



Ackworth Parish Magazine



DECEMBER 2003

JANUARY 2004

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

<u>Rector:</u>	Revd. Paul Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<u>Lay 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>	Mr Donald Marshall, 17 Hill Drive	700961
<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 Maurcen 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
	Mrs Margaret Scaman, 20 Flounders Hill	611400
 <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,

In what is arguably the most important season of the year in both sacred and secular terms, you would think that there is plenty to write about for this issue of the magazine.

However, that in itself poses a major problem; what do I write about? Advent, Christmas, New Year, Epiphany, each of major significance in their own right as celebrations of major festivals. The dilemma then is where to focus: hone in on one and the others are neglected. Therefore, I decided the way forward was to try and find one theme or common factor which links or threads itself through the whole season.

The one thing that came to mind was **gifts**. These could be interpreted as either personal talents or abilities, gifts given to us by God, or those material objects that we wrap up in brightly coloured paper and give to one another.; probably inspired by the gifts brought to the baby Jesus by the three wise men - the Magi.

We begin then with Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, also a time of penitence when we are encouraged to take time out from the frenetic build up to the commercial Christmas to reflect and review our lives. Amongst other things, it allows us an opportunity to prepare a place in our hearts for the coming of the Christ-child and look at what God-given gifts or talents we can offer in his service.

Just as those three wise men offered the best of what they could give at Epiphany, so we can adjudge what we can offer in the service of Christ. In the midst of worrying and searching for the perfect present for aunty, uncle, gran, granddad, children, husband or wife, we might stop and consider what gift we can offer to the Christ-child this Christmas!

And then, there is the big day itself when those long sought out and thought out gifts are distributed. When all the cards and presents have been opened, the Christmas dinner eaten, when we have our feet up watching the TV, or if we still have energy left, playing with the children; what gift will be remembered then?



Well, one should stand out well above the rest; God's special gift of his son—the greatest gift his love could offer. It is often said that it is not the value of the gift we give or receive that matters, but the spirit in which it is given. If that is true and I think such a thought has a lot to commend it, then we should be absolutely blown away by the way God expressed his love for us in the gift of his son!



And what about the feast of the Epiphany, a festival sadly now fading in significance in this country, when we remember the visit of the Magi to the Christ-child with their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

It's a nice story, but have you ever stopped to consider the significance of those gifts? Gold was brought in acknowledgement of our Lord's Kingship—ruler of the whole world. Frankincense, burnt at times of adoration and prayer, is given in praise of our Lord's deity; son of God. The Myrrh carries a prophetic symbolism, foretelling our Lord's death; being an expensive unction used to prepare and preserve bodies for burial. The world 'epiphany' means manifestation or showing - the revelation of our Lord to the world. It is a time when we also might also offer our gifts to proclaim him to the world.

These two months, December and January, are then very much the times for giving, receiving and using gifts. Perhaps it's worth thinking about, as we lead into this season through Advent, what sort of value we place on gifts. Stop for a moment and see if you can remember what gifts you gave and received last Christmas and whether or not you are still using those you received.

By comparison, how many recall and acknowledge the gifts freely given to us by God, our skills and talents and the greatest gift of all, the gift of his own son? Which are the most enduring and which in the final analysis are the most valuable? Hopefully, in light of our conclusion, we may begin to look at this festive season in a different way.

*A happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year
from Paul, Sue, Chris, Phillip and Sarah.*



Dear Readers

We are glad to be able to deliver another packed issue, and do apologise if the last one was a little too packed for some. Unfortunately, adding or spacing a little means an extra four pages, not just one!

Our apologies to **Paul Fox** for not noticing we had lost the last few words of his **Reflection, reflection, reflection**. 'Publisher' does jump around a little and catches out the unwary! His final sentence should read: **'I pray that all of us will reflect on our past, and whilst sitting in our past, we should consider our future.'** And that is good advice for us all.

We hope that the first part of the article on Bell Lane Shops will stir more memories, which you will pass on to us. Several ladies at the Coffee Morning have already given us information, so it will be good to build up as full a picture of Bell Lane's past as possible. We can continue with other areas of the village, so keep reflecting on the past!

We welcome the signing of the Covenant between Anglicans and Methodists and look forward to working together more closely. The magazine is one vehicle for this: indeed it would be good to have a truly ecumenical Parish Magazine. We have asked the other churches to let us have any material they wish to publish, and repeat this request here.

We send you All our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, thinking particularly of those for whom it will be a difficult, or even sad time for one reason or another.

Stella, Jean and Valerie

Ackworth Heritage Group

All are welcome at the Group's meeting on Thursday 11th December, at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms, when Tom Dixon will talk on **'Characters who come in to the Workhouse at Christmas'**. This will be followed by a 'bring a mince pie' party.

Ackworth Over the Years . . .

Writing in 1894, The Rev. Saywell tells us: 'The first object, on approaching (St Cuthbert's) church, to attract the visitor's notice is the *Lych-gate*, which presents a rustic and pretty appearance. It is built of Norwegian Oak, and is now nearly black, although quite modern.' It was erected in 1878, in memory of The Rev. Joseph Kenworthy, Rector for 31 years, who carried out the restoration of the Church and died in 1875. *The Tower* 'is the oldest part of the Church, indeed, it is the only portion of it which remains in its entirety after the restoration of 1852. It is solid and well built, and dates from about the fourteenth century.' It is 68 feet, 9 inches high and the steps up to the bell chamber are very steep and worn.

The article on the bells begun last issue continues in this on page 14. Saywell also tells us that an authority on Campanology says: 'the bells at Ackworth appear to be of three dates, two of pre-reformation times, one of the seventeenth century, and one of the eighteenth century, with all the self-glorification and self-assertion thereto belonging.' However, as you will see, this authority was not to be relied on!

In the niche over the outside of the porch we still have the 'effigy of St Cuthbert, the patron saint, holding in his dexter hand a crozier.' There were many verses inscribed inside the porch, but we can read these now only in Saywell's book. All that remains is the scroll over the inner door with the Latin words:

'Domus Dei

Porta Coeli

(The House of God (is) the Gate of Heaven)

6th December

**A chance to enjoy -
Houghton Main Male Voice Choir
and Barnborough Ladies Village Singers**

In concert at St Cuthbert's Church 7.30pm

Seasonal carols, old fashioned ballads, Negro spirituals and tunes from
the Musicals. Refreshments

Tickets: £3

Concessions £2

More hints from the Weekday Pages to help 'Women with Homes'

A tip to help on Monday washday from January 1949—To dry woollen garments in bad weather place between two towels under your hearth rug in front of the fire. *Another suggestion is to use newspaper.*

In December of that year some help for ailments—Olive oil rubbed in the soles of the feet every morning will, if persevered with, bring relief and ease. Also bathing with sea-salt is helpful. For pains in the head, camphorated oil, rubbed in the soles of the feet morning and night, often brings speedy relief.

Relief for a sore throat and loss of voice is given in January 1950—Try half a cupful of hot water, one teaspoonful of treacle and one teaspoonful of vinegar. Stir well and drink hot; it will give almost immediate relief.

A final health tip comes from October 1949. When attacked with cramp, take hold of a piece of cork (any size) and the pain will subside immediately. This is almost infallible. I always have a piece beside my bed. Better still, if available, stand on the bathroom cork mat, or on a strip of linoleum.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY READINGS AND READERS



			S C	A S
30	November	1st Sunday of Advent		
	Jeremiah 33: 14-16	1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13	Lily Parker	Peter McWilliam
7	December	2nd Sunday of Advent		
	Malachi 3: 1-4	Philippians 1: 3-11	George Scargill	David Cook
14	December	3rd Sunday of Advent		
	Zephaniah 3: 14-20	Philippians 4: 4-7	Ann Atack	Stella Hall
21	December	4th Sunday of Advent		
	Micah 5: 2-5a	Hebrews 10: 5-10	Grace Riley	Mary Walker
28	December	1st Sunday of Christmas		
	1 Samuel 2: 18-20,26	Colossians 3: 12-17	Fred Davies	Valerie Cook
4	January	2nd Sunday of Christmas		
	Jeremiah 31: 7-14	Ephesians 1: 3-14	Jane Siddall	Peter McWilliam
11	January	Baptism of Christ		
	Isaiah 43: 1-7	Acts 8: 14-17	Jacob Place	David Cook
18	January	2nd Sunday of Epiphany		
	Isaiah 62: 1-5	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11	Sue Hartley	Stella Hall
25	January	Conversion of St Paul		
	Jeremiah 1: 4-10	Acts 9: 1-22	Keith Shaw	Mary Walker
1	February	4th Sunday of Epiphany		
	Ezekiel 43: 27-44: 4	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13	Lily Parker	Valerie Cook

Some Recollections of the Shops in Bell Lane

In our post war childhood the shops in Bell Lane played a significant role, the most important shop being the Co-op (now the Off-Licence). It had a most distinctive smell: a mixture of sweet sugar and biscuits, tangy cheese and spicy nutmeg and pepper.

Very few foods were prepacked, so their smells pervaded the air. There were wooden counters with a shiny brass rail running around them, close to the floor. We had to stand on the rail to see over the counter: no wonder it had to be polished every day!

At the back of the counter on the right was a huge tub shaped mound of butter and a large Cheshire cheese. Pieces were cut using wires and wrapped in greaseproof paper. Also on the right hand counter was the bacon and bacon slicer.

On the left sugar was weighed from large sacks into strong blue paper bags, each holding 2lbs. Flour was sold in muslin bags, which came in useful later for our mushrooming. Vegetables were sold at the far end of the shop, and every so often a mighty rumble would shake the shop, as a bag of potatoes was emptied down a chute from the floor above.

When we paid, the assistant placed the money into a container which shot across the shop on an overhead wire to the cashier. She returned the receipt and change in the same way. As children, this amazing technology fascinated us!

It was possible to buy goods on the spot, but also to place an order, which was delivered on Saturday. Just as now, an important part of shopping at the Co-op was the dividend. It is testimony to the importance of the Co-op in our lives that we can still remember our Co-op 'divi' number, even though we have always had trouble remembering our car registration numbers—one of us even has trouble remembering her telephone number. (No, it's not old age, it has always been this way)! 16632 was Mother's number and 3092 Grandma's.

Two of our favourite Co-op products were the huge sweet meringues with their melting centres stuffed with artificial cream, and the bilberry pies, which with their sharp, unusual flavour, were a fruity treat. A girl who lived halfway up Shepherd's Hill used to walk home via the railway path, which ran along the bottom of our garden. We lived on Doncaster Road Estate. She used to buy a



huge bag of meringues at the Co-op and eat them on her way home. Did we envy her!

We remember the Co-op with great affection. The assistants and the Manager were always kind to us children, and we enjoyed going into the shop. The Co-op Drapery was next door, selling hosiery, lingerie and other clothing items, but we did not use it very much. Our mother shopped in Pontefract for these goods.

The Chemist's shop, on the corner opposite the Co-op, was also very aromatic, with a wonderful smell of aniseed and liquorice, but it was a rather daunting experience entering this shop, as it was dark and crowded. The owners seemed rather aloof and superior, although the assistant was very pleasant.

Our mother purchased medical supplies and toiletries here, (though Sunlight soap came from the Co-op). We also remember her buying port wine, which she always kept in for stomach aches. Here she must also have bought the California Syrup of Figs, which we had to take every Friday to 'keep us going'; and Fever Cure with its bitter quinine content and Fennings Little Healers for when we had a high temperature. We also remember with horror the small squares of camphor which she bought to ward off colds. We had to wear one of these, sewn into a small cotton bag around our necks in the winter. Oh, the bitter humiliation when some insensitive child would ask: 'What's that funny smell?'

The chemist also sold seasonal gardening effects, such as grass seed and seed potatoes. We remember too buying budgie seed there.

The products we enjoyed going into the shop for were sticks of liquorice extract, small hard sticks with their uniquely delicious flavour. Also we loved the twisted barley sugar sticks from a large glass jar.

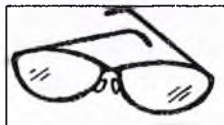
Near to Christmas, the shop became a wonderland. The air was suffused with the flowery scents of Yardley's and Cusson's toiletries. The window was tastefully decorated with gift toiletries and Christmas ribbons and baubles. We would gaze in every evening, as we returned home from Bell Lane School. We tried to work out what we could afford as presents. There were tiny bottles of perfume no more than two centimetres long. A small, oblong blue glass bottle of stylish Evening in Paris, or a miniature square bottle of flowery California Poppy might be a possibility for Mother or Grandma. Or maybe we could buy a box of scented bath cubes, to us the height of pampered luxury: there were no designer bath foams or oils then.

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Moving to the opposite side of the road, further along from the Co-op, came Ernie Myers' barber's shop and Florence Parkinson's sweet and grocer's shop. The red and white pole proclaimed the barber. It was only much later that we discovered its origin in the past when barbers were also surgeons, and the pole represented blood and bandages. Ugh! One of us seems to recollect a large advert outside the sweet shop for Fry's Five Boys' Chocolate. It showed the faces of the five boys with their varying expressions representing Desperation, Pacification, Expectation, Acclamation and finally the beaming grin of Realization—'It's FRY'S.'

Both shops were full of gossip—who says only women gossip? The men's meeting place was the barber's, the women's was the sweet shop. As children we were aware of being hustled in and out of the sweet shop double quick— young ears were not allowed to hear adult conversations.

Florence Parkinson was a small, dark lady, very pretty with her rouged cheeks and reddened lips. Her hair was always stylishly coiffured and she was smartly dressed. It was unusual at that time to see make-up worn regularly and for work. Very few women actually wore it at all; those who did tended to wear it for special occasions. It was also very simple make-up, usually just powder and lipstick: daring ladies might add rouge to the cheeks.

From the sweet shop we bought Needler's delicious butter humbugs and Waterhouses' crunch treacly invalid toffee.

Next to Florence Parkinson's was another sweet and grocery shop, now the Carpet Shop. It was owned by one of the Parker family, later by Whitworth's. We remember buying sugar zoos here, more interesting for the animals and their delicate pastel colours than their sweet, powdery taste.

Anne Bennett's shop was Smith's bicycle shop. Bikes were expensive and it was a lucky as well as overjoyed child who opened his / her eyes on Christmas morning to behold a Smith's bike from Santa. We were lucky, as we each had a bike. We were able to ride safely in our street, because there was so little traffic. However, one of us, as a young teenager, was rather adventurous. She took off, with her friends, all on Smith's bikes, to see Yeadon Air Display. Coming back through Leeds she had the terrifying experience of being caught in the tram tracks. Fortunately, she lived to tell the tale.



The Williams Sisters



From then (1946) till he went into the army, Harry worked at Bowman's, on the site of the present Co-op, earning 30/- a week. Bowmans had three sawmills and two turning shafts. George Desborough used to be the turner, but one day he had a serious accident. At dinner time, the signal for which was the pit buzzers going, they used to take the power off the turning shaft by putting a piece of stout stick, about 15" by 3" diameter in to pull the belt off the fast pulley onto the lowest. George was doing this when the belt caught his arm and took him up in the shaft. He put out his other arm to save himself and got both broken. Mercifully, someone had quickly stopped the turning shaft. He was off work for 18 months, but after that he needed to work, though he was 61 by then. He went to Camplins and then on to Parkers, where he worked till he was at least 86. The men needed the money, as they could not live on the pension and had never earned enough to save. Also they had a fear of dying soon after stopping work, so kept putting it off, thus ensuring they did not survive long after.

Harry took on the turning at Bowmans, going onto piece work. The larger shaft could cut 6' 6" x 13" grindstones, and some of the orders for these were for export to Australia and Oslo. The 'slob', slab of stone, came from the sawmill; then compasses were used to score the diameter.

Next came the 'square-oyling' (holing): first a round hole was drilled through the centre; this then had to be enlarged to a square—1 ½", or whatever. The rounded shape of the stone was achieved by hand, using hammer and chisel. This needed a great deal of skill and a very good eye. The stone was finished by grinding the circumference (depth 13") smooth.

Bluestone—that was bluish-grey—was stone that was quarried from below 80' deep, and that meant pumping out vast quantities of water as you worked. All stone was 'blown' by simple gunpowder charges that were packed in cans, rather like a jug with a cup top, the top being the measure for the gunpowder. Only Bowmans and a quarry at the back of the Six Shops quarried bluestone.

Scythestones were another product at Bowmans. Bill Seal employed 8 girls to rub the scythestones smooth. That was really hard work and with the conditions at the quarry, girls soon lost any gentle ways.

Harry himself had several accidents. Like many of the other men, Harry wore clogs. These were a wooden base on clog irons for the heel and sole, with pigskin uppers. The men used to nail belting from the pit under the wood, inside

the irons to make the clogs warmer. One really wintry day at Bowmans, when there was about 6" of snow on the ground, there was a halt to work at the sawmill. The 'drug' a trolley that carried two slabs of stone into the mill for cutting, had got stuck in the ice. Men could not release it from the back and Rowland Parker told Harry to go down in front and 'tickle' the drug to get it moving. Suddenly the drug shot forward with its 15 tons of stone over Harry's foot, crushing the clog. He pulled his foot out and thrust it straight into a snow drift, so that the men should not see what had happened, but the boss made him take it out. Luckily, his foot was unscathed, saved by the clog.



After his service in the army Harry joined Camplins in 1951. Their biggest orders were bound for Helsinki and Turku. Working for 3s. 6½d. per hour, Harry was taking home £6. 8s 4d a week, but a rise in '53 increased the sum to £7.9/- .

Harry always felt a pride, not only in his work, but also in the fact that he was helping to spread the name and fame of his native Ackworth to distant parts of the world. He remembers orders going to Kampala, Nairobi, Colombo and to the Central Lunatic Asylum, Antigua.

The next year Harry heard about a quarrying job with much better pay, so he left the Ackworth quarries and worked for 3 years at the Tadcaster Stone Company, for 10 hours a day, Monday to Friday and till 4pm every Saturday and Sunday. The only consolation was the pay—£14 a week.

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Parish Council

The next two meetings of the Parish
Council are at the Parish Rooms, Bell
Lane, at 7.30pm

8th December, 2003

19th January, 2004

Nothing much changes! Here in 2003 the bells are not being rung on a regular basis at St. Cuthbert's any more. There are several reasons for this. Once again work is needed in the tower on the two heaviest bells, the fifth and sixth as well as the frame to make them safe to ring and unfortunately there are more pressing needs for repairs to many other parts of St. Cuthbert's Church. Also at present there are only two bell ringers attached to the Church here and we have to ask ringers from other churches to help out at weddings and this is often difficult when it is the busy time of year for weddings and holidays. However on a more positive note Clare Branston has returned to ringing after an absence and joins us at our weekly Tuesday night practice at nearby Wragby Church where we are helped by Gordon Corby (mentioned in the article earlier on) David Lunn has been at Wragby and has actually rung Wragby and hopefully it will not be too long before we can ring before a service at St. Cuthbert's. If there is anyone reading this article who would either like to learn to ring (you can be any age from ten to eighty!) or return to ringing please let us know and to start lessons.



Looking through Saywell's "History of Ackworth" we found the following information, which we thought, might be of interest:

The Tower contains a peal of six bells, each bearing a legend or inscription. And all are of different dates.

No. 1 is in the key of C sharp and bears the following inscription "Timothy Lee D.D. Rector 1760. This is the lightest bell and is called the treble.

No. 2 the note of this bell is B and the inscription is W. Wagner I. Garlick Churchwardens 1760

No 3 Key of A This bell is dated 1662.

No. 4 This bell is probably older than No. 3 but bears no date and its note is G sharp.

No 5 is in the key of F sharp and has no date.

No 6 The note of the tenor bell is E. It was founded in 1760 and recast in 1880 Its inscription is " Cast by John Warner and Sons London 1880 All men who hear my mournful sound repent before you lie in ground "

This is the bell upon which the clock strikes the hours and upon which the

passing and funeral dirges are tolled

Then follows a long list of rules drawn up for the ringers by the Rector W.M.Falloon and the Churchwardens Joseph Nelstrop and J. Heaton Cadman which are quite strict, including having one's name at once removed from the list of ringers if absent from ringing for four successive weeks. The ringers are to be members of the Church of England and of known good character. A leader was to be appointed who would be responsible for good order in the tower, keep a Belfry book and make sure no drinking, smoking or bad language or quarrelsome behaviour was allowed. They were to ring for both services on Sundays; also on Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and on the Queen's Birthday; also on any other occasion, with the distinct consent of the Rector and one Churchwarden, but not without it. All rules were intended only for the comfort and good ordering of all concerned. The final comment was "Let all things be done decently and in order."

A print in Cartmel Priory, Cumbria, shows **Ten (Rather Amusing) Commandments for the Bellringer**. Here is a sample of two.

THOU SHALT NOT rely completely upon thy helper, but cultivate thine own understanding, for he that listeneth for his helper from place to place shall stumble and perish, but he that counteth his own places can in no wise strike in the wrong place.

THOU SHALT NOT contemplate thy homework nor thy housework nor thy boy friend nor any characteristic of thy fellow ringers, lest when the bob is called thou be taken unawares and be utterly confounded.

Don't miss the **Christmas Fayre**

2pm at Bell Lane School, Saturday 6th December

Stalls include:

Silver and Gold, toiletries, chocolate tombola,

cakes, cards and gift wrap,

Christmas wreaths and plants; bran tub; seasonal refreshments.

Come to buy those last minute Christmas presents!

DECEMBER AND JANUARY DIARY



December

Week beginning

1	Monday	7.30pm	PCC	Vestry, St Cuthbert's
3	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (M U Corporate Communion) A S	
4	Thursday	10.00am	*Special Christmas Coffee Morning All Saints'	
6	Saturday	2.00pm	*Christmas Fayre	Bell Lane School
		7.30pm	*Houghton Main Male Voice Choir St Cuthbert's	

Week of

9 Tuesday 10—12 *A S Flower Fund Coffee Morning 'Solentia', next to

AS				
10	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
11	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'

Week of

17	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
		2.00pm	Howard School Carol Service	St Cuthbert's
18	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'

Week of

24	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
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SEE SEPARATE NOTICE FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

January

*** More details of events elsewhere in magazine**

Week beginning

5	Monday	7.30pm	PCC	Vestry, St Cuthbert's
6	Tuesday	The Feast of the Epiphany		
		7.30pm	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
7	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (M U Corporate Communion) A S	
8	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'

Week of

14	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
15	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'

Week of

21	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
		7.30pm	Ackworth Churches Together	Our Lady of Lourdes
22	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'

Week of

28	Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
29	Thursday	10.00am	Coffee Morning	All Saints'

From the Registers

Baptisms

- 31st August Freya Madeline Hopes
Oliver Anthony Bernard Peacock
- 14th September Mia Grace Roberts
Alfie Jack Jewitt
- 28th September Luisa Emily Szibor
Samuel Foster Brown
- 12th October Harrison Francis Maskill
James William Simms
Daniel Martin Malyan
- 26th October Lucy Elizabeth Jodrell-Bird
Bernard Connor Lewis



Marriages

- 4th October Gregg Palmer and Gaynor Ann Damari

Funerals

- 9th September Kenneth Moate (73) 27 Nostell Lane, Ryhill
- 15th September Elizabeth Gordon Stark Bacon (92) 26 Chiltern Court, Ackworth
- 18th September Ian Byrom (38) 3 Francis Street, Brackenhill
- 22nd September Robert William Christopher Watson (82) 14 Westfield Grove, Low Ackworth
- 29th September Clarence Jordan (89) Millfield Nursing Home, Pontefract
- 6th October Dennis Richardson (74) Riverside Court Nursing Home, Knottingley
- 7th October Edith Ellis (63) 44 Adston Hall Crescent, Ackton
- 15th October Barbara Miller (84) The Coppins Nursing Home, Brierley
- 20th October Maud Ellen Hardy (92) 2 Andrews Grove, Ackworth Moor Top
- 24th October Wilfred Guy (86) 57 Rhyddings Drive, Ackworth Moor Top

Update on the Surgery Building Project

Ivan Hanney

The extension to College Lane Surgery is progressing well. The Practice is presently operating out of the new wing while the existing building is being re-configured. In the next few weeks we expect to be able to take over most of the upper floor of the existing building. We badly need this increased space due to the recent appointment of extra staff.

The powers that be have insisted upon complicated drainage arrangements in what is presently being used as the car park. This necessitates the storage of enormous volumes of water beneath the car park prior to its soaking away further down the hill. We anticipate that this will put an extra four weeks onto the build time: thus the new projected completion date is the end of January.

More worrying for patients and the Practice is the likelihood of us needing to shut down the car park completely for anything up to five weeks for safety reasons. We have obtained permission from Metropolitan District Council for patients to use the car park at the top end of Bell Lane. This unfortunately would involve quite a walk for patients, but we feel it is preferable to risking life and limb in a dangerous car park. We will try to arrange for some kind of dropping off facility for elderly patients for whom such a walk would be prohibitive.



Needless to say, the Practice will be glad to get this project finished. We appreciate the inconvenience caused to patients and our neighbours. In addition it has meant that our staff has had to work in what to all intents and purposes has been a building site for a total of nearly a year. With the increased facilities and services which it will bring, I have no doubt that in the long term it will be worth it.

All Saints' Flowers Ethel Smith

Since I took responsibility for the flower rota at All Saints' Church almost thirty years ago, this has been the easiest year. Contributions both monetary and in the form of help have been given generously. More people are sponsoring a Sunday of their choice and the general fund has remained healthy. Mary, Jean and Valerie have been particularly helpful and skilled with arrangements and in giving their time.

continued opposite

Advent Events at the Methodist Church

There are four special events for you in Advent:

Saturday 29th November

Christmas Fayre,

with a special visit from Santa between 2 and

4pm



Saturday 6th December 7.00pm

Ackworth Youth Choir

Tickets £5

Concessions £3

Children £1

Tuesday 9th December 8.00pm

74 Club Candlelight Service

Sunday 14th December 10.45am

A real show stopper:

Boys' Brigade Nativity Service

The annual coffee morning for the fund will be held at Solentia (house next to the church on Tuesday 9th December 10—12. Seasonal refreshments. Gift stall of small seasonal gifts. Berried holly available.



I have prepared next year's rota of Sunday dates and festivals and hope to know from everyone wishing to sponsor a date as soon as possible.

P C C - October Jottings

- The old photocopier has now been sold for £220.
- The proceeds from the Restoration Walk will be around £860 with some of the sponsor money being gift-aided.
- We are reclaiming £2,104.51 VAT on the roof repairs from the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.
- There have been many positive comments on worship, especially about the harvest service. The format decided on at the awayday can be applied to seasonal material for all-age worship.
-

November Jottings

- Church fees are to be raised in line with the diocesan recommendations: Marriage to £550; Funeral to £200 and Interment of Ashes to £90
- The Diocese is increasing our Parish Share by 12% for 2004 to £31,521 It was noted that the Diocese has changed the system of calculating Parish Shares in order to meet budgetary increases, and Bill Branston is to write to them about this.
- The Rector is to arrange a meeting with Home Start, who wish to be our partner in the re-ordering of All Saints'.
- The DAC has approved our request to site a memorial bench at All Saints'.
- WMDC is to carry out essential work on trees in St Cuthbert's graveyard and do major work next year.
- The Archdeacon is to visit on 11 November for a meeting about the Glebe field.

Valerie Cook

A Bonfire Night to Remember

Pauline Wright

This year the whole bonfire period was blessed with good weather. On Saturday 8th November there were still plenty of people eager to set off more fireworks and bask in the heat of another blaze at Bill and Biddy Branston's in Andrews Grove. As well as having an excellent display of fireworks there, this proved to be a vantage spot for enjoying another brilliant display of fireworks to the west as well. A splendid guy burnt very well from his perch at the top of the bonfire. The families present made short work of the festive food.



All agreed it was a first rate night for fireworks, food and Christian fellowship.

Howard School Hits Them for Six

On 16th September, Class 5 from the Howard School went to Headingley Cricket Ground, where Yorkshire County Cricket Club play. They had a great time and everyone enjoyed it very much.



When the children got there they did lots of warm ups in the indoor cricket school. Next they did some catching and bowling skills. A bit later on they sat down for lunch and watched 20 minutes of the match between Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, which they thought was brilliant. Some of the bowlers bowled spin, but most of them bowled fast. They also said that you could hardly see the ball when it was bowled, it was that fast. Damian Martin was beginning his double century.

After that it was their turn to have a go on the outfield. They played kwik cricket in groups of eight, which they said was great fun. They each took it in turns to bat and bowl. They were putting their practice into the real thing. Afterwards they returned to their bus and set off back to school. They had had a great day out!

Hobey Lightowler
Age 10
Howard School

Echoes of Harvest

A speaker at a Harvest Family Service asked the children to name some of the things they saw on display.

'Carrots,' said one.

'Potatoes,,' said another.

'Peas,' said a third.

'Good,' said the speaker. Now can anyone give me a word that covers all these things?'

'Gravy,' was the prompt reply.



An Evening with Simeon

Unfortunately fewer than 60 people came to enjoy an evening of music and humour with Huddersfield born and bred Simeon Wood, who was making his second visit to us.

Certainly those who did come were treated to a very entertaining evening by an obviously dedicated Christian, from Barnsley jokes to J S Bach jazzed up! Simeon played tunes of his own composition – these were inspired by wind and clouds and the sea, many with a Christian theme – as well as well known tunes, such as Gershwin's 'Summertime' and Sondheim's 'Send in the Clowns' - on his flute, or Celtic whistle. We had a version of Saint Saens' 'Swan' from 'Carnival of the Animals' on the bass flute, accompanied by harp.

There was a wealth of jigs, mainly of an Irish flavour, played on the piccolo, with audience participation for the 'Bavarian Peasants' Handclapping Jig'. He used the curved Romanian pan pipes for 'You are the Wind beneath my Wings' and his 'Camel Train to Alice', which was inspired by 24 hours on the train covering the 1500 miles from Adelaide to Alice Springs. The camels come from the fact that Afghan traders used to ply the route in this way, trading with settlers and aboriginals. The final instrument he treated us to was the didgeridoo, which the Aborigines call the idaka. It is the termites who create the instrument, by eating out the centre of the wood. On this he produced the sounds of the kangaroo hopping and the kookaburra – yes, they were just distinguishable! It was very interesting to see, hear and learn the history of the different instruments. The final treat was his own 'From a Distance; God looking down on His Creation.

Ackworth Concert Society

Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm in Badsworth Church

Anthony Thompson—Trumpet

Gordon Stewart—Organ

Saturday 10th January 2004 at 7.30pm

The Meeting House, Ackworth School

An Evening of Jazz

Jacqueline Dankworth, Dominic Seldis, James Pearson

Homeopathy



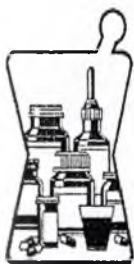
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THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY Ann Attack

There were many people at the Thursday coffee morning at All Saints' on 9th October. There were students from Oak Tree Park School with their teachers, and seventy-five people who came to receive their flu jabs, as well as many of our regular attenders. We continue to thank everybody involved in this wonderful opportunity to reach out to the community and to raise money for the Restoration Appeal. The current total raised by these coffee morning events is £9,500

On the second Sunday in October there were many new faces in St Cuthbert's Church. What a lovely surprise it was to see the church almost full! There was a wonderful Harvest display provided by our village community. Lots of food: tinned, dried and home produce was donated and the following day it was taken to a charity for young homeless people in Leeds called Caring for life

The different groups contributing to this were Bell Lane Nursery, The Howard School, Guides, Scouts, The British Legion, The Heritage Group, Probus, Darby and Joan, Yorkshire Country Women, Ackworth United Charities and our own young people.

The service was a delight to all who came. There was traditional and modern music. Eight-year-old Jacob Place read an extract from the Bible. Our teenagers read the prayers and the Rector Paul Hartley gave an inspiring sermon on "Sowing seeds and the fruits of the spirit". Everyone went home, very happy, after two hours praising God, sharing fellowship and learning more about their own community .

A VILLAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL

Ian and Stella Hall

We were fortunate enough to have eight days holiday at the beginning of October in rural Shropshire where the weather was beautiful and the countryside with its spectacular foliage was breathtaking.

We were staying "off the beaten track" in the former home of the Burgher of Bridgnorth built in the nineteenth century who had, among its other beautifully appointed furnishings, managed to acquire some magnificent Tudor oak panelling with which to refurbish the superb dining room. Our hosts, Cynthia and Geoff kindly offered to take us with them to their Harvest Festival, which coincided with their Patronal Festival.

The Parish Church at Astley Abbots is dedicated to Saint Calixtus -of whom we had never heard! Suffice it to say there is only one other church in the country (in Devon) also dedicated to this particular obscure saint. Little is known about him save that he was



Bishop of Rome in 217 A.D. and was martyred in A.D. 223-reputedly by having a millstone hung around his neck and then being thrown into a well to drown. It is thought that the reason the church was dedicated to St. Calixtus was because the date of the consecration was the feast day of St. Calixtus, which is on October the fourteenth. There is a small picture of him in the one stained glass window above the altar, composed of thirteenth Century glass. The only other evidence of the saint is on the pulpit's seventeenth century panelling where there appears to be a carving of a well.

The small church was wonderfully decorated with Autumnal flowers and foliage such as chrysanthemums, dahlias, Michaelmas daisies etc. and there was a well there to remind the congregation of their special Saint. There were traditional harvest hymns and an inspiring sermon from a visiting vicar. Everyone was very welcoming and we enjoyed a glass of sherry after the service with them

The congregation seek to reverse the unfortunate association of St. Calixtus and a well by sponsoring a new well for the water supply in Sikonge in Tanzania. For Calixtus a well meant death, but for the people of Sikonge a well represents pure safe water and life. To this end the collection was for this project.

Whilst socialising after the service we noticed near the back of the church something, which was new to us. There was a date (May 10th) and some object we didn't recognise. When we asked about it we were told that it was a Maiden's Garland. Apparently in 1707 Hannah Phillips, who lived across the River Severn, was crossing the river the night before her wedding to arrange the flowers when the boat capsized and she unfortunately drowned. The "Garland" contains the gloves and headdress she was to wear. Apparently there are similar memorials in Shropshire Churches to girls who died before their weddings or to women who died without marrying.

Christmas Greetings to All Our Friends and Neighbours in Ackworth

Thanks to you all. Thank you for your prayers, your lifts, doing the shopping, childcare, visits and dog walking. We don't know what we would have done without you all during David's long illness.

We shall be glad of your ongoing support.

We trust in God for the future.

Happy Christmas to All.

Kirsty, James and Andrew

FLOWERS AT CHRISTMAS

The Poinsettia, sometimes called the Christmas flower, was named for Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the U.S. Ambassador to the newly independent Republic of Mexico from 1825-1829. As a keen botanist and gardener, he introduced the poinsettia to America. It was used in Mexico to decorate the churches at Christmastime and was called 'flor de la noche buena, the Nativity flower'. It is a member of the spurge family.

The colour which we find so attractive comes not from its flowers, a rather insignificant yellow, but from its brilliant red bracts. Although it comes from Mexico it is actually a short-day plant, setting flowers only when the nights are long and the days are short. It can grow to 16 feet in its natural setting. Here it is commonly raised in commercial greenhouses in time for the Christmas trade. Many of you will have been given a bought one in years past, but have you ever managed to make it bloom again for the following Christmas? The secret is to cover it over early every evening, so that it gets no light and has a short day.

This could be called practising 'poinsettismo'. The Mexicans coined the word to describe intrusive and officious behaviour - Dr. Pointsett's policies were very unpopular. In addition to his botanical interests he was also a founder of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science and Useful Arts which later became the Smithsonian.

Helleborus Niger, commonly called the Christmas Rose and a member of the buttercup family is another flower for this season. It really does flower at Christmas, even in the snow, if we have any. It goes on blooming for weeks and the plants are very long lived.



Tradition says it blossomed outside the stable at Bethlehem, although in actual fact it is not a native of the Holy Land. The legend has it that a little girl visiting the stable cried because she had no present to give the Christ child. Her tears fell in the snow and an angel showed her the Christmas Rose growing through the snow to use as her gift.

The plant is actually extremely poisonous, its botanical name is from the Greek hellein (to kill) and bora (food). From ancient times it was used as a medicine (with care)! especially to cure worms in children. The famous Naturalist, the Rev. Gilbert White mentioned it in his letters from Selbourne in the late 1700's, warning that it is "a violent remedy that kills the worms but might also kill the patient." John Gerard, the 16th Century herbalist and superintendent of Lord

Burghley's gardens, wrote that it was good for "mad and furious men...and for all those that are troubled with black choler and molested with melancholy."

It is rather odd to find that such a beautiful flower relies on snails to spread its seeds. They eat the oil covering the seed and carry the rest away in their slime. It is not the easiest of plants to grow and greatly resents being disturbed but perseverance brings a worthwhile reward.

African Christmas

Here are no signs of festival,
No holly and no mistletoe,
No robin and no crackling fire,
And no soft feathery fall of snow.

In England one could read the words
Telling how shepherds in the fold
Followed the star and reached the barn
Which kept the Saviour from the cold.

And picture in one's mind the scene -
The tipsy, cheerful foreign troops,
The kindly villages who stood
About the Child in awkward groups.

But in this blazing Christmas heat
The ox, the ass, the bed of hay
The shepherds and the Holy Child
Are stilted figures in a play.

Exiles, we see that we, like slaves
To symbol and to memory,
Have worshipped, not the incarnate Christ,
But tinsel on the Christmas tree.

John Press

Christmas Contrasts

Christmas in Alaska

Jean Reast

Several years ago I was invited to spend Christmas in Alaska with my son and his wife and children and I eagerly sorted out my warmest clothes and wondered just cold it would be.

Initially my fears were unfounded as, when I arrived in Anchorage in mid December, there was no snow and the temperature was above freezing. (I learned later that this was most unusual). However a day or two after landing we went to a concert in which my daughter-in-law was in the choir and on leaving the Hall there was a lot of noise and people were cheering, whistling and clapping and I wondered what was going on. I soon found out - it was snowing heavily and the snow was already about 6" thick, so it was going to be a white Christmas after all!

I also went to the Phillips Petroleum Family Party held in the Anchorage Headquarters of the Company, where every kind of food was laid out and you just helped yourself. There were games and amusements to keep the children occupied and entertainment for the adults but the highlight of the evening for me was the ride in an open carriage pulled by 2 horses through the streets of Anchorage. We were well wrapped up of course and had large blankets tucked round us to keep us warm, and it was lovely to see all the decorations in the city. We also went through a park where all the trees had lights in them. It was a magical ride.

On 24th December we went to a church service in Anchorage and the church was beautifully decorated with a huge tree and the service was very similar to our own.

Christmas Day was a typically English Christmas Day with presents for the children and turkey for Christmas dinner - but outside there was a foot of snow.

On the whole Alaska was not as cold as I thought it would be as the air is very dry and not wet and damp like ours.

There is one other thing that is very different in Alaska and that is the daylight - only about 4 hours of daylight by mid December and on dull days it didn't seem to get light at all! They benefit in mid summer of course by having only about 4 hours of darkness.

Christmas in Australia

Elsie and Geoff Wood have both a son and a daughter living out in Perth, so at Christmas the temperature was in the 80's / 90's. Everyone is glad when the 'Fremantle Doctor' arrives in the evening—a breeze from the ocean, which brings the temperature down to a pleasant level.


One evening just before Christmas the family attended an outdoor torch and lantern lit Carol Service in a natural amphitheatre in a huge, beautiful park. Many, many families took part, singing of the birth of the baby Jesus 'in the cold bleak midwinter' - far away in time and space!

On Christmas Day they all went off to the beach—from Perth clean sandy beaches spread mile after mile both north and south—where everyone enjoyed swimming and beach games. Then out came the picnic hampers stuffed with delicacies including smoked salmon, cold turkey and champagne, not forgetting the coolers. It was not quite the setting for Christmas pudding!

While all families relaxed and feasted, Father Christmas rode through the sea in his sledge(an inflatable lifeboat), suitably decorated. He came close inshore, throwing coloured tennis balls and gifts out for the children, who leapt from their Christmas lunch to catch them; then ran along the water's edge, hoping for more.

In the evening there was a great family party at home beside the pool; rounding off a Christmas like no other for Elsie and Geoff.

<i>Flowers</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>AS</i>	<i>Brasses & Cleaning</i>
<i>Advent</i>	-	-	<i>Nora Barnard</i>
<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Pam Sutcliffe</i>
<i>January</i>			
<i>4th</i>	<i>Vacant</i>		
<i>11th</i>	<i>Jean Reast</i>		
<i>18th</i>	<i>Vera McWilliam</i>	<i>Flower Fund</i>	
<i>25th</i>	<i>Peter McWilliam</i>		



Phyllis and Ethel would be very glad to have more people contributing flowers, or actually arranging them as well.

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THE PARISH OF ACKWORTH

St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

Sunday Services – December 2003 and January 2004

7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion	St Cuthbert's
5.30pm	*Gift Service	St Cuthbert's

NB There Will Be No Evensong at All Saints'

14th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.30am	Holy Communion - BCP (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
3.00pm	Village Carol Service	St Cuthbert's

21st December 4th Sunday of Advent

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

28th December The First Sunday of Christmas

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

4th January The Second Sunday of Christmas

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

11th January The Baptism of Christ

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

18th January The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am	Holy Communion (said)	All Saints'
10.15am	Parish Communion and Junior Church	St Cuthbert's
7.00pm	Ackworth Churches Together United Service	Meeting House, Ackworth School

NB There will be no Evensong at All Saints'

25th January The Third Sunday of Epiphany

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

Special Christmas Services

Sunday 30th November

4.00pm	Christingle Service	All Saints'
6.00pm	Christingle Service	St Cuthbert's

Sunday 7th December

5.30pm	*Gift Service	St Cuthbert's
	NB There Will Be No Evensong at All Saints'	

Sunday 14th December

3.00pm	Village Carol Service	St Cuthbert's
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Sunday 21st December

3.30pm	Carol Service	All Saints'
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24th December Christmas Eve

5.30pm	Carols around the Crib	St Cuthbert's
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Cuthbert's

Christmas Day

8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's

* Please note that everyone is invited to bring a gift. This is your opportunity to make a child's Christmas special. Please wrap your gift and mark 'boy' or 'girl' and suitable age. All gifts will be collected by the local Social Services to be distributed in time for Christmas. Please note that any gifts brought to church after this time will have to be

Copy for the next issue to be with one of the editors by **Friday, 9th January, 2004**, please.