



Ackworth Parish Magazine



April / May 2003
50p per copy (£3 per year)

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

<u>Rector:</u>	Revd. Paul Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<u>Lav Readers:</u>	Dr. Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove.	613834
	Mrs Marie Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill.	616074
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mr Bill Branston, 8 Andrews Grove.	610590
	Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View.	616384
<u>Churchwarden Emeritus:</u>	Mr. Fred Davies	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mrs Valerie Cook, 34 Barnsley Road.	619520
 <u>Christian Stewardship:</u>		
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Mr Bryan Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill.	616074
<u>Covenant Secretary:</u>		
<u>Stewardship Recorder:</u>	Mrs Sue Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<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>	Miss Sue Jackson, Headteacher.	722275
 <u>Third World and Missions:</u>	Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View.	616384
 <u>Social Committee:</u>	Mrs Biddy 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>Weekly News sheet:</u>	Mrs Maureen Richardson, 45 Woodleigh Cres.	612859
 <u>Parish Magazine:</u>		
<u>Publishing:</u>	Mrs Valerie Cook, 34 Barnsley Road.	619520
	Mrs Stella Hall, 87 Wakefield Road.	612003
	Mrs Jean Reast, 6 The Courtway.	611590
<u>Distribution:</u>	Mrs Biddy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove.	610590
 <u>St. Cuthbert's Bell Ringers</u>		
<u>Tower Captain:</u>	Mr Ian Hall, 87 Wakefield Road.	612003
<u>Ringling Master:</u>	Mrs Stella Hall, 87 Wakefield Road.	612003

Dear Friends,

These two months, April and May, besides encompassing the greatest number of major festivals in the Church's calendar outside Christmas, also represent the two major categories of the Church's existence: the Church Militant and the Church Transcendent or, to use simpler terms, the Church on Earth and the Church in Heaven, - the temporal and the spiritual. We begin the month of April, marked by the last days of Lent, a feature of which is the human struggle against the temptation of our material existence in order to gain spiritual rewards. On the 13th of this month we move into Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, when that struggle and the tension between heaven and earth become heightened with our Lord's entry into Jerusalem; a tension which escalates as the week goes on. We see the devastation and desertion of our Lord in the garden on Maundy Thursday as he prays, 'If it be possible, let this cup pass from me,' followed by his closest followers fleeing as he is arrested. Then, about as low as you can get in earthly terms, Jesus the Christ is crucified, dead and buried. It sounds like the end of a church that has never even got off the ground! If newspapers were around then, the headlines would probably have read the same as they did in the early 1960's. Those old enough to remember, will recall the frenzied debate and furore sparked off by the publication of John A T Robinson's book 'Honest to God'; one notable headline read: 'God is dead'.

But not so! Three day later we have the enormous change to a situation where God is very much alive and the victory of God's Love is proclaimed from the roof-Risen!' The old enemy of the Church on earth—death—has been conquered,; heaven is come down to earth. The general or commander in chief's victory is followed by a series of minor triumphs won by his 'foot-soldiers', if you like'.



Ordinary men, members of the Church Militant, struggle against seemingly insurmountable odds to win the crown of unfading glory, so to speak. On April the 28th and 29th we celebrate the patronal festivals of Saints George and Mark, respectively—both transferred from the 23rd and 25th, which fall in Easter Week. These are followed by Saints Philip and James on 1st May and Matthias on the 14th. The high spot of May is Ascension Day on Thursday 29th, a day when the focus is entirely on the Church Transcendent, when our Lord ascends to heaven to take up his rightful place in glory. The whole period moves at quite a pace, the spiritual and the temporal intertwined, locked in combat, each peaking from time to time, though heaven gets the final word.

So much for past events, but what of the here and now; how can we still feel part of the process in this 21st century? Well, just before the start of April, 27th February, a small part of the Church Militant, our 'division', the Church of England got itself a new leader, when Archbishop Williams was enthroned. Nearer to home, our new Bishop of Wakefield, the Very Reverend Stephen Platten, will be consecrated in York Minster on 1st May. Then, right on our own doorsteps, on 27th ~April, we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when we will elect warden, members of PCC and sidespersons to work for our Church here in this village—the 'cutting edge' of the local church. It is here, on the ground, where the front lines are, metaphorically speaking, the sharp-end of the battle between good and evil.

We are Christ's body on earth

But we are not alone in this war. Though much of the transcendent side of the church may seem beyond our grasp, out of touch and out of time, we are engaged as one in the fight which continues; we are both on the same side: 'in earth as it is in heaven. . . ' as we say in the Lord's Prayer. The communion of saints is a real and present reality. As the prayer of St Teresa of Avila states: . . . We are Christ's body on earth. . . ours are the eyes which must work out Christ's compassion on the world; ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; ours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.' The saints on earth are aided and strengthened by the saints in heaven. What might at a glance, looking at some of the events of these two months, seem to be a constant pulling back and forth by two separate sides, the Church militant—us—and the Church transcendent—the citizens of heaven, is, in fact, an illusion. For a God who is eternal, the passage of some 2000 years is 'but a twinkling of an eye'. We share the same task and are members together of the one body of Christ. So, strengthened by the prayers of the communion of saints, let us go forward together and proclaim the victory of love, our battle-cry: 'Christ is Risen!'

Women's World Day of Prayer—7th March

This year the women of Lebanon, taking as their theme 'Holy Spirit. Fill Us', had prepared a lovely service, which was rich in hymns. The Community Church led the service with readers from each of the other churches, in the newly opened, enlarged Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, that used to be the Parish Rooms.

Though the weather prevented a number of people from walking there, a good size congregation participated in the service, enjoying the accompaniment of a keyboard for the hymns and appreciating the meaningful address. The lit candles held by the committee members added to the atmosphere. The Community Church served refreshments afterwards.



Dear Readers

We apologise for the errors that slipped through in our first issue, from typing, or problems we experienced in the actual production. Thank you for the many complimentary comments we have received on the contents; but we shall welcome suggestions from you as to how we can improve.

We are indebted to Linda Steer, who has worked on the magazine for many years, producing it single-handed for over a year. She has set up several pages for us, besides giving us a great deal of her time and advice. We are very grateful that she will continue to be our support until we are able to stand alone.

As you will see we have begun to broaden the scope of the magazine to give you news of more general interest for readers of all ages. We hope in time to carry news of village organisations for all ages.

In 'Ackworth Over the Years' we shall give a selection of items from Rev. J L Saywell's 'History of Ackworth' published in 1894 and W A Green's 'Historical Antiquities of Ackworth' (1910), as well as some items from earlier Parish Magazines. With personal recollections of life in Ackworth during the last century and views of newcomers we hope to help all identify with our village and feel the sense of pride that goes with belonging to a place. We are too often aware of the various parts of the village, not surprising since they were originally separate hamlets, and fail to feel and act as a united community.

We are sure that many of you are saddened, or at times annoyed by the ways in which some thoughtless people spoil various areas with litter or graffiti; or make us feel uncomfortable with their behaviour, or even with certain developments. Some people have begun to act to improve life here: learning about what they are doing can enable us to help. Some have participated in rubbish clearance days on the Bell Lane car park and part of Dando Way, or worked for amenities. Please let us know if you are doing anything to improve the quality of life in your area, and how.

Previously great difficulty was experienced in the photocopying of the magazine, as the machine in the Vestry was very temperamental. Many copies were lost in trying to print the second side of a sheet, resulting in a jammed machine, wasted paper and time as well as frayed tempers.

The Prince of Wales Hospice in Pontefract allowed us to use their photocopier for our first issue, and we made a donation. As a result of the response to the Rector's appeal (see PCC Jottings for March) the PCC have voted to purchase a new machine that will print both sides at once. As you can see we do need more donations, large or small, so that we can clear our debt on this as soon as possible.

Stella, Jean and Valerie



Ackworth Over the Years...

Origins of Ackworth information from Saywell and Green

The name Ackworth is Anglo-Saxon or Scandinavian from its root upwards. The Rev. N Greenwell says it properly means *the estate of the oak*, from *aec*, the Old English for an oak and *worth*, meaning a hamlet or village from *wyrth* or *weorthig*, the Old English for an *estate* or *manner*. In Domesday Book, at the end of the 11th century, the parish is called *Aceuurde*, *uurt* being the form that *wyrth* had taken by that time. Many families who lived here took the place name for themselves and they have continued this name, usually with the uncorrupted prefix *Ac*.

William the Conqueror gave Ackworth, together with many other manors which made up the honour of Pontefract, to Ilbert de Laci, and it passed into the Duchy of Lancaster through the marriage of Ilbert's descendant Alice, in 1311, to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. It remained part of the Duchy until it was sold in 1629 by Charles I, though the church remained in the living of the Duchy.

Domesday tells us that Ilbert granted the manor to Humphrey, who had 'fourteen bondmen and two cottiers with six ploughs; that there a church and priest and a mill of 16d. yearly value.'

Green speaks in 1910 of the traveller arriving by train from Pontefract and taking the Low Ackworth Lane coming, in about a mile to where the road turns to the right to High Ackworth and to the left to the separate villages of Moor Top and Brackenhill. He comments on the triangular milestone indicating the distances to such places as York, Snaith, Doncaster and Barnsley as well as the nearer villages. He was also interested by provincial expressions such as being *pined up* (shrivelled) with the cold, being *agait* (busy) sweeping away the snow; or if idle, one is *levking*, and braces are *gallases*.

For centuries Ackworth was thought to be rich in coal, and records show that a small amount was sold at the end of the 14th century.

O o o O o o O

In April 1945 magazine we read: '**Armistice Services**

When Mr Churchill announces the end of the war in Europe we shall all want to meet to give thanks to Almighty God for peace and deliverance. There will be a service at St Cuthbert's on that Day at 7.30pm and a similar service at East Hardwick.'

Then in the June issue, the first item in the Rector's Letter:

'VE Day Services were well attended and the combined Service on VE Sunday afternoon was a very inspiring experience. It was a joy to see so many thankful people congregated together and also to have with us our friends of other Religious bodies.'

At the time of writing we hope that war can be averted now.

Two Ackworth Sports

I came to Ackworth School to teach gymnastics, having trained as a gymnast and physiotherapist at Bedford College of Physical Education back in 1931. After three happy years there, I married Guy Clayton-Smith, a solicitor in Pontefract, and we lived at The Grove.

Ackworth was a real village then, a lovely place to live in, I thought, though some people didn't like it – they said Ackworth people were 'snobbish'! Up at our end we were well served by the grocer and greengrocer, next to the almshouses.

My husband and I were always playing sport – tennis, golf and cricket. He played for Yorkshire Gentlemen, being prevented, as a Cheshire man, from playing for the County, and I played once, before I was married, for Yorkshire Ladies! One of the great cricketing family, the Moxons, was our gardener.

Strangely, enough, my main memories are of the War. Guy was Lt. Col. in the Home Guard and he would often have men practising in the garden. (Visions of 'Dad's Army') One night several stray bombs dropped on or near Ackworth, They missed all the houses, but one apparently landed in our rose garden and the air raid warden insisted that we spend the night with our neighbours, the Cairns; despite the fact that we had a shelter and they did not! The next morning we heard one and then another loud explosion. Sadly, the wardens were inspecting the second bomb, off Went Lane, when it exploded, killing them all. Our 'bomb' turned out to be mounds of earth that were thrown up by a bomb which actually landed in the field beyond.

After Guy's death in 1960, I sold The Grove (for £3,500) and moved to my present house.

I was a physiotherapist at PGI for many years, thoroughly enjoying the work on the wards, but not so happy on the two afternoons a week when I worked with people who had spina bifida, as I felt I could do so little for them.



Mollie Clayton-Smith

More memories of wartime come from **Phyllis Asquith**. Some of the Queen's Regiment and another were billeted here after Dunkirk. The army commandeered the public room, now mews properties at the foot of Mill Hill, and erected cookhouses in the garden. Senior officers were billeted in Eagle House. A building behind the Sanatorium at Ackworth School was commandeered as the NAAFI, where the men relaxed, played cards and billiards and 'feasted'. The only food Phyllis can remember was bread, sausages and cheese. After the war she could never face stringy cooked cheese again! Her mother-in-law, who was the postmistress, kept open house for the soldiers on Sunday, and was rewarded by the beautiful playing of one 'upper crust' soldier on her treasured piano. Phyllis remembers in particular one sergeant and private who always religiously sat on the doorstep and removed their boots before

they came into the house.

Many of you will have cause to remember the Weapons Weeks, when iron railings were removed wholesale to be made into munitions. How many of those were dumped into the Solent later? Perhaps some of you enjoyed practising your skills with a rifle at the shooting range which a troop of gunners set up behind Saint Cuthbert's and paid so much to fire.

Back in 1939 Austin and Phyllis Asquith, with the help of the Rector, Mr Armstrong, started a Youth Club. The Mary Lowther room was the meeting place, until one bright spark set light to the waste paper which was being collected there to raise funds! At that time the old school house, on the Green, had been unused for some time. A working party cleared out the muck of ages and set to cleaning, so that the Youth Club soon had far more space and facilities. Pride of place was given to the billiard table. As well as weekday meetings, the Club met on Sunday evenings at the Rectory, after Evensong, for a discussion group, sometimes with a speaker for about twenty minutes, or a quiz and tea and biscuits.

In the summer, Austin organised a tennis tournament. The court at the Rectory was decidedly uneven, but such was the enthusiasm of the players that they pulled the roller from Low Ackworth cricket ground, just below the bridge on Rigg Lane, all the way up to the Rectory to smooth the grass ready for play – not forgetting to push it back later. Sam Brown, the curate, helped with this and took part in the tournament, too. After a good afternoon of tennis, everyone enjoyed a picnic tea.

One of the highlights of the year was the Christmas dinner. Somehow there was turkey and trimmings! Phyllis and Austin were great friends with their neighbours, the Owens, and Mrs Owens cooked the turkey, while Phyllis did the rest. There were plenty of willing helpers to take the food up the road to the schoolhouse, when all was ready, but imagine the consternation when the turkey was attacked with the carving knife and just did not yield – the giblets were still inside! It was a trip down the road and back to the oven for the bird. The result of all the endeavours was a meal never-to-be-forgotten! [Does anyone else have further memories of that meal?]



An organisation that flourished for the men was Toc H, which met on Monday evenings at the Rectory, under the auspices of the next Rector, Mr Armstrong, so perhaps one reader at least could tell us more about that.

In the 1930's one group of ladies met regularly to sew, and as a young bride coming to the village at the beginning of the war, Phyllis tried to join it, but was rebuffed – she was far too young! Is it too much to hope that anyone that any reader had a relative who belonged to that prestigious group?

Ackworth ladies were also unable to have a Women's Institute, as the place was deemed too large to be a village. Several women went over to East Hardwick to enjoy the companionship and interesting meetings, as well as develop many skills of housewifery, but only a few were allowed to join – East Hardwick W I was not going to be 'swamped' by Ackworth women!



The Village Cross

For nearly 700 year the Cross has stood on the village green in Ackworth. Its only noticeable damage probably happened at the time of the Commonwealth when it seems the cross was removed or damaged and a ball put in its place, or at least that's what we assume since there is no record of what was ever atop the cross shaft. In 1999 vandals smashed the shaft and plinth and stole the ball.

Local residents had already been showing concern over the state of the cross. A hand could fit between the stones and ash trees were growing in the gaps. In late summer 2000 a meeting was convened of people who had shown an interest in the state of the Cross; from this the inaugural meeting of the Ackworth Heritage Group developed that November. A committee was formed to steer the group through their first years, and to achieve their first objective, the restoration of the Cross on the Green.

The aims however were much wider, hoping to highlight the history and heritage of Ackworth, and to try to get the village on the map. This has been achieved through talks open to the public, with the publication of a Heritage Walk through the village which visits all the sights, through information plaques put on telegraph poles around the village and talks given to interested groups. So many people living in the village are newcomers, who don't realise that Ackworth is steeped in history and, while we are on the whole opposed to more housing, we still welcome anyone with an interest in the community which has been growing for over a thousand years.

Late in 2002 we were pleased to be able to say that the restoration of the Cross could go ahead. In early February the stones were stripped away and taken to be dried out and dressed ready for the rebuild. As I write the new stone is being prepared and we eagerly await the time that this focus to our work can be restored to its proper state. We hope it won't be too long before we can invite the whole village to come along and celebrate with us in the rededication of the Cross on the Green at Ackworth.

Details of the work of the Heritage Group can be found on the web at:-

http://music.freemove.com/Ackworth_Heritage_Group

Our next open meeting will be held at the Parish Rooms on Thursday March 27th when the subject will be Nostell Priory and Church at 7-30 pm. For further details of events contact the secretary on 07951063828 or e-mail MHG@callics.freemove.com

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Churches Together Easter Services

Palm Praise St Clement's Court, 8th April at 6.30

Easter Praise Chiltern Court, 15th April at 6.30



All are welcome to join in these services.

St Cuthbert's and All Saints' Churches Restoration Appeal Spring Raffle

Prizes include: Framed Painting, Whisky, Crystal Glasses, Toiletries, Easter Eggs.

To be drawn at the Coffee Morning, 24th April, 2003 at All Saints' Church.

Tickets 20p each.

Easter Coffee Morning All Saints' Church, April 24th, 2003

Do Come to our Easter Songs of Praise with hymns chosen by those attending the coffee morning.

If anyone would like a particular hymn sung, please let any of the coffee morning helpers know. Paul Cooper will accompany the singing on the organ.

There is also the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one, or to offer a prayer.

Indo-Chinese or Chino-Indian!

Over 20 people attended the Take-Away meal in the Vestry at St Cuthbert's on 1 March had the opportunity to sample dishes of either or both cuisines, with all the traditional accompaniments. The take-away dishes had been collected from our local establishments and diners were treated to a real feast for the eye and the stomach.

Everyone enjoyed the company, as well as the food, and was very appreciative of the efforts of the organisers.

We hope that more people will join in next time - now they have heard what a good evening a take-away can be!

Does Your Group Want to Use All Saints'?

No doubt you have heard that the PCC hope to reorder All Saints' church so that it will be a multi-purpose building. However, the existing chancel will remain largely unaltered, with a movable screen dividing it off from what will be a meetings area.

It is essential that the PCC has some idea of how many organisations would like to use the facilities proposed, which will include toilets, a reasonable size food preparation area and space for up to 80 people, with tables and chairs. There will be parking for about 20 vehicles.

If you know of any organisation that would be interested in hiring a meetings room like this, please contact David Cook on 619520. The PCC hopes to keep the charges as low as is economically possible.



Dates for your Social Calendar—Note them down!

Saturday 5th April Come to a Bunny Drive for an evening of fun and excitement. 7pm at the Low Ackworth Community Centre. Bring contributions for a Faith Supper.

The provisional date for the Summer Fayre is Saturday, 12th July, to be held in the Rectory garden.

Book of Remembrance

This handsome, beautifully bound book, which was dedicated to the memory of Austin Asquith twenty years ago, is in a glass case on a table in the side chapel in the south aisle, where it can easily be seen. It has a page for each day of the year and a loved one's name is written in black ink in calligraphy, with the dates of birth and death, as a lasting memorial. It is to record of the life of any Ackworth resident, not just members of the congregation.

If you would like to have a family member's name entered in the book, please contact the Rector, who will arrange for this.



Save the Children

The Ackworth branch of Save the Children has been in existence for many years. Some of you will have seen our stall at the Village Gala, some will have bought cards at Christmas and some of you will have spent a slightly riotous evening at one of our Beetle Drives. We are always on the look-out for new ways of raising money to help needy children abroad, both in war-zones and famine stricken areas, and in under-privileged areas of the UK. Save the Children Week is in mid-April, and we will be collecting outside Morrisons in the Ridings.

For the past two years we have held a "Soup Kitchen" in March. We provide a menu of 4 home-made soups, rolls and butter and interesting company! This year we served nearly 30 diners at lunchtime and made £70 for the fund. 'Spicy parsnip is definitely to be recommended!'

We are always interested in recruiting new members for our committee and Margaret Shaw, our secretary—704932—will be pleased to give you any more information.

Spring Coffee Morning

In aid of

The Prince of Wales Hospice

Saturday, 3rd May, 2003

10am—12 noon

Low Ackworth Community Centre

Coffee and biscuits 50p. Usual stalls

**Please bring a friend
and support
your local hospice.**

Can YOU help?

Your local hospice, The Prince of Wales, wants VOLUNTEERS in its shops and in all departments of the Hospice, or as a driver.

Do you have two hours or more each week, or fortnight that you could spare to help in any way? Not only is it rewarding work; it can often be fun as well.

Please contact Tina Carr, Volunteer Coordinator at the Hospice, tel: 708868.

APRIL AND MAY DIARY

	<i>Week of</i>			
1	Tuesday	7.30pm	Lent Prayers	St Cuthbert's
2	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (M U Corporate Communion) A S	
3	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Week beginning</i>			
7	Monday	7.30pm	PCC	Vestry, St Cuthbert's
8	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers	4 Doncaster Road
		7.30pm	Lent Prayers	St Cuthbert's
9	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Holy Week</i>	<i>See April and Holy Week Services for all special Services in this week</i>		
16	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
14	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Week of</i>			
22	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers	4 Doncaster Road
23	Wednesday		NO Holy Communion	
24	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Week of</i>			
29	Tuesday	7.45	Social Committee	8 Andrews Grove
30	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
1	Thursday		Saint Philip and Saint James the Apostles	
		10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
	<i>Week beginning</i>			
7	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (M U Corporate Communion) AS	
8	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Week beginning</i>			
12	Monday	7.30pm	PCC	Vestry, St Cuthbert's
13	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers	4 Doncaster Road
14	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
15	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Week of</i>			
21	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
22	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
	<i>Week of</i>			
27	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers	4 Doncaster Road
28	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
29	Thursday		Ascension Day	
		10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
		7.0pm	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's

Please may we have COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE of the magazine by Wednesday 2 May?

Will all committees please try to fix the dates of their meetings for June and July and let us have them by 2 May, or Wednesday 9 May at the latest?

APRIL AND MAY READINGS AND READERS

			S C	A S
6	April Passion Sunday Jeremiah 31. 31-34	Hebrews 5. 5-10	Jane Siddall	David Cook
13	Palm Sunday Isaiah 50.4-9a	Philippians 2.5-11	Sue Hartley	Mary Walker
20	Easter Day Isaiah 25.6-9	1 Corinthians 15.1-11	Fred Davies	Valerie Cook
27	2nd Sunday of Easter Exodus 14.10-31 & 15.20-21	1 John Ch.1-Ch 2 verse 2	Keith Shaw	Ethel Smith
5	May 3rd Sunday of Easter Zephaniah 3.14-20	1 John 3 1-7	Lily Parker	David Cook
11	4th Sunday of Easter Genesis 7.1-5 & 11-18: 8.6-18 & 9.8-13	1 John 3.16-24	Ann Atack	Peter McWilliam
18	5th Sunday of Easter Genesis 22.1-18	1 John 4.7-21	Grace Riley	Stella Hall
25	6th Sunday of Easter Isaiah 55. 1-11	1 John 5.1-6	Mary Woofinden	Mary Walker
1	June 7th Sunday of Easter Ezekiel 36.24-28	1 John 5.9-13	Julie Cleland	Valerie Cook

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: 26 January Ellis Spencer Longstaff

Funerals:

30 December Melvyn Barras (52) 12 Charlestown, Ackworth Moor Top
 30 Celia Anne Sockett (73) 33 Hillside Road, Ackworth
 10 January Millicent Ferrand (84) 118 Station Road, Low Ackworth
 13 Jean Weaver (80) 2 Chiltern Drive, Ackworth Moor Top
 16 Keith Horbury (45) 4 College Terrace, Ackworth Moor Top
 4 February Marjorie Turner (86) St Clement's Court, Ackworth
 5 Derek Price (58) 22 Boycott Drive, Ackworth Moor Top
 11 Hilda Ashton (89) Aberford Hall N H, Leeds
 19 Ilva Teresa Johnson (73) St Clement's Court, Ackworth
 20 Sylvia Forster (75) 26 Chiltern Drive, Ackworth
 25 Sylvia May Mills (60) 65 Hillside Road, Ackworth
 26 Jack Fearnley (88) 10 Orchard Drive, Ackworth

What's been happening to the roof at St Cuthbert's?



The contract for the first part of the repairs and renovation of St Cuthbert's was let early in the autumn, 2002. The contractor began working in late November on the valley gutter between the chancel and vestry roofs. It is only possible to get a good view of this problem area from the tower. The only evidence from ground level is the hopper which collects the water from the channel between the two roofs at the east end of the building, just to the right of the east window. The valley gutter is exactly what it sounds; a channel between two steep roofs, made of lead and resting on the wall which divides the chancel from the vestry. The lead to the old one had become porous and was making the stonework below very damp. The contractor had to remove three courses of the stone 'slates' each side of the old gutter, remove the lead, replace any supporting timber that had rotted, and his plumber then formed a new gutter and put it in place before the roofing 'slates' were put back. It sounds a fairly simple operation, but the roofs are steep, the space confined and lead difficult to work, particularly in cold weather. However, that was all finished before Christmas.

The guttering to the nave, visible above the clerestory windows over the south and north aisles was rotten, particularly on the north side, and the fall pipes from this guttering discharged onto both ends of the two aisles. This meant that when it rained really hard there was a cascade of water down the aisle roofs, exactly beside the junction between the aisle supporting walls at the east and west ends. This junction between wall and roof is a weak point, so the architect suggested that these fall pipes should be moved towards the centre of the aisle roofs, so discharging over a less critical area. The new guttering is made from cast aluminium, chemically blackened and is in-keeping with the Victorian architecture. It was 'very expensive', as was the necessary scaffolding.

Those of you who have noticed water stains on the walls above and behind the pulpit, just above the hymnbook stand, in the children's corner and the side chapel will know just how necessary it was to seal the joints between the aisle roofs and these walls. All the coping stones to these walls were lifted, new lead 'soakers' inserted and the stones rebedded. Soon we shall be able to clean down the wall above the children's corner and take away the unsightly tape! Unfortunately, stonework takes months to dry out.

Have you noticed the white staining on the porch roof and walls? This was caused by water seeping in from the ridge of the porch roof and around the decorative, vertical stones each side of that roof. The roof now has a waterproof ridge and the stones have been repointed, so over the next six months or so the porch structure should dry out.

It is a good start! More next issue.

David Cook

February

- There was a discussion about the Anglican-Methodist Covenant.
- New ideas about Baptism Policy have been put forward. A new format for Baptism Preparation has been agreed, including the use of a new video and booklet.
- Thanksgiving Service for the birth of a child is to be incorporated into the main service.
- The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting is to be held at All Saints' Church on Sunday 27 April at 7.30pm, after Evensong.
- The present photocopier needs replacing after over five years' use. An appeal is to be made for donations towards the cost of a new one, as present funding is insufficient for the purchase.
- As a temporary measure, the last issue of the magazine was photocopied at The Prince of Wales Hospice, and a donation was given.
- A new notice board is being made for St Cuthbert's Church.
- A replacement miner's lamp for the one stolen has been obtained for St Cuthbert's Church.
- Yorkshire Historic Churches is to give £6,000 towards the roof work at St Cuthbert's.
- The architect will carry out the next Quinquennial Report on 7 April.
- An audit sheet has been produced to find out which local groups would be interested in using All Saints' when it has facilities for meetings.
- Ada Pritchard is to give up her work as Recorder for the Stewardship Scheme, and the PCC's thanks to Ada for her many years of service were recorded.

March

- An Away Day for members of the PCC was held on Saturday 1 March. There will be a follow-up meeting for the PCC on Saturday 22 March
- It was agreed to purchase a new photocopier. Donations totalling £671 have been received and a personal loan has been made to enable the purchase to go ahead.
- The new notice board for St. Cuthbert's has been received and will be lettered up as soon as possible.
- The PCC is awaiting permission from WMDC to go ahead with pruning some of the trees in St. Cuthbert's churchyard.
- There was discussion about provision of a fresh area in All Saints' Churchyard for the interment of ashes as at the moment there is only sufficient space for six more plots. It is hoped that this will provide 200 more plots.
- The Restoration Appeal now stands at £30,000.
- Lent Lunch is to be held after the morning service at St. Cuthbert's on Sunday 8 March.
- The Mothers' Union Tuesday morning coffee group has given £240 left in their account to be spent on a purchase for All Saints' Church. A new oak lectern will be provided out of this money, in memory of Kitty Cooper.
- John Gardham has tendered his resignation as Covenant secretary. The PCC expressed their thanks for all his many years of service.

- The Consecration of the new Bishop of Wakefield (Stephen Platten) will take place in York Minster on Thursday May 1st.
- A clip on retaining Gate has been offered for the Children's corner.
- Oaktree Park School are to bring a group of children to the Coffee Morning at All Saints' Church on Thursday March 6th.
- The Spring Draw raffle tickets are on sale at £1.00 per book of five. Proceeds to the Restoration Appeal.

Visit of Oakfield Park School

On Thursday 6 March Class Three (plus three staff, - David Haigh, Samantha Varrier and Andrea Reid), from Oakfield Park School visited All Saints' Coffee Morning.

There were seven 13 and 14 year olds who came to the Church as part of their Geography Topic on 'Discovering Aekworth'. The previous week they had come along and photographed the outside of the building using their digital camera, and had arranged to come this time to see inside the Church.

After their visit to us they walked up to the Post Office and the Newsagents to take more photographs and also to buy themselves sweets in the shop. As part of their project they have made a large map of Aekworth, on which they are placing all the photographs they have taken. This work is all part of their 'Links with the Community'.

When they arrived, the children settled down in the pews before enjoying a drink and something to eat. They listened to some taped music and were able to join in some familiar music which they also heard at their school. Everyone was pleased to see the boys and girls and hoped they might revisit us sometime.

Oakfield Park School, which is non residential, opened in September 2002 on the site of the Oaktree School which took in children from three to nineteen years. Oaktree School merged with Fieldhead Hospital School and Park School Wakefield to form the Oakfield Park School which is a secondary School taking children from eleven to nineteen years. It is the only school in the Wakefield Metropolitan Area for children with severe and profound handicaps including autism, so it has a large catchment area. The school has two minibuses to transport the children to the baths and various other places. It also has a hydrotherapy pool and specialist equipment.



Kitty Cooper Bursary

Thank you to all of you who donated to this bursary. We have sent off a total of £100.88 for the Mothers' Union Bursary in memory of Kitty, to give financial assistance to those members who need it to attend special meetings.

Castleford Male Voice Choir—9 February, 2003

Venturing out on a Saturday night is unusual for us, but aren't we glad we went?

We arrived at St Cuthbert's quite early to find all convenient car parking places taken, but the helpful chief steward directed us to the grass below the lych gate on the right hand side. Unfortunately, we did not park prettily, causing some consternation (Sorry, Bill).

A large choir, the members resplendent in their smart grey blazers with badges, was crowded into the chancel.

As soon as the concert started it was obvious that we were in for a treat, with a varied programme to suit everyone's taste, ranging from grand opera to a cheeky little song that must have taken some nerve to sing in church. The choir sang mainly en masse, but we were also entertained by three soloists and a duet. The quality of the arrangements, the professionalism and enthusiasm shown by all were notable.

Our own favourites were *Nessun Dorma*, sung unusually in English and *Unchained Melody*. The concert concluded with a hymn for peace, so appropriate for the current troubled times.

At the interval, where welcome refreshments were served, one of the choir asked Colin if he was interested in joining—he obviously has not heard him sing!

Sue and Colin Tanswell

Ackworth Concert Society Trumpet and Organ

Saturday 12th April 2003 at 7.30pm
The Meeting House, Ackworth School



Colin Druce—Organ
Andrew Stone-Fewings—Trumpet

Music from the Renaissance Period to the present day will be performed by these two nationally-acclaimed musicians.

Ticket prices: Adult £7; Pensioner £6; Child £2
Available from Ackworth Post Offices or at the door
For further details ring 01977 793363

Guide News 1st Ackworth Guides held a Blue Peter Water Works Appeal, Bring and Buy Sale. This was organised by Hayley Siddall and Sam Davis, helped by the rest of the Guides. It was great fun, well attended and raised £130 for a worthwhile cause. Thanks to everyone who donated items or attended.

. . and we pray for those who are sick. June Backhouse

In that list are some names that we hear for many weeks or even years. Some we know very well and love dearly, but there are others we have never heard of until they appear on the list.

One day a name disappears from the list, but then moments later we hear it again, as we pray for those who have died.

Our family did not live in the parish when John became seriously ill. However, Susy attended the Howard School and was in Rainbows and Brownies in Ackworth and we came to St Cuthbert's mainly in connection with these interests and activities. I drew great comfort from hearing John's name included in the prayers. It was also comforting and very supportive to know that these prayers continued faithfully week by week and that John was held in the thoughts of so many people. As one crisis followed another, I found strength through personal prayer, but was also strengthened through the knowledge that our whole family was upheld by this fellowship of prayer.

Some people do not like a public declaration of their illness, or the illness of those close to them. I did wonder initially if I really wanted so many people to know what was happening to us. How very glad I am that I took that deep breath and said, "Yes, please," when asked if I would like John's name to be included on the list.

This is a very belated 'thank you' to our Rector and the congregations of St Cuthbert's and



the All Saints' for the years of long illness.

Others have told us of the comfort and strength they too have derived from hearing or knowing their loved one is being prayed for, or hearing that they themselves have been included. It gives a very warm feeling inside, just the same as when they see the name of a loved one in print.

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cluded. It gives a very warm feeling inside, just the same as when they see the name of

a loved one in print.

Mary Walker reflects on the comfort of prayer:

My much loved granddaughter has been seriously ill for some time now and I have prayed for her recovery. It is a great comfort for me to know that friends are praying for her too. I have told Samantha that we are all thinking about her—she just smiles, but I know she's pleased. Soon she has to see a specialist, a vascular surgeon, in Hull. I just hope he can make her well again. Meanwhile, please keep on praying that her health will be restored so that she can take up her place at Leeds University and continue her studies.

I think we should not hesitate to ask about those we do not know, to find out what their situation is, so that we can pray rather more directly for them and, where we know it will be appreciated, speak to their families (Ed).

We should like to hear from anyone else who has found comfort from prayers.

Listening Anon

When I ask you to listen to me
And you start giving me advice
You have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me
And you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way
You are trampling on my feelings.
When I ask you to listen to me and you feel you have to do
Something to solve my problem
Then you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

Listen! All I asked was that you listen
Not talk or do—just hear me.

Advice is cheap; I can do for myself; I'm not helpless;
Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can
And need to do for myself
You are contributing to my fear and weakness,

But when you accept as a simple fact
That I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational
Then I can quit trying to convince you and can get
About the business of understanding what's behind
This irrational feeling.

And when that's clear, the answers are obvious
And I don't need advice.
Irrational feelings make sense when
We know what's behind them.

Perhaps that's why prayer works for some people -
Sometimes because a god is mute and
Doesn't give advice or try to fix things

So, please listen and just hear me.

And if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn;
And I'll listen to you.



Roots

"Homegrown"

The view from our bungalow in Africa was a desolation of sand, rocks, scrubby thorn-bushes, shrivelled cactus and a few dusty acacia trees, shimmering in the heat haze.

But when the thunderstorm clouds broke at last and the rains came, the scene was transformed with new green grass. To our surprise and delight thousands of lilies sprang up. They grew fast, like short thick sticks of rhubarb and then, overnight, burst into blossom—millions of white bell-flowers, hanging motionless in the wet windless air. There was a delicious earthy smell of green growing things, herbs, cow-dung and the scent of lilies.

We had the idea of transplanting a few near our verandah, and tried to dig one up, much to the amusement of some little African boys. We scratched away the sand carefully for a few inches all round, expecting to find a lily bulb about the size of one in an English garden. But as we scraped we gradually realised the enormous size of the bulb—much bigger than a football, with roots reaching all around for yards in the sand. This bulb was where its life was stored, the reason why it could withstand years of drought. Rain was the stimulus for it to break open and flower.



Unfortunately, after two days a hot wind sprang up and, as we watched with dismay, the flowers shrivelled, were desiccated to a crisp in the sun and blown away by the wind.

As with the lily flowers, our earthly lives are here today and gone tomorrow, but, unlike the lilies, the roots of our being grow outwards, nourished by our various life experiences into spaceless and timeless eternity. We flower in the sweet everlasting rain of God's grace.

In eternity we shall never exhaust the mystery of our creation. God has many more delights with which to surprise us. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived what God hath in store for those who love him." *

From Africa, the cradle of evolution, to the NOW, here we all stand, like wondering children, on tiptoe with anticipation.

* 1 Corinthians 2.9

Snowman Drive 25th January

About 40 people of all ages from 5 to 80 had a thoroughly enjoyable time. The games (equivalent to a beetle drive) were played in a very competitive spirit, with dice flying everywhere. There was a pie and pea supper, which was delicious, followed by further games to find the winners.... and the boobies!

"I had a really good night and I won the children's raffle!"

"It was great to see so many different ages all thoroughly engrossed and enjoying themselves."

"Me and my sister have been to one before and we always enjoy it, though it's best if you win."

Look out for the next event. A Bunny Drive is planned. See page 12.

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To Bribe or not to Bribe

June Cartwright

Bribery is generally frowned upon, yet at times we all participate in it. It is not a practice we usually associate with the church, but on one occasion the church sanctioned the use of bribery, with begging, to boot!

Whilst serving as a nursing sister at Fort Churchill, Manitoba—within the Arctic Circle—we were responsible for the care of civilians as well as personnel of the armed forces. Included in the civilians were members of the Cree and Chippewa North American Indians.

There was a school for the education of the Indian children, but getting them to attend wasn't easy, so ladies of the combined churches got together to find a solution to the problem. It was decided to provide a midday meal for the children on the condition they attended school.

To continue with this suggestion required permission from the church. After deliberation, the powers that be granted permission to bribe the children with a hot meal at lunchtime.

The problem arose as to who would provide food for the meal. We appealed to the servicemen's families. I was informed that I and others were to go around the permanent married quarters each Thursday evening, pushing a supermarket trolley, begging for donations of food and money.

I never saw the meals the ladies produced, but considering the donations of food consisted mainly of cans of soup, beans, spaghetti and tomatoes, it certainly gave rise to thought.

The Indian children did attend morning classes, but disappeared very quickly once the food had gone! So bribery helped to teach basic reading and writing to these Indian children.

I personally approve of this sort of bribery, especially if it comes in the form of bars of Cadbury's fruit and nut milk chocolate!

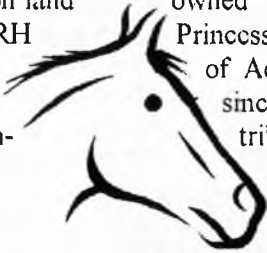


Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre—Open Morning

Dave Waterson, Chairman, spoke briefly to welcome members of the public to the new rooms and much altered former Parish Rooms in Bell Lane, on Saturday, 8th March. Various organisations which use the premises, or plan to do so, had displays and spoke about their work. People were able to see all the facilities which are now provided in very pleasant surroundings. One room should soon be equipped with computers and a course for beginners will be held there, so more people might be interested in this. The library will be returning to its original room.

ACKWORTH GROUP OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

I began the Group at home in 1975 with my two ponies and two others borrowed from friends. Our first riders came from Fieldhead Hospital School. We gradually expanded and, inspired by the purchase of Rags by the Blue Peter appeal, decided to buy our own pony. Missy was followed by other ponies and for several years the group operated from Berrill Farm at East Hardwick. During that time South Elmsall Round Table constructed an all-weather surface for us on land owned by John North, and this was opened in 1983 by HRH Princess Royal. For a few years we operated in the grounds of Ackworth School, but have been tenants of John North since 1988. We now also have a barn, built with contributions from the Children in Need Fund.



The Group provides therapeutic riding for a variety of clients, most of them adults with learning difficulties from Training Centres and residential homes, but also pupils from two special schools, including one for boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties, for whom riding appears to be particularly beneficial. A number of individual adults and children attend our summer evening sessions.

We operate a pony shareholding scheme to help with the rent, care and cost of keeping the ponies. Our able-bodied shareholders are able to ride the ponies when they are free, take them to various equestrian events and hack them out regularly; thus benefiting both ponies and riders. Shareholders are expected to help at riding sessions and take part in the winter feeding rota.

Our riders can take part in inter-group and national competitions, if they wish. We have had several riders qualify for the national dressage finals over the last 20 years, and we send a contingent to the regional dressage and handy pony competitions every year.

We are always wanting helpers for our various sessions, so if you love horses, even if you do not necessarily want to ride them, live within reasonable distance of Ackworth and have a few hours to spare, why not come along and see us? We can find you a job to do: experience not necessary, just enthusiasm! Please phone me on 795450.

Alison Harris

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THE PARISH OF ACKWORTH

St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

Sunday and Holy Week Services - April 2003

6th April Passion Sunday

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

13th April Palm Sunday Beginning of Holy Week

8.30am	Holy Communion BCP (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion—including Blessing and Procession of Palms	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

Monday, 14th, Tuesday, 15th and Wednesday, 16th

7.30pm	Prayers / Meditations for Holy Week	St Cuthbert's
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Tuesday, 15th

10.30am	 Chrism Mass (Blessing of Oils)	Wakefield Cathedral
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Maundy Thursday, 17th

7.45pm	Institution of the Last Supper followed by The Watch until 10.00pm	per St Cuthbert's
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Good Friday, 18th

10.30am	Family Service	All Saints'
2.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy	St Cuthbert's
7.30pm	A Meditation in words and music—At the foot of the Cross	St Cuthbert's

Saturday, 19th Easter Eve

8.30pm	Renewal of baptismal vows and the 1st Eucharist of Easter (incl. Lighting of the Easter fire, blessing of Paschal Candles and candle-lit procession into a darkened church)	St Cuthbert's
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20th April Easter Day

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion—followed by egg rolling in the churchyard and judging of decorated eggs	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Easter Praise	All Saints'

27th April Second Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong followed by Annual Parochial Meeting	All Saints'

THE PARISH OF ACKWORTH

St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

Sunday Services – May 2003

4th May Third Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

11th May Fourth Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Holy Communion - BCP (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion and Parade	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

18th May Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

25th May Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

<i>Flowers</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>AS</i>	<i>Brasses & Clean-</i>
<i>ing</i>			
<i>April 20</i>			<i>SC</i>
<i>Easter Day Congregation</i>	<i>Congregation</i>		<i>Pam Sutcliffe</i>
<i>May 4</i>	<i>Janet Bateman</i>	<i>Flower Fund</i>	
	<i>18 Mollie Clayton Smith</i>	<i>Ethel Smith</i>	<i>Pat Lancaster</i>
			<i>and</i>
			<i>Phyllis Asquith</i>
<i>June 1</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Flower Fund</i>	

The organisers in both churches would be glad of offers to provide flowers, or indeed to arrange them as well, for more Sundays throughout the year, except during Advent and Lent.