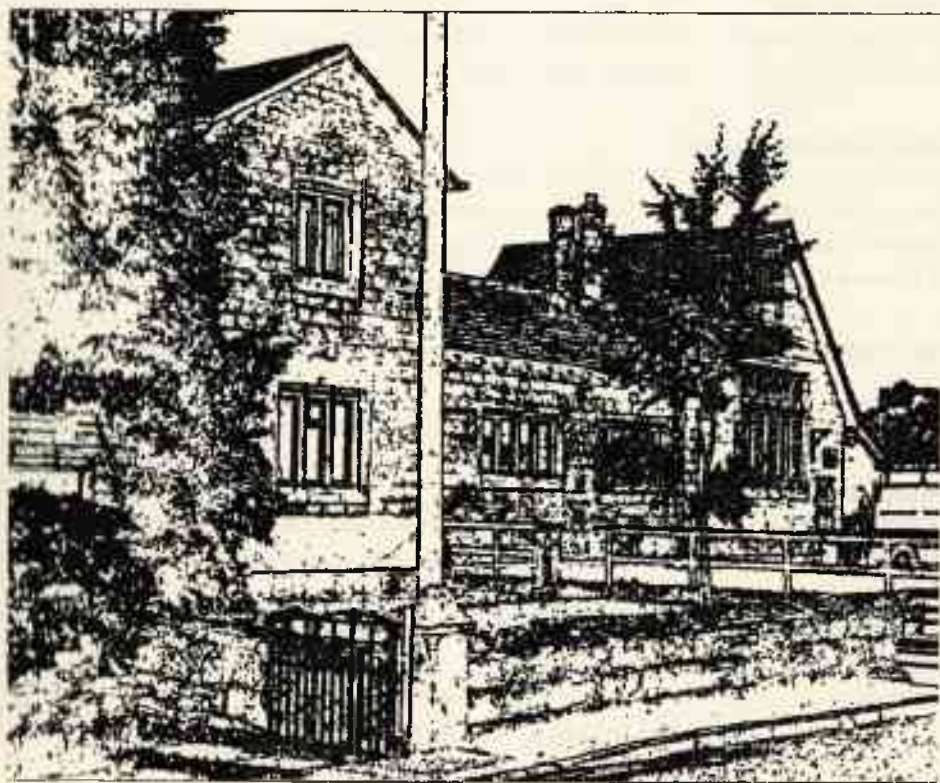




Ackworth Parish Magazine



August/September 2004
50p per copy (£3 per year)

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

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	Mrs Marie Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill	616074
<u>Churchwardens:</u>	Mr Bill Branston, 8 Andrews Grove	610590
	Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View	616384
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<u>Covenant Secretary:</u>	Mr Donald Marshall, 17 Hill Drive	700961
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<u>Car Lifts to Church:</u>	Mrs Ann Tait, 5 King's Close	612613
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<u>Mums & Tots Group:</u>	Mrs Jackie Fox, 5 Andrews Grove	613834
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<u>Tower Captain:</u>	Mr Ian Hall, 87 Wakefield Road	612003
<u>Ringing Master:</u>	Mrs Stella Hall, 87 Wakefield Road	612003

Dear Friends

As I begin my letter, the sun has just broken through the clouds after a couple of weeks of dull, showery and (for the time of year), cold weather. Yes! It's summer again, with all that we have come to expect of the season in this country. We would have nothing to talk about anyway if our weather didn't live up to its usual varied reputation! Let's hope things have improved by the time this is 'out'.

When the sun does shine however, this is the time of year when the spirit of community begins to blossom, when neighbourliness is actually seen in action on the streets and estates of our village. Rather appropriately, it's also a strong theme running through the set Sunday readings during summer and an aspect of our Harvest celebrations in autumn (October 10th), when, as last year, we hope to celebrate all the good things that we reap from community life; although, it is not perhaps as prevalent today as it used to be. Summer is often the time when children are out in the streets more playing with one another. Grown-ups talk over the fence as they either work or relax in their garden, and families get together to sacrifice burnt offerings—more commonly known as barbeques—to the sun god! We at least begin to reap some of the benefits of community living.

It was one particular reading from the Gospel set for the 5th Sunday after Trinity (11th July) that provoked my thoughts in writing this article, and set in motion the idea for the community display in St Cuthbert's which steadily grows as more and more people bring back small souvenirs from their holidays. The reading is that very well known parable of the 'Good Samaritan'. We all know the story well, though the one phrase which really stood out for me, uttered by a lawyer questioning Jesus was "Who is my neighbour?" It is a question which we don't often think about, unless we have bad neighbours and then we are only too acutely aware of who our neighbours are. But who are our neighbours? Clearly in the parable which follows, Jesus did not mean the term to be restricted to either the people next door, or even of the same street and village. It is any who reach out to others in need, regardless of class, colour, creed or nationality. It is, in the words of the gospel, the one who shows mercy to another who is in need!

Clearly, to use 'Pickfords' advertising slogan, 'distance is no object'. Also, in our modern world when global technology in travel and communications brings us closer to those even on the other side of the world, geography is no longer a barrier in the broad definition of neighbour. Summer is certainly the time when we come into close contact with other communities, both in this country and around the world as we go off on holiday; a time of year, when for a short period we go and live in someone else's community. For a few days or weeks we become new neighbours to someone from a very different culture (as wide as the Samaritan was to the Jew!). How will we be viewed by them? Will we be good neighbours?

Enjoy your holidays and I hope you return rested and relaxed. Do however, think about who is my neighbour and try to be a good neighbour to those whom you meet on your travels.

Yours in Christ, Paul.

Dear Readers

We are beginning to realise our hopes of becoming more parish-wide. In this issue we are publishing the services and events of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and the Community Church and we hope that from the next issue we shall have those of the Methodists and Friends, as well. This will increase our range of articles, too, with more people to contribute.

We have written before about the state of parts of the village and moves made to help young people in Ackworth. It was good to read in the Pontefract & Castleford Express of 24 June that the Parish Council, Wakefield Council's Young People's Service and West Yorkshire Police are working with them to provide activities that will 'beat the boredom'. A pre-driver training course for 15 to 17 year olds is being arranged. There has been a district-wide football tournament, which involved four school teams, in Ackworth, coinciding with Euro 2000. There are also two rock bands rehearsing weekly and performing at the Boot and Shoe pub. The youngsters are lobbying for a fenced-off sports and social area in Bell Lane car park.

Shaheeda Abid, a dedicated community advocate, will be working in the village for a neighbourhood renewal scheme. She will form a panel of 10 to 15 volunteers to work on behalf of the community in reducing crime. This is a positive move and young people should soon see that if they behave themselves they will be able to get funding and facilities.

Sadly, this is the last magazine I shall be able to produce, as David and I are moving south to be nearer our family. That, of course, will bring many compensations, but there is much that we shall miss in Ackworth, especially the many people we have come to know. We came 'for a few years': somehow the years rolled by! We have enjoyed playing a part in the community the last few years, having been rather locked within the School community for many years before. We thank all of you who have made our time here so rewarding. We shall not be too far away and will be back on some occasions: most certainly we shall always take an interest in what is happening in Ackworth.

Jean Reast is also retiring from the editorial team, though she will work on the photocopying and distribution side. We are very sorry to be leaving Stella as the surviving member, and I am issuing an **urgent appeal to anyone with an interest in the village, who has enjoyed reading the magazine and would like to collate the information and set it out.** If you have some computer skills and use e-mail, you can do this. It is very rewarding work. Stella is very good at producing articles and persuading others to write for it.

We also require a few people who attend village functions and events—probably people who belong to the organisations that stage these—to do a report on them. As the magazine grows in its scope, it will be easier to handle if organisations have a 'slot' in it for their own news. Then the secretary, or one member, can supply the copy for this section each time there is something to write about.

I am indebted to my fellow editors, particularly, Stella, who has produced so many articles and worked on those handed in, as well as carrying out the lion's share of the photocopying and stapling, together with Ian. My thanks to our distributors.

With my best wishes to you All and to the Magazine. I look forward to reading it and making the odd contribution in future.

Valerie

Having yet another backward look at magazines of 1951, Festival of Britain year, enabled me to read an article on the moving of the 'Greenwich Observatory', established by King Charles 11, to Herstmonceux in Sussex. This struck a chord, as a few years ago we visited the castle, while staying with friends one summer, and sadly the actual observatory is not open to ordinary visitors.

H J Shepstone wrote:

The headquarters of Sir Harold Spencer-Jones, the Astronomer Royal, has been smothered out of the London area by the capital's smoke which, of late years, has rendered stellar observations increasingly difficult. (*Interesting that today light pollution would be a problem*).

The move will not be completed until 1953. Then the men who study the stars in their courses will have the benefit of the purer, clearer air of Southern England. . . There is to be an entirely new telescope with an object glass 100 inches in diameter which will be far and away the most powerful in Europe.

. . . When the 100 inch reflector was built at Mount Wilson everyone said that the limit had been reached. Glass manufacturers declared it was impossible to cast mirrors of larger size. Then someone thought of using instead of glass a disc of fused rock crystal, or pyrex, as it is called, a material manufactured by melting ordinary rock crystal at an extremely high temperature.

When cast, the mirror, a great cake of blue-white glass, weighed 20 tons. Seven years were spent in grinding and polishing it during which $5\frac{1}{4}$ tons of glass were removed, the weight of the finished eye-piece being $14\frac{3}{4}$ tons. The optical range of the new giant, which is of the reflector type, is tremendous. It can penetrate more than twice as far into space as the 100-inch telescope at Mount Wilson. The great mirror is capable of making a star appear 640,000 times as bright as the eye sees it, and is powerful enough to detect the light of a candle 10,000 miles out in space. It is expected to prove capable of photographing star clusters 1,500,000,000 light years away, a distance the mind fails to grasp. (*Light travels at a rate of 186,000 miles a second*).

It is the only telescope in the world in which an observer actually rides while working.

This giant piece of mechanism for probing the secrets of the heavens is expected to be the means of solving many problems which have long baffled scientists, such as the size of the universe, whether it is expanding. And whether the sun, on which we depend for light and heat, is slowly dying. Scattered here and there over the sky are black patches, and astronomers are anxious to learn what the obstruction is that prevents the rays of stars penetrating these areas.

Having heard recently of the discovery of hundreds more planets in our galaxy, I wonder how outmoded this telescope seems to today's astronomers.

D Day Celebrations on The Green**Grace Tune**

60 years after our men landed in France with the hope of liberating the occupied countries from Hitler's forces we in Ackworth celebrated the anniversary of the D-Day Landings. Whereas the end of the month brought weather reminiscent of early June 1944, the 6th Trinity Sunday this year, was a perfect 'high summer' day, and people were in high spirits at the old fashioned Market on the Village Green at High Ackworth.

John Davidson set the tempo with his barrel organ, which was playing all afternoon, under the guidance of Stuart Crabb. John Vickers brought his roundabout for the children and Terry Amos arranged face painting for them – brightly coloured, artistically painted faces from the animal and insect kingdom popped up in the most unexpected places. Funds raised from this went to Boar Cottage Respite Care. Ackworth Heritage Group had three stalls: Grace Tune and Joan Lloyd manned the stall selling local books, notelets, bookmarks and local walks; Margaret Jubb had a tombola and toys stall; Pauline Lockyer, Maureen Utting, Devon Pearson and Elizabeth Lane were selling home-made cakes and crockery. Their hired uniforms of ATS, WAF and 1st W W nurse gave a touch of period to the stalls.

Sylvia Jones, who had been a balloonist in the war, was able to sport her own uniform, and she brought 8 modern day WAF's over from Doncaster.

Terry and Susan Holyhead ran the Charity Stall for the Featherstone Lions Club, who give help with funding most of the local events.

Colette Coppack and her daughter Bryony raised money for the Howard School funds with a 'guess the weight' of an excellent fruitcake made by Margaret Canning. She and her husband Harold had their own fascinating stall laden with 1940's memorabilia. She has been collecting wartime recipes since she was 15 years old and had made some of the tomato and apple jam, which many of the older members of the community might remember from those rationbook days. We could both sample and buy it, to appreciate just how tasty wartime cooking could be. Margaret has made a book of her recipes, which she sells for local charities. It was good to see the old prod rugs still being made – and even sold.

Alan and Pauline Hardcastle displayed their magnificent collection of memorabilia from the Home Front. There were gas masks for adults - military and civilian - and one for a child. Items that were dropped by the enemy included an incendiary bomb and a butterfly bomb. The latter were very hush-hush. They were so feared that they were never to be mentioned, so that the Germans would think they were no good. A special D notice was put out that these were to be buried and all evidence of them swept up. They also had various examples of Trench Art, such as a pom-pom shell made into a lighter.



John Brook and his son Matthew brought along chairs and tables for everyone. He also helped to organise and sponsor the day. We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Brown, too, for

allowing people to park on their land.

Yvonne Ward, the landlady of the Brown Cow, another organiser, had provided the bunting that festooned the Green, the music and roundabout. She served her customers with spam and corned beef fritters, Woolton Pie, etc. for lunch. They proved so popular, she is considering putting them on her menu in future. Later, She gave a donation to the Church Restoration Fund from the money she had made. People were pleased to find St Cuthbert's Church open and were thrilled to be able to have a look round. Ann Atack, Biddy Branston and Doreen Seal served tea and coffee for the Fund, as well.

Joining us for the afternoon were men from the Territorial Army, who came along in uniform and mingled amongst the local people. We had our photographs taken with them. Later we saw that someone had stuck some branches from the oak tree into their helmet as camouflage.

All enjoyed the afternoon and we hope we can arrange a similar celebration next year, perhaps for VE Day. It would be good to have more people involved, especially if the school children could come and dance or sing. There has even been a suggestion of a Victorian Christmas market, so keep your eye on the posters!

PILGRIMAGE TO IONA

Ever wanted to visit Iona? Join a pilgrimage from Wakefield, led by the Dean, the Very Revd George Narin-Briggs.

An 8-day coach holiday departs on 7th March 2005, first for two nights in Durham to visit the Cathedral, enjoy lectures, talks, visits and services. On to Whithorn in Scotland, to view Britain's oldest Celtic Cross; then to the Isle of Mull and the ferry to Iona. Four days will be spent there, staying at the Bishop's House, where there will be time for reflection and study as well as relaxation. The return journey to Wakefield includes an overnight stay in Northumberland, with a visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

£495 covers coach travel, full board on Iona, half board the rest of the time, all entry fees and visits. Space on Iona is strictly limited, so a deposit now is necessary to secure your place. A wonderful opportunity to discover and learn about the rich tradition of Celtic Britain.

Brochures available from Mark on: (01274) 599622—www.ukltg.com

CALLING ALL READERS!

The Library at The Parish Rooms is now OPEN:
TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS 2—7pm
SATURDAYS 9am—1pm

Entry by **SIDE DOOR**

ACKWORTH GALA - 20 June 2004

What a disappointment that after weeks of glorious weather, Friday, 19th saw a deterioration and the heavens just opened on the Saturday afternoon! It is such a shame when so much time and effort in organising and preparation by the Parish Council and all the groups who participate is, to some degree, wasted.

However, there was a splendid turnout by village organisations and several from the wider community, as well as the bouncy castle, roundabouts and various games to entertain the younger children. Most groups found the large number of people who attended generous enough to clear quite a lot of goods from their stalls. Many felt the loss of the Scout refreshment tent, where they have always enjoyed having a good rest, as well as a drink, and it was a pity that they could not provide their service.

Unfortunately, it was too wet for the gymnasts and Hemsworth Cheerleaders to perform in safety, so the arena was not as colourful or interesting as usual. At least the footballers were not sidelined this year. The 5-side competition mentioned in the Editorial, with teams from Ackworth, Coram House, Bell Lane, Howard and Mill Dam Schools, had taken place on the Carr Field on Thursday evening—the fateful day for the England team in Euro 2004. Mill Dam (A) and Howard School (B) teams enjoyed the limelight, playing the final in the arena and Mill Dam won.

The greatest innovation people from various groups of the Society camping on the field for come from various parts of the recalls the excitement of their

'The rain had just passed coated Confederates faced a similar coated Yankees across the level Field. Each body of men was armed muskets and supported by a light detachment of cannons. The troops were about to stage a re-enactment of a typical skirmish of the Civil War (1861—1865).



this year was having American Civil War the weekend. They had country. Bill Branston action:

when two lines of grey sized force of blue expanse of Carr Bridge with black powder

'It began with an exchange of cannon shot: these authentic guns emitted a deafening roar each time they were fired. For five to ten minutes the exchange of cannon continued, deafening all those present and shrouding the field in dense smoke, whilst the soldiers took up their positions for the impending battle.

'The cannon ceased and the soldiers exchanged fire, loading their muskets in rapid succession. For a further ten minutes or so the battle raged across the field, as the armies changed their positions. Casualties occurred on both sides and some of the "injured" were rescued under fire. Then came the final engagement and suddenly the skirmish was won.

'Here the Confederates won, though in the actual War, the Yankees did, but the action and the authenticity were so true to the times that for almost half an hour I could easily have believed that I was there those 140 years ago!'

Anyone interested in The American Civil War Society Limited might like to visit their website at: www.acws.co.uk.

ACKWORTH SHOW AND COUNTRY FAIR

July weekends have been packed with events: at least it was on the calendar, but the weather succeeded in washing some right away! However, Ackworth Show, now held at Nostell Priory, struck reasonably lucky. Once more, as well as commercial ventures, several village groups ran stalls, to put more on offer for the visitors and to raise the ever-needed funds, but the main events here were all in the arena. The Pony Club games were hotly and skilfully contested by 6 teams, and more skill was displayed in the show jumping events. There were tractors of all ages and some splendid classic cars on parade. Visitors were entertained, as well as informed, by the displays of falconry and other birds of prey—particularly popular was the session with the owl. There was plenty of amusement provided by the sheepdog working with sheep and geese. Very popular, too, was the performance of Oscar, a 3 year old German shepherd dog, who has been in service as a police dog for 2 years. His handler demonstrated the great benefits that a well trained dog can bestow, most spectacularly, arresting a criminal.

From the Country Fair area came the popping of rifles at the claypigeon shooting. More gentle pursuits were to be found in the Craft Tent, where skilled craftspeople gave demonstrations of drawing, painting and embroidery.

There were plenty of amusements for the children, such as giant slides, and they and adults could test their skills at the coconut shies. St Cuthbert's and All Saints' had one of these, together with a stall laden with home-made cooking; thus providing something for the inner man, as well. Several people were glad of a sandwich from there before or after their pint of Black Sheep!

At the time of writing we look forward to The Historic Vehicles Show next weekend.

Valerie Cook

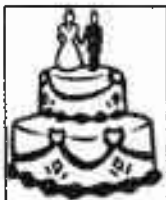
PARISH WALK

This year will mark the Parish Walk becoming a tradition—its third consecutive year!

Come and discover the pleasant walk around Ackworth's boundaries. You do not have to commit yourself to the whole walk. Find some sponsors and raise money for the Restoration Fund. Those who have walked the route before have found it rewarding in rain or sun!

Paul Hartley is inviting other clergy and congregation members to participate this year, to raise money for their own parishes.

Sponsor forms will be available in the churches, or from Paul.



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MOTHERS' UNION QUIET DAY JULY 1st

Last year we had a 'Quiet Day' at St Cuthbert's, with the theme of 'Pentecost is Every Day'. Those who came enjoyed the day so much we were asked if we could hold another.

This year's theme was 'Summer Saints' or 'Some Are Saints'.

Heather Walters and I bought balloons, which we needed to tie up, so that our guests would know where to come and Fred, Heather's husband, manfully blew them up and saw to this. My friends Margaret and Ann kept us refreshed with scones and buns, as well as tea and coffee.

After opening prayers Paul Hartley's first saint was Peter, a good man, who gave his life to following Jesus. Even so, he made mistakes, as we do. It was an interesting insight into St Peter's character. We then looked up the passages, where St Peter was mentioned, in our own Bibles. There was a lot more to him than the man who denied Christ three times.

Our second saint was Thomas and I learnt there was much more to his character than I had realised. I've always thought of 'doubting Thomas', but how many of us would believe something that seems to be impossible? "I'll believe it when I see it with my own eyes," is common to us all. However, once Thomas did see Jesus, he was convinced and proved himself to be a true disciple, a good and brave man. We followed this up with our own reading of the passages where he is mentioned.

At lunchtime we wandered round the churchyard and Rectory gardens. Paul had put a lot of chairs out for us. It was very quiet and peaceful and luckily the rain kept off.

Paul's third address was on St Mary Magdalene. There are not many ladies mentioned in the Bible. Paul told us of Mary's devotion to our Lord. It was she who washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Once more, we read the relevant passages for ourselves.

Our day finished with a celebration of the Eucharist, which included the reading from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 6 verses 10—18, where he tells the members of the Church to put on 'the full armour of God'.

We had all enjoyed our Quiet Day and I thanked Paul for it and for opening up the lives of these saints to us. I thanked our visitors, too, who had helped make the day so worthwhile.

We all hope that Hilary will ask us to arrange another Quiet Day here, in Ackworth, and that Paul will be willing to do so.

Mary Walker

THE HCVS LONDON—BRIGHTON RUN Sunday 2nd May, 2004

During the last fortnight in April, I enjoyed (yes, really!) preparing my 1935 Austin London Taxicab for this event, knowing that my delight in driving it on the road would be enhanced by the knowledge that as far as I could ascertain, everything would be in satisfactory working order. Friends who are not addicted to old vehicles find that very difficult to understand. No doubt they have in mind the scant weather protection afforded by the taxi, such as the windowless, small off-side door and the nearside luggage compartment completely open to the elements. "He does it for pleasure"! they cry in incredulity.

At 7.15 am on Friday 30th April, I left Ackworth, bound for Borough Green in Kent, 222 miles away, where I usually inflict myself on my nephew and his wife. The aforementioned 'elements' were doing their worst, or so it seemed. Thus, I was extremely grateful for the 'period' heavy duty greatcoat of the type worn by bus and taxi drivers in the 1920's and '30's, kindly loaned to me by a friend, whose name is synonymous with old motor vehicles of all types (Jack Charlton). Not only do these full length coats button right up to the neck, but are made of heavy Melton cloth and have white armbands stitched around the lower aspects of both sleeves to facilitate nocturnal hand signalling: all reminiscent of the days before the advent of heated driving compartments and automatic signals in buses, taxis, vans and lorries.

My route 'darn sarf', avoiding all motorways, takes me down through Bawtry, Lincoln, down through the Fens, St Ives and then the A10 via Buntingford and Ware, before crossing the M25 and the North Circular. By there the London traffic was building up and, still on the A10, I went through Bruce Grove to the East End and through the Blackwall Tunnel, with its motorway entrance and exit roads. Here there was traffic congestion and the sight of a 69 year old taxi creeping alongside them ensured incredulous looks and plenty of repartee from other drivers, especially modern cab drivers, like: "'Ere, mate! You're arter stealin' ar lively'ood, aintcher?"

Once through the 'pipe' and through Greenwich, the turn off for Kidbrooke Station ensured correct positioning for the A20 and I arrived at my destination at 5.10pm, just under 10 hours from leaving home. Not bad, considering the windy, rainy weather (no streamlining in 1935 taxis), the unladen weight of the vehicle (just short of 1½ tons), a maximum speed of 38-40 mph (low-gearred for town work) and the traffic congestion in the Metropolis on a Friday tea-time.

A dull, drizzly Saturday was spent checking over and cleaning the cab, before going out with friends for an early evening meal and noting an improvement in the weather. Then an early night and up at 3.45am, bound for the Run start in London's Battersea Park. Having 'signed in' I soon met my passengers for the day, my son, Stuart, and his friend, Ian, who was accompanied by Carol, his fiancée. The boys were wearing W.W.2 American Army uniforms and Carol was dressed in keeping, as a gracious lady of the mid to latter 1940's. This year I had thought we would make a serious attempt to win the 'Period Dress Competition', the John Mould Trophy, one of the 18 Special Awards. For

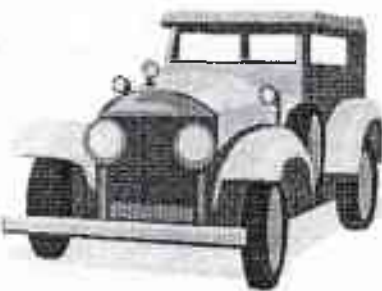
my part I had an authentic green and black 'Motor Cab Driver's' badge pinned to the greatcoat.

We were soon on the way, amongst the 200+ entrants in the 15 classes of eligible historic vehicles—at least 20 years old—and it seemed no time before we arrived at the coffee stop, which this year was held in the Broadfield Stadium near Crawley. By now all the lovely Sussex scenery was bathed in warm sunshine. Since the stadium was required for a football match that afternoon, we were not encouraged to linger, but it was lovely to consume the complimentary coffee and biscuits and chat with other drivers and crews. Then on to Brighton, on the outskirts of which we put down the hood, the better to enjoy the wonderful weather which was to be with us for the rest of the day. Marvellous!

This sunshine created optimum conditions for viewing all the vehicles in class order parked along the length of the Marine Drive and close to the sea and beach. The high standard of the vehicles was greatly appreciated and the judges had to work extremely hard in order to produce the lists of winners for the prizes to be presented by the Lord Mayor of Brighton. Only three cabs were in Class P (Purpose Built Taxis), the winner being Mike Hirst from Doncaster, a fellow HCVS and LVTA member, for his immaculate, recently restored 1956 Austin FX3 taxicab. It really was a fitting reward for all the painstaking work carried out over many years. Second place went to Jack Henley with his 1938 Austin cab, which has participated in more London to Brighton Runs than any other cab during the 40 odd years of the Run's existence. My cab was, therefore, third. However, we won the prize for the Period Dress Competition and I was awarded the Leonard Cole Trophy (again) for being the oldest HCVS member driving in the Run!

The Lord Mayor and HCVS officials made short speeches, thanking all the participants, sponsors and volunteers for their efforts and wished everyone a safe journey home, expressing the hope they would return on 1st May, 2005!

Then it was all over. I delivered my passengers to Ian's car, already parked in Brighton and, hood still down, I made my way in the lovely late afternoon sunshine along the coast road to through Lewes, back to Borough Green to have dinner with friends. my steps to Ackworth, atrocious weather I had down. The cab had run 590 miles beautifully and per gallon. As they say in on it!"



Newhaven and then up Tunbridge Wells and put the cab away and The next day I retraced enduring the same experienced on my way superbly, covering the returning 20.8 miles Yorkshire: "That's jam

From the Registers

Baptisms

- 9 May Abigail Carder
 13 June Ellie Grace Hill
 27 Hollie Louise Button

Marriages

- 15 May Christopher J Attwood and Judith Barton
 4 June Adam Tomlinson and Julie Ann Belfitt

Funerals

- 10 May Laurence Victor Patrick (62) Hemsworth N. H.
 12 James Brear (81) 36 Leatham Crescent, Featherstone
 17 Mark Butterworth (36) 18 College View, Ackworth
 9 June Eunice Williams (70) 45 Leatham Crescent, Featherstone
 10 William McDermott (74) 46 Rhyddings Avenue, Ackworth Moor
 Top
 11 Valerie Ann Sharpe (57) 42 Charlestown, Ackworth Moor Top
 14 Brian Duncan Bullock (66) 47 Chapel Garth, Ackworth Moor
 Top
 28 Charlotte Clarke (88) 81 Townsend Avenue, Low Ackworth
 29 Annetta Ethel Lewis (75) 146 Station Road, Low Ackworth

*Flowers S C**A S Brasses**August*

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>1 Margaret Lloyd</i> | <i>Flower Fund</i> |
| <i>8 Heather Walters</i> | <i>Molly Gardham <u>Help is needed to clean the</u></i> |
| <i>15 Biddy Branston</i> | <i>June Backhouse <u>brasses at St Cuthbert's</u></i> |
| <i>22 Nora Barnard</i> | <i>Jean Hancocks <u>Please contact Phyllis</u></i> |
| | <i><u>Asquith</u></i> |

September

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>5 Vacant</i> | <i>Margaret Camplin</i> |
| <i>12 Joyce Dodd</i> | <i>Wendy Labourn</i> |
| <i>19 Stella Lee</i> | <i>Phyllis and Ruth Harrison</i> |
| <i>26 Vacant</i> | <i>Margaret and Sally Blanchard and Elsie Purr</i> |

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER READINGS AND READERS

1	August Proper 13				SC
	A S				
	Hosea 11: 1-11	Colossians 3: 1-11	Keith Shaw	Peter McWilliam	
8	Proper 14				
	Isaiah 1: 1, 10-20	Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16	Lily Parker	David Cook	
15	Blessed Virgin Mary				
	Isaiah 61: 10-11	Galatians 4: 4-7	Ann Atack	Stella Hall	
22	Proper 16				
	Jeremiah 1: 4-10	Hebrews 12: 18-29	Grace Riley	Mary Walker	
29	Proper 17				
	Jeremiah 2: 4-13	Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15-16	Mary Woofinden		
5	September Proper 18				
	Jeremiah 18: 1-11	Philemon 1-21	George Scargill	Peter McWilliam	
12	Proper 19				
	Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28	1 Timothy 1: 12-17	Jane Siddall		
19	Proper 20				
	Jeremiah 8: 18-9: 11	1 Timothy 2: 1-7	Sue Hartley	Stella Hall	
26	Proper 21				
	Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15	1 Timothy 6: 6-19	Keith Shaw	Mary Walker	
3	October Proper 22				
	Lamentations 1: 1-6	2 Timothy 1: 1-14	Grace Riley		

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER DIARY

9.30am	each Wednesday	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10—12am	each Thursday	Coffee Morning	All Saints'
7.30pm	1st Monday in month	PCC	Vestry, St
Cuthbert's			

September

Saturday 11th	Quiz at Low Ackworth Community Centre, 7.30pm	
Tuesday 21st	St Matthew	
7.30pm	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's

Saturday 25th Parish Walk* departing from St Cuthbert's 10.00am

Wednesday 29th St Michael and All Angels

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
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A Tribute to Miss K O Hardy, late Headteacher of The Howard Church of England School

Miss Hardy was born in the same year as the Queen. I think she was quite proud of that fact, and that she was born into a generation that held certain things very dear—competence, duty, devotion to one's profession and spiritual overview of life, which coloured everything one thought and did. She was a devout Anglican and a devoted headteacher at the Howard School for about twenty-eight years.

I first met Miss Hardy when my son, John Paul, entered the school in 1972. He went into Mrs (Cynthia) Mitchell's class; Mrs Mitchell was an inspiring teacher—but that is another story. From the moment John Paul stepped over the threshold at the Howard School, he—and we—were enveloped into the community which was the Rachel Howard School with Miss Hardy at the helm! Our daughter, Ruth, went to the school soon after and I became a member of staff there in 1978.

People will have many different memories of Miss Hardy: her teaching (she was a teaching Head for many years); her careful attention to the spiritual needs of the children (who knows as much about the Saints as ex-Howard School pupils)? The 'Donkey Pilgrimages' to St Cuthbert's Church at Christmas; 'Howard Castle' and all the other wonderful 'floats' she organised for the village galas; the special names she used for both children and adults (some liked them, some did not)! Her love of history, especially the history of the school which she passed on to generations of Ackworth children. . . And so much more, not least her delightful eccentricities!

When Miss Hardy retired in 1986, she embarked on a new career. She became a guide at country houses which receive visitors—Newby Hall and Norton Conyers—in North Yorkshire. Sir James Graham (N.C.) spoke movingly of Miss Hardy at her funeral on 10th May this year: she had died suddenly at the end of April. He told us of how Miss Hardy had entertained and informed visitors in a way only she could! She was 'working' until just before her death. Mrs Edna King and I went to her funeral at St Mary's Church, North Stainley. The Mayor and Mayoress of South Kirkby, her home village, were among the many who were there to pay tribute to her. She is buried in the churchyard, near to the church door.

Miss Hardy was a very special person. We shall not see her like again.

Joyce Wooffindin

Ackworth Over the Years . . .

With the tribute to Miss Hardy it seemed appropriate to write about the history of the school. Jean Reast has been reading in Saywell, who mistakenly designates Rachel Howard as Mrs Howard:

MRS. HOWARD'S SCHOOL

As I live in Low Ackworth I was most interested to read Rev. J.L. Saywell's account of the Howard School. He states that "This school is situate at Low Ackworth, and consists of two rooms, the one for girls, and the other for infants, and a mistress's



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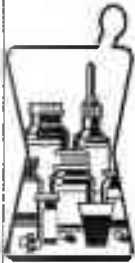
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house, neatly built, bearing the following inscription - "Rachael Howard bought this ground, and built thereon a schoolroom and tenement for a mistress, 1833". Rachael Howard died on 24th September 1837, aged 33 years."

Saywell then goes on to say that the following extracts from the published correspondence of the late Mrs. Howard respecting the building of the school are historically valuable. Writing to a friend on January 25th 1833 Mrs. Howard says "The estimate for T. Rickman's plan for a cottage schoolroom amounted to very nearly £500; much of which, he assured me, was bestowed in mere ornament and finish. These two considerations have brought me to the conclusion to build a small and plainer schoolroom, and I have given directions to the Wakefield builder accordingly; but he is not to have anything to do with the contract. I expect the reduced plans and specifications home in a few days." On the 8th of April following, she writes - "This has been a very busy day with me, and as I have now made all needful arrangements I transmit the particulars". (Here follow the amounts of her several contracts with mason, slater, plasterer, joiner, plumber and painter; the total being £362.6s.3d.) "When I tell thee that the rejected estimates taken together would have amounted to the sum of £456.10s.6d., I think thou wilt agree with me, that the difference is sufficient to repay a good deal of trouble."

On the 5th December she writes to her sister-in-law saying "What to call my school I really cannot tell. It is not, certainly a Lancasterian* or British School; for we exhibit pictures, and teach natural history and a little geography and singing. Nor can it be called an Infants' School for in the gallery a stranger might happen to see a top row of girls almost as tall as women. Some of them are new scholars and contrast rather awkwardly in the classes with the little ones who scarcely reach their shoulders. Poor things! I really feel affection for them, they show so much zeal, coming from West Hardwick and Purston in a little troop for the sake of the superior instruction they, nor their parents expect at the 'new school'. About twenty scholars, out of the fifty who are on the list, are from the adjacent villages - Ackworth does not yet shew its sense of the advantage offered". *Interesting that Ackworth (Quaker) School experienced a similar lack of interest from Friends in the north of England: the first two pupils, in October 1779, were Barton and Anne Gates from Poole, in Dorset and by the end of the year Yorkshire did not furnish even a single pupil.*

When I am out and about in the village at playtime I see the present day pupils in their bright green jumpers playing in the school yard and I think how lucky we are to have such a lovely school in our part of the village.

Grace Tunc has given us some more information relating to the school:

Rachel was the daughter of Luke Howard, the very first 'weatherman' in this country, who came to live in Low Ackworth at what was then the 'Villa'. He first took an interest in cloud formation when living in London and training as a pharmaceutical chemist. He later set up in Ilford and his firm was known as Howard and Sons till 1961.

The first Mistress was Miss Sarah Grice, who came from Sandal. She died at the age of 81, and is buried in the small graveyard of 'The Plymouth Brethren' behind

the school. Luke Howard became a member of this sect later in life, having been a Friend. As well as his daughter's school, he was a great help to Ackworth School. His son, John, carried on where Rachel had left off, carrying out her plan of building the Infant School behind the main building. Here a mixed class of boys and girls were taught, but at the age of 9, the boys had to go to higher up Station Road, or to Moor Top. The junior and senior classes were girls only until the coming of the comprehensive system.

The teacher who taught at the school for the longest period was the infants' teacher, Miss Fryer, who was very strict. She lived in High Ackworth and celebrated her centenary in 1993. Other teachers who taught in the school since the early 1920's include: Miss Paley and Mrs Walker (both headteachers), Mrs Garretty, Mrs Simpson, Miss Lee, Mrs Howe

Luke Howard and his wife Mariela opened yet another school in Ackworth in 1844. Saywell tells us:

'The school in the old Wesleyan Chapel ceased to exist, when the latter was taken down to make room for the new Chapel which stands on the site of the old one. The insufficient accommodation thus produced was met by the establishment in 1844 of a British School on the Lancasterian* system, for boys, in a room below the Public Assembly Room (*now Seatons*), which was erected in the same year. The school is supported by voluntary contributions, and accommodates about 70 boys.'

Before we leave Saywell, this short passage caught my eye and, in view of the weather now (early July) I could not resist another quotation:

'Towards the end of May in this year (1850), a most destructive storm of hail-stones visited Ackworth and district. The stones were as large as pieces of lump sugar. The sails of the Ackworth wind-mill were much damaged, and an extensive destruction of conservatory and window glass took place. So violent and prolonged was the storm that the cottager, in great alarm, betook themselves to prayer.' *That was the description of one who witnessed it!*

**For those who do not know about the Lancasterian system, it was a method of teaching largely by rote, supervised by monitors. The first pupils were taught by a teacher and they became the monitors for new pupils, with teacher supervision over them. This meant that the education of many more pupils could be entrusted to one teacher. Charles Dickens gives the most famous account of this near the beginning of 'Hard Times'. The teaching was entirely factual.*

We are glad to have received further information about **The Six Shops** area. Clearly, these often changed hands and when Mr Senior had a paper shop there, 2 shops became 1. People remember Mr Seal, who sold paraffin. The Co-op butchery became Horbury's—you took your own basin along there for your savoury duck, and the butcher Mr Cutts was followed by Mr Townend. Dick Parks was a barber up there and the greengrocers were Evans. Another greengrocer was Mr Wigglesworth, who came round with his cart. There was also Edgar Ketchell, the baker in a nearby shop. That became Hinnit and Ketchell, and all the baking was later moved to Low Ackworth. Henry Ketchell, the head gardener at Ackworth School, retired and joined the bakery.

Mission Room House

Many people have memories of the old Mission Room, as we have read in previous issues. I suspect that many wondered how anyone could want to live in it at the time it was sold, but once they saw the exterior after its new life had begun, they were probably wishing they had seen the potential. At least they can take comfort from the fact that it took Patrick and Denise, and the skilled friends who helped, very nearly a year to create the house of their dreams – a year of work, work, work and not a little concern about dwindling finances.

Denise has come a long way since those first two months in her non-existent kitchen, when she had her old cooker in the middle of the floor, surrounded by dust sheets and packing cases. Patrick has made various alterations over the last ten years, but both are very glad that for once they were really adventurous.

It was early 1990 when my husband Patrick noticed that the Mission Room was for sale and instantly knew that he could convert it into a unique family home.



The land that it stands on was originally given to the parish in 1909 by Celia Mary Micklethwaite to build a Sunday School on. This was built in 1910. It is interesting that the original owner stated in the deeds that the Church of England catechism must be said every Sunday. I'm afraid this is something we have not adhered to!!

Since then its uses have been wide and varied – funeral teas, wedding receptions and tea dances have taken place, as well as jumble sales, scout meetings and rock band practices. Many people will also remember part of it being used as a sorting room for the Post Office. We have also been told that soldiers were stationed here during the war, but we don't have much information on this. Perhaps some readers can enlighten us.

Once the deal had been done and the building was ours the hard work began. Patrick worked every evening and weekend (still working as a joiner during the day) to bring about great changes. Obviously the building needed completely new plumbing and electrical systems along with major alterations to replace all the windows. We also demolished an old toilet block, which was built on the side; removed two chimneys and constructed a new one. We had the luxury of having a large open space, which we could divide into rooms as we wished.

An open staircase was put into place, along with a gallery landing leading to four bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. In pride of place in some of the rooms downstairs is the original wooden floor, which I'm sure has seen some action!

Our two daughters, Kay and Danielle, who were very young at the time, enjoyed rides around the large open space in a wheelbarrow, whilst I did lots of labouring tasks, as instructed by the boss! We could also never forget the help we had from friends and family in reaching our goal

We moved into our new home in the Easter of 1991, not quite a year after we had started, very tired and very short of money. The house was liveable in, but we were without a kitchen until we had completed the sale of our other house on Wakefield Road. Since then we seem to have done something to improve 'Mission Room House', whenever there has been a quiet period, and we hope we shall be here for many years to come.

When we bought the building it had planning permission to be demolished, but we are confident we made the right choice in converting it. Hopefully, we have retained some of its original features and maintained some links with the church. It is pleasing to think that the money from the sale was used for making alterations to St Cuthbert's Church, and in return we have acquired a comfortable and unique family home, whilst adding a little piece of history to the village.

Denise Olbison

PCC JOTTINGS FOR MAY

(Meeting held too late for inclusion in June/July issue)

- Access Audit to be sent to English Heritage to confirm that the church will be open 28 days a year in addition to days of regular services for 6 hours per day. This will not happen until all alterations are carried out. Audit also deals with all aspects of church for wheelchair users, the partially sighted, deaf and those with other disabilities.
- A.P.C.M. Next year this will be held after the morning service.
- Parish magazine. The editors hope to publish details of the services of the other churches in Ackworth. and to publicise their events.
- Gift aid. More information is needed and the existing forms should be reorganised. The Restoration Appeal leaflet is being updated.
- Tom Brierley has tendered his resignation from the fabric committee. A letter has been sent to thank him for his service.
- Janet Bateman, after 11 years of service as Sunday coffee organiser, has passed on her responsibility. During this time £1,127 has been put into church funds in addition to buying all their kitchen requirements. A letter of thanks to be sent.

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PCC JOTTINGS FOR JUNE

- D Day celebrations. About 150 people came into church and showed interest in and appreciation for the church. Donations from refreshments raised £115 for the Restoration Appeal.
- The architect has now completed the working drawings on St. Cuthbert's church and these are being submitted to English Heritage.
- The bat expert from English Heritage will be at St. Cuthbert's on June 16th from 9pm until midnight to take samples.
- Other churches are to be invited to participate in the walk around Ackworth on September 25th beginning at 10am so that they can raise money for their own funds.
- Everyone is invited to the Brown Cow on Sunday 27th of June from 8.30pm onwards for a quiz and supper, which the landlady is providing. She will also hand over a cheque for the money raised during the year for the Restoration Appeal.
- The Archdeacon found everything to be in general order on his annual visitation.
- There is to be joint fund raising with the Heritage Group on the Green in 2005, possibly to coincide with VE Day.

PCC JOTTINGS FOR JULY

- The Church's Health and Safety Policy Document has met with approval of the Archdeacon, who would like it to become the Diocesan Policy.
- St. Cuthbert's Graveyard. A structural engineer is to inspect the wall between the church and the rectory.
 - Bells - the fifth and tenor are most in need of attention. although work is needed on all the other bells too. Grants are available and details will be found about these.
- Third world Christian Aid Week from various sources in the village raised £1,996.
- Fundraising. The committee is now working on a grant application to the Historical Churches Preservation Trust.
- The Rector thanked David and Valerie Cook for their service to the PCC Caroline Longhurst offered her services as secretary from September.

HUGH GALLAGHER

We were sorry to hear of the death of Hugh on Monday July 12th. During the period between Peter Moorhouse leaving and Paul coming, Hugh took all the Wednesday morning communion services at All Saints'. At that time he was the vicar of Wragby and altered the time of the service from 9.15 to 9.30 to fit in with his busy schedule. He also took some of the weddings at St. Cuthbert's and Ian and I were very fortunate in that Hugh performed our Wedding Blessing at All Saints' Church. He was a man of many talents having previously had a distinguished career in The Royal Air Force before deciding to enter the Ministry. He retired to the Isle of Arran.

Stella Hall

ACKWORTH ROAD RUNNERS

In the early 1980's jogging became a regular practice, as people began to appreciate the value of regular cardio vascular exercise to their health and well-being. In 1983 Dr. Jean Wharton recognised that this trend could be utilised for the benefit of local charities by introducing the Ackworth Half Marathon to the village.

I had been a long distance runner for over twenty-five years, by this time, and it occurred to me that there was also potential there for the establishment of a local running club, to bring together interested individuals to train and socialise together and to receive the benefit of advice and support and maybe race together as members of a team.



I had mulled over this idea up to the second half marathon in 1985, when I published an advertisement in the race programme seeking support for the formation of such a club. I also hand delivered a letter to all seventy local entrants enquiring whether they were interested in attending a meeting. The initial reaction was disappointing and I was on the point of abandoning the idea when I received telephone call from an employee at the sweet factory, in Pontefract, advising me that there was interest from a number of his colleagues at work. This spurred me on to set the date for a meeting, which was held on 26th June 1985.

I went along to this meeting, at The Mason's Arms, not knowing what to expect and being delighted to find 27 interested persons, representing a wide range of experience and ability, also present. It was quickly agreed that the benefits of club membership were lacking in the immediate locality, the nearest clubs being in Barnsley and Wakefield, and that a running club should be formed. Of the 27 who attended this inaugural meeting, fourteen were still active members three years later and many of these are still associated with the club today.

Training sessions were arranged for Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Sunday mornings, later a further session was introduced, in Pontefract on a Wednesday evening, mainly for the benefit of those who lived there. Twenty-eight runners attended for the first training and these sessions were always well supported. Numbers increased steadily and the club soon boasted well over one hundred members, which is still the case today.

At the first general meeting held on 24th September, the name Ackworth Road Runners was agreed, although of late there have been moves to change this, to recognise wider running activities undertaken. The club colours were agreed after a heated debate, which has raged ever since, a white vest with a royal blue band and royal blue shorts. A logo, incorporating the Ackworth acorns, drawn up by Gail Simms, was also introduced. Officers were elected; we

faced an uncertain future but resolved that our enthusiasm would carry us through the first winter, by which time we could consider we were established. Now almost twenty years later I think we can say our optimism has been realised.

Colin Tanswell President

BARBECUE

Will it be a fine day one always wonders when planning an outdoor event for Church? Fortunately for us all Saturday 22nd of May turned out to be lovely. Blue skies and sunshine greeted everyone as they arrived at the venue of Kirsty, James and Andrew Morris' home. The smell of newly mown grass filled the air. There were plenty of chairs and tables and even a hammock for anyone who was feeling particularly lazy. For the children there was a good selection of things to keep them occupied such as a sandpit, swings, a slide and trampoline.



Food prepared by our chef Stuart Ensor included delicious chicken, burgers and sausages. To accompany this there were various salads and relishes. A wide selection of desserts consisted of fresh fruit flan, chocolate cheesecake, fruit pies and jam doughnuts. For liquid refreshment we had a choice of soft fruit drinks and red or white wine.

A raffle and a picture quiz raised a few extra pounds to help with church funds. It was an enjoyable time and it was especially good to see the very young (one year old) entertaining the not so young (dare I say 80+)

Ann Attack

Our Schools

As Martin Dickinson retires as Head of Ackworth School, we wish him and Susan his wife all that they could wish for themselves in their retirement.

We pray for the School and all the Junior Schools in Ackworth in the years to come, and for safe and happy holidays now for all the pupils.

Please ensure that **COPY** for the October/November issue reaches Stella Hall (612003) - preferably on a floppy disc—before Saturday 4th September

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CHURCH EXPERIENCES

Ann Atack

Going to church on Sundays is something from which I get great pleasure. Spirits are revived after a busy week and it is a time to share with other Christians and a chance to see my Godchildren Ellie and Andrew.

Whilst on holiday in Tenerife a couple of years ago I found a church nearby our hotel in Los Gigantes. A quick look at the notice on the board (written in English) showed that there was to be a service at 10 a.m.

Accordingly we arrived on Sunday morning around 9.30 Already the temperature was around 80 degrees, with blue skies and not a cloud to be seen. Wilf and I entered the church and took our places near the back with about six others. However by 9.55 the church was filled to capacity with standing room only. At this point Wilf decided to leave: he was beginning to feel uncomfortable as the church became increasingly hot and stuffy. However, I decided to stay to the service. Just before 12.00 the service ended! It being all in Spanish I had not understood a word of it. Going outside I found Wilf sheltering under a tree, rain pouring down and reading his good old English book. Looking up with a smile he said, "What was it like? Have you enjoyed yourself?" Can you guess my reply? In my good old Yorkshire accent I said I would have done had it been in English.

Now when abroad I still go into churches but to browse and sit and pray in my own words. Fortunately, on that particular holiday we met and shared a meal one evening with an English girl who had just been ordained and was working as a curate in Blackpool.

ACKWORTH CONCERT SOCIETY

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ANGLICAN SUNDAY SERVICES

8.30am	Holy Communion (said, except at festivals) <u>All Saints</u> (BCP on 2nd Sunday of month)
10.15am	Parish Communion * (1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday) Family Communion (2nd Sunday of month) <u>St Cuthbert's</u> * Junior Church, during term time * Baptism (on 2nd and 4th Sunday of month)
4.00pm	Open Door Service (last Sunday of month) <u>All Saints'</u>
6.30pm	Evensong <u>All Saints'</u>

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Sunday 9.00am **Mass**

A note for your diary!

Saturday, 11th September

**Come to the Autumn Fair, to be held in
The Parish Rooms, Bell Lane
1.00—4.00pm**

ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday	10.30am Worship 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	9.30—11.15am <i>Till 17 August</i> Kids' Club <i>Then</i> Parents and Toddlers Group
Wednesday	1.15—3.00pm <i>Till 17 August</i> No Activity <i>In September</i> Parents and Toddlers Group

All services and meetings are held at the Ackworth Parish Council Community Centre, Bell Lane.