

Ackworth Parish Magazine



February/March 2003
50p per copy (£3 per year)

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Heart of Ackworth Walk

Dear Friends,

It may seem an age since the walk took place (two to three months by the time you read this magazine)! but this is the first issue in which I have had the opportunity to write about that day. Although November is not renowned for its good weather, as our intrepid group gathered in Saint Cuthbert's to start our trek around the parish, I don't think it could have been much worse. Needless to say, things didn't improve; it poured down continuously for the duration of the walk. Undaunted, however, 10 brave souls departed to tramp 12 soggy miles.



Despite the weather's worst efforts, I think all who took part felt up-Though clothes were dampened, spirits were not and, if anything, the inclemency of the weather made our achievement more worthwhile. Two retired gracefully at the halfway point of All Saints' Church, the other 8 going on to complete the distance. Though the rain continued to flow in torrents all day, the donations through sponsorship for the walk now seem to have dried up, having reached a magnificent total of £1278 to start us on the 2nd year of our fundraising appeal for the restoration. However, I have said in the past and will continue to repeat that it's not just about the money: all who undertook the walk gained a deeper fellowship with one another and experienced a sense of achievement that money couldn't buy. Personally, it gave

me many reasons for being thankful to God, chiefly for the good health which enabled me to complete such a task, which would have been unthinkable a year earlier when health and confidence were both at a low ebb, following a heart attack.

.. a step in faith ...

The 'Heart of Ackworth' walk gave many of us heart; a strength that can come from God alone, and the publicity which came out of it through the local press went a long way to put the church back on the agenda, back into its rightful place as the heart of the community. It was a step in faith which proved successful on many fronts, a stepping out made all the easier for me, knowing that I had other people with me on my journey, which, for many reasons, I knew I had to make. There are many occasions in the church's life when as individuals or groups we feel alone and disheartened, but if we can learn anything from this event, it is that we are never alone on our journey, no matter how difficult it may seem.

This is our greatest strength as a church and as individuals – one that invigorates us and enables us to help others by showing our solidarity with them.

Fellowship is one of those churchy 'in words' that are frequently bandied about and sometimes overused, so that we underestimate, or forget how valuable it is. If this walk has taught me anything, apart from the fact that I have a lot to be thankful to God for, it is the importance of being together and



life and faith, and the inspiration and reve- inside us kept us going. I didn't feel hunlation that can issue from that!

I should like to finish with a few lines from an inspirational poem by T S Eliot, entitled 'Little Gidding'; which speaks very much of life's journey and its occasional insights:

'If you came this way,

Taking any route, starting from anywhere, At any time or at any season,

have to put off

Sense and notion. You are not here to verify,

Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity, Or carry report. You are here to kneel

Than an order of words, the curious occu- money! pation

voice praying.

. . . With the drawing of his love and the St Cuthbert's. voice of his calling We shall not cease from exploration And the end of all our exploring Will be to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.

May you all never cease from exploration and may you find support from the knowledge that you do not journey alone. Many thanks for all who have supported me in this November walk and in my ministry thus far.

The Rector

P.S. We want to make the walk an annual event; hopefully in better weather this year!

Other views of the event:

'Once you're wet, you can't get any wet-

'It went so quickly I couldn't believe we'd done it.'

> 'It was a lovely feeling. Even

supporting one another on our journeys of though the weather was atrocious, the spirit gry or tired - till I got home!' -

Doreen Seal

a poem ... and for rather more detail:

'It was a real treat to see Pontefract through the mist, low cloud and rain, as we trekked from the water tower to Hundhill. We sloshed our way into Low Ackworth. . . to the Went. Upstream along the Went to Mill Lane and through . . . very It would always be the same: you would wet fields to Doncaster Road. After some welcome tea at All Saints', I had to put on a spurt over two miles to catch up and was welcomed back with: "Oh hello - we thought you had dropped out!" What a cheek - after all the Rector had recovered Where prayer has been valid. And prayer is from a heart attack and I was supposed to be fit - not forgetting all that sponsor

'Along Hessle Lane we continued in Of the praying mind, or the sound of the groups through to Purston; then along a Monks' Path to the water tower and back to

> 'I remained quite dry under my cape, but collected an out-of-shape soggy sun hat and two beautiful blisters from the road walking. It was, however, good fun and well worth the effort made."

> > Bill Branston

Attractive Notelets with colour photo of St Cuthbert's are on sale in both churches, or direct from Ada Pritchard, Pack of 8 £2.50. sold in aid of the Restoration Fund



Dear Readers,

We hope to produce a parish magazine with articles and announcements which will interest you all.

Many of you have resided in Ackworth for many years, some all your life, and the local knowledge that you have would be of great interest to those who are relative or complete newcomers. Please contact one of us if you would like to write on any aspect of Ackworth, past or present, or speak to us so that we can write for you.

If you would like us to announce a special family anniversary or print an in memoriam notice, please let us have that.

We hope that you, our readers, both young and older, will give us your views and impressions of church and other local events – a few differing views of the same event often make interesting reading.

We shall issue a 20 page magazine bi-monthly: i.e. February / March; April / May; June / July; August / September; October / November; December / January. This means that we need to have copy by the first Wednesday in March, May, July, September, November and January in order to include that item in the following issue. Therefore, if you are wanting us to publish any special dates for your family in April or May, please give them to us by 5th March – an easy date to remember, as it is Ash Wednesday. The cost of the magazine for the year will be £3, or 50p for an individual copy.

We should like to know whether there is a demand for the children's page, which had become a regular feature. We are happy to continue this, or use the space for a wider readership, so please let us have the views of our younger readers and those who are young at heart.

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Stella, Jean and Valerie

To all you budding thespians out there!

Actors and stage / prop organisers are needed urgently to take part in a play, a farce set in the late nineteen fifties, written by Sue Gardham and codirected by Cath Clark. Suitable for anyone who has always been interested in drama. No previous experience necessary. This is a co-operative venture with a chance to use your own ideas; have fun and raise money for the Restoration Fund. All those interested, please contact Sue a.s.a.p. Initial meeting planned for mid-February.

LENT

The fast of forty days before Easter is, for practising Christians, the main penitential period of the church calendar. It begins on Ash Wednesday (5th March, this year), when the palm crosses of the previous year are ritually burnt and the resulting ash mixed into a paste. All those attending the service are marked with a black cross on the forehead, with the accompanying formula: "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return." – a message probably as unwelcome to the celebrities of the ancient world as it is to those of more modern times. The text is from the Old Testament – Genesis Ch. 3 verse 19. On the previous day, Shrove Tuesday (Shriving Tuesday), the faithful would make their confession to the priest and accept an appropriate penance. The more down-to-earth French name "Mardi Gras" (Fat Tuesday) implies a final indulgence before the serious fasting began.

In the first three centuries of the Christian era, the period of fasting before Easter did not normally exceed two or three days. The first mention of a period of forty days is in AD 325, though until a much later date the period was differently reckoned in different denominations.

During the early centuries, the observance of the fast was rigid; only one meal a day was allowed. In the West, the fast was gradually relaxed. In the Roman Catholic Church by Apostolic constitution (*Paenitemini* 1966) the obligation to fast was restricted to the first day of Lent and Good Friday.

In the Western church, the penitential character of Lent is reflected in various features of the Liturgy and there is a service for each day. The period is also observed as a time of penance by abstention from festivities; by almsgiving, and by devoting more time than usual to religious activities.

During this period of Lent, the altar and pulpit frontals are of penitential purple, except for Palm Sunday (red) and Maundy Thursday, when they are red or white. The word Maundy, when the Queen traditionally distributes specially minted coins at one or other of the cathedrals, is so named from the *mandatum novum* – new commandment – ". . that you love one another." Some churches indeed include the ceremony of footwashing in imitation of Christ washing the feet of his disciples.

The last two weeks of Lent are traditionally referred to as Passiontide – from the Latin verb patior, passus est – he suffered. On Good Friday and Saturday, Easter Eve, the altar is stripped and all ornaments, hangings and decorations are removed from the church until the conclusion of the final service, usually held in semi-darkness. Then comes the lighting of the great Easter, or Pascal, candle from a fire built in the church-yard. This candle will be used at all baptisms throughout the year. It is carried through the church and the words "The Light of Christ" are repeated three times, as it proceeds towards the altar. The Exultet is then sung, and finally all the lights in the church are lit to symbolize the end of Lent with the Resurrection of Christ.

Fred Davies

Fred also shares with us this poem by Robert Herrick (1591 - 1674) who attacks the hypocrites and stresses the real purpose of Lent.

To Keep a True Lent

Is this a Fast, to keep The larder leane? And cleane From fat of Veales and Sheep?

Is it to quit the dish Of flesh, yet still To fill The platter high with Fish?

Is it to faste an houre, Or ragg'd to go Or show A downcast look, and sowre?

No: 'tis a Fast, to dole Thy sheaf of wheat And meat Unto the hungry Soule. It is to fast from strife, From old debate. And hate: To circumcise thy life.

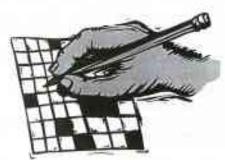
To shew a heart grief-rent; To starve thy sin, Not bin: And that's to keep thy Lent.



Answers to the Dec/Jan Crossword Clues Down:

Clues Across:

- 1. Rates
- 4. Service
- 8. Intense
- 9. Ethic
- 10. Came
- 11. Alb
- 12. From
- 15. Dead
- 16. Fast
- 18. Apse
- 19. Sty
- 20. Magi
- 24. Image
- 25. Biretta



26. Narrate

27. Gorse

- 1. Reincarnation
- 2. Totem
- 4. 3. Song
 - - 4. Shells
 - Rued
 - 6. Inherit
 - Excommunicate
 - 13. Mad
 - 14. Bat
 - 15. Despair
 - 17. Stable
 - 21. Altar
 - 22. Beta

 - 23. Trug

Could you help to ensure the strength of the family unit and the healthy and positive development of the next generation?



Lynne Ward

..encouraging and enabling

Do you remember how tough it was being a parent to a young family – juggling nappies, sleepless nights, cooking, cleaning, shopping, doctor's appointments,

squabbles and worrying about your children's safety? Add to this employment pressures, illness, divorce and poverty, and many young families find that they are overwhelmed and struggling to cope at certain times.

..building blocks of our society

Families are the building blocks of our society, and the importance of a stable family life for healthy child development has long been recognised. Today, however, family life is under greater stress than ever. The extended family has weakened, and often young mums or dads feel isolated – even desperate. Home-Start is helping to fill the gap between what families need and what the state can provide, offering hope, friendship and support to families under pressure.

Home-Start volunteers attend a short preparation course and then visit a family for a couple of hours each week in the family's own home, sharing parenting skills, listening, encouraging and enabling and building up confidence – and having fun together!

.. a love of children

Could you give up a couple of hours of your time weekly to befriend a family and provide them with the breathing space to deal with the problems of everyday life? You don't need any qualifications, apart from parenting experience, a love of children and an ability to listen. Or, perhaps, you have other skills that we could use to help support families: e.g. joining our management committee, helping at one of our drop-ins, fundraising, or helping with transport? Travelling expenses are paid and ongoing support is given.

Simply ring Home-Start, Hemsworth & South Elmsall & District, on 01977 646987, and ask for Linda or Lynne.

Light a Candle

In response to several requests from people attending All Saints' Coffee Mornings, a Light a Candle scheme is now in place.

Candles may be found in front of the altar area.

Prayer cards will soon be available, too.

We hope that many people will find this a comfort when they come to Coffee Morning.





Views on two recent special occasions

Bishop Nigel's Farewell

'It was a lovely service, friendly and informal, but with deep reverence in the eucharist. The Bishop's theme was the family of the church throughout the diocese. I felt this particularly, as I met friends from my working life who live all over the diocese.' 'The Bishop used the Crucifix over the rood screen to illustrate his point of Christ being at the centre — "This is why we are here." 'The choir sang beautifully and afterwards everyone went on singing 'Glory to God', even after the organ stopped playing, while Bishop Nigel and his wife, Celia shook hands and spoke personally to each member of the congregation.' 'Then we came out of the cathedral into another — the Christmas lights of Wakefield created the illusion.'

Doreen Seal, Ada Pritchard, Lynne Ward

Christmas Favre

'Everyone seemed to enjoy the Christmas Fayre held at Bell Lane School on 7 December. There were many stalls, including toiletries, red & green, Christmas wreaths and plants, cakes, candies and homemade produce, as well as several games for children. It all looked very festive. The surprise of the afternoon was when Santa Claus arrived – to the delight of the children!' 'We were glad to get inside the front door out of the cold, until we heard a stallholder complain about folk coming in early! There were some good stalls, but we missed the empty and full coke cans – that was good last year. Our 3 year old was overjoyed: "He's a lovely Santa!" 'It was rather sad, really, because this was the last involvement of the Mothers' Union.' 'The numbers were disappointing.' 'We actually did better on teas this year. We had a good spread, and were very busy at times.' 'The Christmas Fayre was fun; it had a good, friendly atmosphere. My favourite stall was toiletries. I bought some really great gifts - good value, too. Father Christmas was wicked! The cakes were yummy, and I enjoyed making a Christmas card.

Jean Reast, Maureen Thorpe, Heather Walters, Fred Walters, Maddy Ward, Biddy Branston

Ackworth in the Future

Are you aware of the Ackworth Community Development Group's Plan? Have your views been sought for what leisure facilities we should have?

The Group met last in December at the Working Men's Club. A survey of the population they had commissioned J C F Consultancy of Sandal to carry out resulted, apparently, in a .5% response. Most of these people wanted a swimming pool and sports hall. David Cook had spoken at an earlier meeting about the proposals for All Saints'. The Parish Council has now renovated the Parish Rooms, and the Group suggested that All Saints' might be a second venue for meetings, after the re-ordering. They hope that a sports complex will be built, possibly on the site of the old Brackenhill School. The publicity for meetings is very limited, so if you are interested, contact one of the editors.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH DIARY

			AKT AND MARCH	UDIAK	<u>. Y</u>
		ing 25 ^{5h} Janua			
25	Saturday	7.30pm	Snowman Drive	Comn	nunity Centre, Low Ack.
28	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers		4 Doncaster Road
29	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (sa	aid)	All Saints'
30	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
		ing 2 nd Februai			
3	Monday	7.30pm	PCC		Vestry, St Cuthbert's
5	Wednesday	9.30am		M U Coi	rporate Communion) AS
6	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
8	Saturday	7.30pm	Castleford Male Vo		
	Week beginn	ing 9 th Februar	y *d	letails el	sewhere in magazine
11	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers		4 Doncaster Road
12	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (sa	aid)	All Saints'
13	Thursday	10.00am11	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
	Week beginn	ing 16th Februa	ury		
19	Wednesday	9.30am Holy	Communion (said)	All Sa	ints'
		7.30pm	Fabric Committee		Vestry, St Cuthbert's
20	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
	Week beginn	ing 23 rd Februa	ıry		
26	Wednesday	9.30am Holy	Communion (said)	All Sa	ints'
27	Thursday	10.00a m	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
1	Saturday	10.00am	PCC 'Away Day'		Vestry, St Cuthbert's
			Take-Away Indian or (Chinese	Meal * Vestry, SC
		ing 2 nd March			
3	Monday	7.30pm	PCC		Vestry, St Cuthbert's
5	Ash Wednes		Holy Communion (M)		
		7.30pm Eucl	harist and Imposition o	of Ashe	s St Cuthbert's
6	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
	Week beginn	ing 9 th March			
11	Tuesday	2.00pm	Toddlers		4 Doncaster Road
		7.30pm	Lent Prayers		St Cuthbert's
12	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (s	aid)	All Saints'
13	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
	Week beginn	ing 16 th March			
18	Tuesday	7.30pm	Lent Prayers		St Cuthbert's
19	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (s	aid)	All Saints'
20	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'
	Week beginn	ing 23 rd March			
25	Tuesday	2.00pm Tode			4 Doncaster Road
		7.30pm The A	Annunciation Holy Co		ion (said) SC
26	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (s	aid)	All Saints'
27	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning		All Saints'

Social Committee

Please make a note of Simeon in Concert returning to entertain us on 27 September, at 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's.

Want to help liven up our social life? Please let Pauline Wright know.

We do want more members to plan social activities.

	FEBRUAL	CY AND MARCH READING	S AND READI	<u>ers</u>
	February		SC	AS
2	Candlemas			
	Malachi 3, 1 - 5	Hebrews 2. 14 - end	Fred Davies	Ethel Smith
9	Proper 1			
	Isaiah 40. 21 – 31	1 Corinthians 9, 16 - 23	Jane Siddall	Dr P McWilliam
16	Proper 2			
		1 Corinthians 9. 24 – 27	Sue Hartley	David Cook
23	2nd Sunday before Le			
	Proverbs 8. 1, 22 – 31	Colossians 1. 15 – 20	Keith Shaw	Stella Hall
	March			100
2	Sunday next before La	ent		
	2 Kings 2. 1 – 12	2 Corinthians 4. 3 – 6	Julie Cleland	Mary Walker
9	1st Sunday of Lent			
		1 Peter 3. 18 – 22	Lily Parker	Valerie Cook
16	2nd Sunday of Lent			
	Genesis 17. $1 - 7$, 15,	16 Romans 4. 13 – 25	Grace Riley	Ethel Smith
23	3rd Sunday of Lent			
	Exodus 20. $1 - 17$	1 Corinthians 1, 18 – 25	Mary Woofing	
				Dr P McWilliam
30	Mothering Sunday			
	Exodus 2. 1 – 10	2 Corinthians 1, 3 – 7	Julie Cleland	David Cook

FROM THE REGISTERS November / December 2002

BAPTISMS

November

10th Emily Jane Ramskill Matthew Robert Bennett 24th Taylor Jayne Davis

Ella Northern

December

8th Grace Maye Handforth Matthew Wynn 29th Luke Harry Simpson Callum Jack Ogle-Tyrell



FUNERALS

November

Jack Roland Clarkson (76) – 8 Linden Terrace, Bracken Hill

7th Horace Edgar Farler (86) – Hemsworth

12th Betty Rowe (71) – 5 Chiltern Drive, Ackworth Moor Top

13th Peter Hyde (67) - Saward Close, Hardaker Lane, Ackworth Moor Top

21st Marjone Mary Brierley (82) - St Cuthbert's Cottage, High Ackworth

26th Alice Lily Rivington (85) – 30 Rhyddings Drive, Ackworth Moor Top

December

9th Reginald Lythgoe (90) – 15 Fairway Approach, Normanton

J C POWERCO HILLSIDE BARNSLEY ROAD

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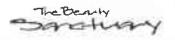
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DECEMBER 2002

Ann Atack

December is traditionally a very busy time for everyone with all the extra preparations. An important part of our church life was all the Advent and Christmas services.

There were five Sundays this last December. On 1st December, the 1st Sunday in Advent there was a Christingle service at each church. The making of the Christingle orange, Blue Peter style, and the story of 'The Ugly Duckling', in which the children participated, went down very well.

The following Sunday at St Cuthbert's Church there was the annual Toy Service. A 'Trip to Bethlehem' was made, where the gifts for less fortunate children were presented at the crib. The young people of the congregation were responsible for most of the service, reading poetry and Bible passages. There was drama and music with a beautiful duet accompanied by the flute.

The 'Churches Together Carol Service' was held on the 3rd Sunday, this year at the Methodist Church. We sang new and traditional carols and listened to readings. Afterwards refreshments were served for all.

The Sunday prior to Christmas saw a service by candlelight at St Cuthbert's. This was a mixture of traditional carols, beautiful familiar readings and some lovely, less well-known poems. The service was enhanced by the Rector's singing the verses of 'O come, O come, Emmanuel', unaccompanied, interspersed throughout. Afterwards everyone stayed to enjoy seasonal refreshments of mince pies, Christmas cake, cheese, tea and coffee.

We ended our December services with a Christmas carol service at All Saints', where a good-size congregation sang the carols lustily, and those fortunate enough to have attended the service the week before, enjoyed most of the readings a second time.

With such a wide variety of service I feel sure that there was something for all age groups. Well done to all who worked hard preparing and participating in them.

BELL LANE SCHOOL CHOIR

Stella Hall

On Thursday, 5th December we celebrated the first anniversary of the launch of the weekly Coffee Morning at All Saints'. To mark the occasion Bell Lane School Choir were invited to come along and sing Christmas carols and songs. What a wonderful response! The choir were to sing from 10.30 until 11.00 and well before the start the church was absolutely packed, with standing room only in places. Our 'regulars' were augmented by proud mums, dads and grandparents, not to mention a few younger siblings.

The chancel was filled with about 60 children and their adult helpers. They sang a lovely medley of traditional and new carols and other songs, which clearly delighted their audience. After performing their well rehearsed repertoire, the children were ready for their well earned biscuits and juice.

Later there was a table full of home baked cakes and buns for sale, and a total of £282 was raised for the Restoration Appeal Fund.

Altogether £5,000 has been raised by the Coffee Morning Group by Christmas.

Thank you to all those of you who helped in any way to make this such a memorable occasion. Thank you, too, for your help over the last year with supplying cakes, plates, cups, coffee, tea and foil and all the other items.



Anagrams: Places visited by St. Paul

Anagrams are words with the letters jumbled to make new words; for example, CATS is an anagram of ACTS, and SEAL POST is an anagram of APOSTLES.

The words below are all anagrams of the names of places visited by St. Paul on his journeys. To begin with, see how many you can unscramble without help. Then use your Bible. If it has a map of St. Paul's journeys in the back, that will help, but if you can't find them, look them up in the Acts of the Apostles. The chapter and verse are given in the brackets.

1. SAD MUSCA (9.10)

2. SAIL SAM (13.5)

3. STRAY L (14.8)

4. BREED (14.20)

5. TO CHINA (15.35)

6. ROAST (16.8)

7. HI PIP LIP (16.12)

8. LOAN THIS CASE (17.1)

9. HASTEN (17.15)

10. HIT CORN (18.1)

11. SEE PUSH (18.19)

12. I MELT US (20.17)

13. USE AS CRY (28.12)

14. AS RUST (21.39)

15. MORE (28.16)

Answers in the next issue!

Homeopathy



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Thurs 11.30 - 1.30 & 4.00 - 9 pm
Fri 11.30 - 1.30 & 4.30 - 7.30
Sat 11.30 am - 1.30 pm

Ackworth Over the Years

An Event to Remember

Ethel Smith

"Is the child still living?" the doctor asked the midwife on his third visit of the day, now the afternoon of the bleak Thursday November 7th, 1912. The answer was: "Yes!" I had been born at 2.30am, and he had come from Pontefract by horse and trap.

Therefore, last November 7th was my 90th birthday. I had said I wanted to celebrate only in the usual way – a meal out with a group of friends and friendly visits to my home. I had no wish to be ungracious, but I didn't think there was any achievement for which I could take the credit. If credit there be, it belonged to nature!

The actual day went exactly according to my wishes. A group of us went out for lunch. Then in the evening my friends and neighbours arrived with a special, beautifully decorated cake and took photographs – the end of a perfect birthday.

However, there was more to come, and it is good to have the opportunity now to say thank you to all those who made the whole month of November 2002 so memorable.

I received sixty birthday cards and many presents, all well chosen. Flowers arrived at intervals, the final ones lasting until I went away on December 22nd.

On November 8th I was taken by very dear friends for a surprise weekend. We stayed in York, a favourite place. The highlight was a wonderful mystery tour on the Saturday - a brilliant sunny day. This took us to Beverley, where we had coffee outside, and on to Hull to visit The Deep, returning via the Humber Bridge to York, against the backdrop of a spectacular sunset.

The Deep is a huge aquarium, with walls, which are tanks stocked with fish from all round the world. There is even an ice cave. You have only to press a button for all the information you need. The most amazing part is the journey under the sea, where you take a glass lift to the bottom, through the coral reefs. Details of the size of this tank, the tonnage of water and amount of salt are almost too great to take in. At the bottom you walk under the sea, looking up at the fish. That is a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

I knew my godsons and their wives were coming to take me out for dinner the next weekend; but what a surprise! They took me to Rogerthorpe Manor, where a table in a private room was set for a large number. In came all the family. It was very special. The meal was excellent, but what was best was having them all around me. There was a lovely cake made by one of them, too. The cameras clicked and everyone was so happy.

My 2002 ended very happily, and now it's 2003. A Happy New Year to All!

MOTHERS' UNION It is with a very real sense of regret that we have to announce the closure of the Ackworth branch of the Mothers' Union. Our last branch meeting is on 30 January at Ethel Smith's home, when members will be reminded of the four options open to them.

Undoubtedly, the sad loss of Kitty Cooper on Good Friday last year has been a big factor in this decision.

There are two diocesan M U events:

Quiet Hour in St Giles on 5 February after the morning service at 10.30am. National Marriage Week Service in St Giles on 13 February at 2.30pm. Our speaker will be the Very Reverend George Nairn-Briggs, who is responsible for the M U in this diocese. All are welcome.

We invite all those who knew Kitty Cooper to donate to the bursary fund being set up to enable members to attend special meetings. Please hand your donation—£1 or more—to Heather Walters or Mary Walker.

Parochial Church Council Jottings

Stella Hall

November 2002

- The results of the Parish Profile have been published and these will be studied in depth by the PCC at an 'Away-Day' on 1 March.
- There was discussion about the format of various services at St Cuthbert's and All Saints'.
- Work on the valley gutter at St Cuthbert's has been completed. The damaged window has been repaired and reinstalled.
- Christian Aid have thanked us for our donation of £226.08 from the Harvest Lunch.
- The Lottery Licence has been renewed at a cost of £17.50.
- Fred Davies is to be co-opted on to the PCC as Churchwarden Emeritus, in recognition of his long service of dedication to the office.
- The choir from Bell Lane School is to sing at All Saints' coffee morning on 5 December.

December 2002

- A quarterly newsletter, detailing special services, is to be produced by the Rector and sent
 to all on the Electoral Roll. The Welcome Packs are to be updated for newcomers to Ackworth. It was suggested that we produce fliers with basic information, inviting newcomers
 to a service, or to ask for a Welcome Pack.
- The Social Calendar was discussed. Forthcoming events include: A Snowman Drive on 25 January; a concert given by Castleford Male Voice Choir on 8 February; a Chinese or Indian take-away on 1 March and Simeon in Concert at St Cuthbert's on 27 September.
- The church fees for 2003 are to be increased by 4% in line with proposals by the Church Commissioners.
- The vestry door at All Saints has been repaired.
- The Ackworth branch of the Mothers' Union is closing, because of lack of members.
 Some remaining members will join Hemsworth branch.
- In memory of Kitty Cooper's work with the M U a bursary is to be set up to help with the
 expenses of members wishing to attend special meetings. A single payment of £1 is invited from those who would like to contribute.

January 2003

- Anglican-Methodist Covenant meeting to be held at Trinity Methodist Church, South Elmsall on 13 January for update. Covenant aimed at the two churches working more closely together, sharing premises and services where this is desirable.
- The work on the aisle capping stones on St Cuthbert's roof will not begin until after the
 danger of frost has passed. The contract is due to be completed by the end of the month.
- The next Quinquennial Report is to be brought forward to April, so that this can be used as
 a basis for the application to English Heritage for a grant towards the next stage of the Restoration programme.
- After inspection, it seems that the notice board at St Cuthbert's needs extensive renovation.
- Plans for a special Coffee Morning at All Saints, similar to the Christmas one were proposed for Easter, with a raffle to be held and tickets to be sold at the Co-op.

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THE PARISH OF ACKWORTH

St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

Sunday Services - February 2003

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion	St Cuthbert's
5.30pm	The Eucharist and Procession of Candlemas	St Cuthbert's

NB - There is no Evensong at All Saints'

9th February

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

16th February

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

23rd February

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
3,30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

Flowers	S C	A S	Brasses S C
January	26	Ada Pritchard	
Februar		flower fund	Mrs Kirk
	9	flower fund	and
	16	Ethel Smith	Mrs Pogson
	23	flower fund	
March	2	flower fund	Mrs Sutcliffe

The sale of Christmas cards has raised over £500 for the Restoration Fund. Many thanks to all who supported this project. Special thanks to the staff, pupils and parents of the Howard School, and to the judge of the competition, David Cook.

THE PARISH OF ACKWORTH

St Cuthbert's and All Saints' Sunday Services – March 2003

2nd March

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion	St Cuthbert's
3.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'

9th March - 1st Sunday of Lent

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

16th March

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

23rd March

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

30th March - Mothering Sunday Clocks Go FORWARD!

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong - Note the time change for summer	All Saints'

Dates for your Social Calendar

Saturday 8 February 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's Castleford Male Voice Choir An evening of rousing and inspiring music for everyone to enjoy

Tickets £4 each, from Biddy Branston, Jean Ensor, Doreen Seal, or Pauline Wright.

Refreshments will be available.

Saturday 8 March Dinner with a Difference!

Come and enjoy an Indian or Chinese take-away meal in the Vestry at St Cuthbert's in company. Make it a real occasion and let's have fun together. Contact Lynne Ward for details.