week. Every one of them would have to donate their entire salaries for more than 11 years to pay off the national debt.*

70% of the money Tanzania earns from exports now goes on the repayment of debts taken out at low interest rates in the 70's, but repaid at today's higher rates.

*That leaves 30% for health, education, transport, police, etc, etc. As well as the rise in interest rates, unfair trading conditions mean the value of Africa's exports fall, whilst the cost of its imports continues to rise.*

Jubilee 2000 wants to monitor the debt relief process so that money 'saved' is used to help the poor.

*Much aid in the past has been squandered by corrupt politicians, leading to cynicism in Tanzania and throughout Africa, as well as in the donor countries. Jubilee 2000 wants to see schools and clinics - not limousines and palaces.*

Wakefield Diocesan Jubilee 2000  
Co-ordinating Group

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# News, Events and Dates for your Diary



## Mothers' Union ~ May

- 5th** Corporate Communion  
All Saints Church, 9.30 am
- 6/7th** Diocesan Overnight Retreat  
Parceval Hall
- 8th** Celebration of Marriage Service  
Wakefield Cathedral, 2 pm.
- 13th** Diocesan Quiet Day, Mirfield.
- 14th** Deanery Committee Meeting  
St. Giles' Church, 2 pm.
- 20th** Training Day, "In Touch with God".  
Treacy Hall, 11.30 - 3 pm.
- 27th** Service and Branch Meeting  
All Saints' Church, 2.30 pm.  
Speaker ~ Mrs Susan Dickinson

## Help Wanted!

The Imperial Cancer Research Shop in Pontefract is in urgent need of helpers. If you can spare a few hours each week, or month, please telephone 600313.

The shop is in Beastfair, Pontefract.

## Christian Aid Week **9 - 15 May**

Ring Lynne Ward on  
616384  
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Envelope Delivery & Collection

It will be much appreciated.



## Thank You

Jean Reast and family wish to thank everyone for their kindness, support, sympathy cards and letters received on the sad and sudden loss of Gordon.

They also wish to thank everyone who so generously donated gifts in lieu of flowers and other donations totalling £404.14, which has gone to church funds. It was greatly appreciated.

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