



Ackworth Parish Magazine



April 2006/May 2006
50p per copy (£3 per year)

~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

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Dear Friends,

Holy week and Easter, a time in the churches year when Christians are left reeling!

We journey through eight days so full of major milestones in the life of our Lord and master, that we are left open-mouthed gasping in awe, amazed at all those acts of self-giving love, love for us. Through that week from Palm Sunday to Easter day, besides being exhausted by the number of services and many devotions, the acts of commemoration all highly charged with spiritual significance so that when we look back it seems like a blur and, sadly, we often miss some of the extremely important teaching that Jesus offers us in those supreme acts of self-giving.

As our Lord rides into Jerusalem, he knew what awaited him; the fate to which he rode, and yet he rode on. When our Lord first arrives at Jerusalem we read of him weeping as he gazed out over this beautiful city, seeing the ugliness that lies beneath its façade. And so he rides into the city in an attitude of acceptance; he embraces the agony which he knows lies ahead of him.

There is at one and the same time a feeling that he is in control; obedient to his Father's will, - and yet a weakness that displays his fully human side. In this week to come we will see abject fear; in the garden he sweats great drops of blood and pleads "Father, if it is possible, take this cup from me ...", and on the cross as blood pours out of his wounds and he utters those despairing words "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." He journeys through this week knowing that at any time he could escape and yet he allows himself to be used - the master.

Maundy Thursday--and so his passion heightens as he loses control and is handed over to the will of others. Before he is taken by the mob in the garden we see two significant acts where he gathers with his friends to share the Passover. As his apostles arrive at the upper room to share this meal. Jesus wraps a towel around his waist and begins to wash his disciples' feet, an event we re-enact in our Maundy Thursday service.

This supreme lesson of service towards others is followed by the offering of bread and wine, a sharing in his body and blood, the ultimate offering of his life for us and a symbol 'par excellence' by which we would all remember him for time immemorial. With both acts he commands us to do the same (John 13:15 and Luke 22:19). Both are

acts of total self-giving; both acts which he does of his own will before he is given into the hands of others. He then goes out with selected disciples and faces that moment of agony in the garden when he begs his father to take the cup of suffering from him. The same as many, he wasn't afraid of death, but was afraid of dying. The mental, emotional and physical agony.

Good Friday need no introduction as the day when our Lord suffers the greatest agonies possible. He is tortured cruelly; he suffers a long slow lingering death; he feels deserted by all - even his heavenly Father and he succumbs to the 'greatest enemy' death, and is laid in a stranger's tomb; *'In life, no house, no home, my Lord on earth might have; in death no friendly tomb, but what a stranger gave'*. But as we Christians are well aware, death did not have the last word - in fact we wouldn't be here if it did! We are Christians because we believe faithfully that Jesus rose again on that glorious Easter morn.

We all know well the various resurrection accounts from the empty tomb to the Ascension on the hill outside Jerusalem. But, as a book I was reading recently points out, has it ever struck you that a common feature of many of the resurrection accounts is that Jesus is not recognised immediately? On the Easter morning, Mary thinks he is the gardener; on the road to Emmaus, Cleopas and his companion don't recognise Jesus; when the disciples are fishing they do not recognise the man stood on the shore. None of them recognise the risen Lord until he utters a familiar greeting or performs a recognisable action. In the garden, he calls Mary by name; at the end of the Emmaus road, he breaks bread; by the lakeside he tells them to cast heir nets on the other side of the boat and then shares breakfast - loaves and fishes! By these familiar words and actions he draws closer to him and yet there can no longer be physical contact (John 20:17). Though he is now spirit, his words have been made flesh. Signs, symbols and words which were personal to just those disciples, have now become the living presence of our Lord for generations and millennia to come.

The resurrection is not a long one-off event of the past but an ever present reality, WE are now and Easter people!

Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter
from Paul and Sue



Easy Easter Word Search

BRZEASTERFBD
AIUNBCAVODSY
SGYCHOCOLATE
KERANLAGLSRB
EGGMXONFBKOU
THUNTRDIYDBE
OLBUNNYTFUNA

Word List

basket	Easter
bunny	egg
candy	fun
chocolate	hunt
color	roll
dye	



Building God's Way

At present I'm reading Nehemiah and I have to say that it has surprised and delighted me. I suspect that Paul (Hartley) is getting fed up with my telling him about the exciting things God is showing me through this unlikely book. There are riches dotted through the whole thing but I'm simply going to pick out a couple of points which particularly struck me. The story is essentially that of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after the return of the exiles from Babylon but in this simple story are lots of lessons for each of us as individuals and as a church family.

When Nehemiah heard about what had happened to God's city he cared:

"When I heard these words I sat down and wept,"

Do we care this much about God's house and God's kingdom?
Has our faith ever reduced us to tears?

He prayed about it and went on praying. There were some months between hearing about the problem and the next step. He was faithful.

When the time was right for action despite the fact that he was:

"very much afraid"

he acted. He asked God for help and then made his request simply and quietly to King Artaxerxes. The king honoured his request.

He did his homework. He inspected the walls.

Having seen the problem he presented it to others. He got people on board.

Chapter three is quite extraordinary. I read it just over a week ago with frequent pauses to praise God and to delight in what I was reading. It looks like a boring list of names but look more closely. These are real people - Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs, he and his daughters, priests and goldsmiths and perfumers all working together. Each took responsibility for a section. I found this

an amazing model for cooperative ministry.

Chapter four is a model of trust in God together with practical action. The people prayed and then took up swords and spears. They stayed alert. They protected one another. As I read this chapter I felt it said a lot about the importance of collaborative ministry. Standing back to back with another is a safe model. One protects the other. One prays for the other. Maybe this is one of the strengths of Paul and I working together!

The whole book of Nehemiah has a lot to teach us whether we're in a position of church leadership or not. It tells us about waiting on God. It tells us about appropriate response. It tells us about responsibility. It tells us about caring for one another. I've only looked at the first few chapters but certainly I'm surprised by what God is showing me through a book I wouldn't naturally have gone to.

The story is fast moving, there's action, plot and counter plot. At the least its worth an individual read. I think it could make an amazing study for us as a church as we wait on God for the way forward in his service. Any takers?

Love in Christ

Jenny



NEHEMIAH, THE KING'S CUPBEARER

FROM SAYWELL'S HISTORY OF ACKWORTH

This extract from Saywell tells us about the use of the stocks in Ackworth.

"The primitive method of punishment by exposure in the stocks, ceased in Ackworth in or about the year 1863. They were placed originally near the pinfold which is in itself in good condition but never used. They were subsequently removed to the vacant corner near the church gates, and there they stood until they were taken up and burnt. The last man confined therein was a man who was in the habit of imbibing a little too freely, and having allowed his enemy to steal away his senses, he was consigned to "durance vile" to await their return. It is said that the sympathizing inhabitants of Vinegar Hill supplied him with an umbrella to shield him from the evening dew, and brought him beer and tobacco, wherewith to beguile his weary hours.

But another instance is still remembered, and much oftener commented upon, that of a man who it is said had three children christened, and was himself married and put into the stocks all in one day! It appears the Rector had promised that if he would come to Church, have his three natural children baptised, and marry the woman with whom he had been living, no fee would be charged, and that a joint of beef from the Rectory would grace the marriage festivities.

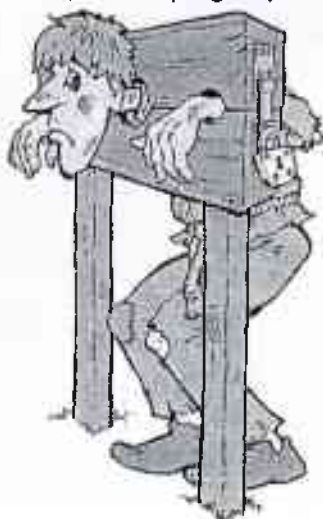
The neighbours unwisely but good-humouredly backed up this generous offer with a barrel of beer, which Will caused to be tapped before starting to Church. The consequence was that his courage was not only screwed up to the sticking point, but his limbs were rendered very limp. The service concluded, Will, in stooping to pick up his hat, stumbled,

and was quickly placed in the stocks by the Churchwardens, aided by the village constable. There he remained whilst the wedding party issued from the Church, and until his fond spouse returned with a substantial repast. All this occurred in March 1849."

Once bad people
suffered in stocks.

~

Now good people
suffer in meetings.



CHURCHWARDENS AND SIDESMEN

Seeing in Saywell's extract the churchwarden's role in dealing with disorderly behaviour in Church and it being the time of year for the election of church officers these two articles from old magazines seemed relevant in dealing with the duties of these men in times past. The first article is from forty six years ago in 1960. Things have changed.

"In every village there are two men usually of high repute, solid both physically and financially, who are called churchwardens. They exist in towns too, but do not loom so large there. Some of these Churchmen have been in office for years and in some cases the office has been passed from father to son.

There are usually sidesmen attached to the Church to assist the wardens, but they are lesser luminaries. If you were to ask why they are called sidesmen, you would probably get the answer that it is because they collect in the side aisles. Nothing could be more apparent, and nothing more wrong. The word sidesman is a corruption of the word synodsman, and is a much older word than Churchwarden. Originally Bishops used to hold a synod, a custom coming once more into use, and to those synods they summoned men whom they had already appointed in each parish, and these men had to present to the Bishop an account of the state of affairs in their parishes, and how the clergy performed their duties. These men were called a synods man, which was afterwards shortened to sidesmen.

In the 14th century the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered that in each parish two men should be appointed to look after the fabric of the Church. Up to this time the Rector or Vicar was the sole authority. At the annual meeting of the parishioners the Churchwardens are appointed, one by the people, called the people's warden, and the other by the Rector, called the Rector's warden. Although wardens and sidesmen may go on for many years, each year they must be re-elected. Since parochial church councils have been formed, Churchwardens have lost much of their power. They are no longer administrators of the poor rate, overseers of the poor, and responsible for the roads and bridges in their villages. They form, with the Rector the standing committee, dealing with the day to day affairs of the parish."

The next extract comes from a magazine of the nineteen fifties and lists more of the responsibilities of the Churchwarden.

"Not everyone knows that one of the duties of the Churchwardens is to arrest persons guilty of bad behaviour, and to bring them before a magistrate under the *Brawling in Churches Act of 1860*. They should also maintain order in the churchyard, direct people where to sit, and remove those who sit in the wrong place, always provided that no unnecessary force is used.

Yet those are the facts. The number of Churchwardens likely to have to invoke the *Brawling in Church Act* is possibly, and fortunately few. Who are Churchwardens? What do they do? Who can be a Churchwarden?

Unless disqualified, all householders in the parish are liable, and all persons eligible for the Church Council are eligible for this office. Incidentally, for such is the law, minors, aliens, Jews and persons convicted of felony, perjury or fraud, are not. Peers, sheriffs, barristers, solicitors, physicians and surgeons can claim exemption on professional grounds. This does not mean that they cannot be churchwardens if they choose and are elected.

The office of Churchwarden is a very honourable and ancient one and those who fill it occupy a position of service to the Church second to none. The Church could not do without them; they are part of it, and have been for many centuries.

So it is not by any means only a matter of carrying a wand in procession when the Bishop comes, or helping to look to the finances of the Church, or keeping the rain out and the heat in. The real essence of the job lies in the opportunity it affords of giving service to the Church in terms of character and example."



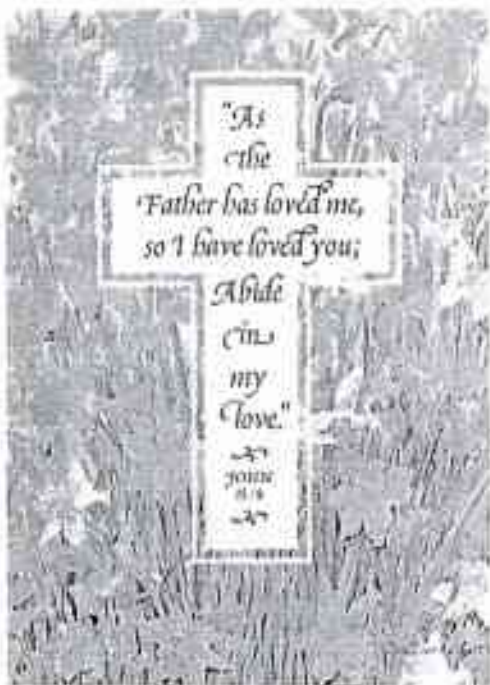
AN AFTER EASTER PRAYER

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise Him only in his temple
In Easter hymn and prayer.

Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do.
He taught us: "Love one another
Even as I love you".

Elsie Campbell



ALL FOOLS DAY

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this; between midnight and noon on April the first, everyone is "fair game" to be made into a fool. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a "fool's errand". And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for "the life of Eve's Mother". Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London which read, "Admit the bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of the Washing of the White Lions". Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula:

"April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none."



ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

APRIL 2 ND	LENT
APRIL 9 TH	LENT
APRIL 16 TH	EASTER FLOWERS (CONGREGATION)
APRIL 23 RD	EASTER FLOWERS (CONGREGATION)
APRIL 30 TH	FLOWER FUND
MAY 7 TH	FLOWER FUND
MAY 14 TH	ETHEL SMITH
MAY 21 ST	BETTY JOHNSON
MAY 28 TH	(MISS) MARY WALKER

ST CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

APRIL 2 ND	LENT
APRIL 9 TH	LENT
APRIL 16 TH	EASTER FLOWERS (CONGREGATION)
APRIL 23 RD	EASTER FLOWERS (CONGREGATION)
APRIL 30 TH	MOLLIE GARDHAM
MAY 7 TH	JANET BATEMAN
MAY 14 TH	VACANT
MAY 21 ST	VACANT
MAY 28 TH	VACANT

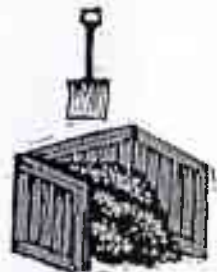
BRASSES

APRIL	PHYLLIS ASQUITH
MAY	VACANT



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St Cuthbert's and All Saints' Social Committee

Calendar of Events 2006

March	Sat 25th	Trip to Theatre	Wakefield
April	Sun 2nd	AGM	7.30 pm All Saints
May	Fri 5 th	The Anthony Thompson Trio	7.30 pm St Cuthbert's
	Sat 20 th	Table Top Sale	Bell Lane School
June	9 th , 10 th , 11th	Parish weekend	Scargill House
	Sun 18 th	Jenny's Ordination	11am Wakefield Cathedral.
		Celebration Lunch First Communion.	2.30 pm 6.30 pm St Cuthbert's
	Sat 24 th	Ackworth Gala Stalls	Carr Bridge Field 1.00pm onwards
	24 th 25th	Ackworth Show	Nostell Priory
July	TBC	Barbeque	Details later
	TBC	Celebration on the Green	Village Green St Cuthbert's
Sept	Sat 30th	Sharlston Singers	7.30 pm St Cuthbert's
Oct	Sat 7 th	Simeon Entertains	St Cuthbert's
	Sun 29th	Mary Walker's Craft stall	All Saints St Cuthbert's
Nov	Sat 4 th TBC	Church Bonfire	TBC
Dec	Sat 16 th TBC	Santa Day	Parish Rooms

Please note that some dates and venues are still to be confirmed and therefore subject to change. For further information please contact Biddy on 01977 610590, Lyn on 01977 614125, Jean on 01977 616183 or Margaret on 01977 611400.

AS HEARD AND SEEN BY CHILDREN

Little Pitchers

"Little pitchers" may have long ears, but they do not always catch too quickly what grown ups pour into them!



One small boy insisted that his teacher had taught him from the 23rd psalm: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures" and insisted, "teacher knows".



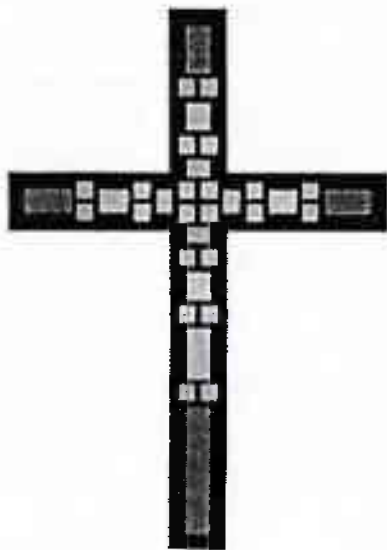
Another young boy was taken to London for the first time. After being shown some of the well-known sights, he asked to see Thames Station. On being told there was no such place, he persisted, "I say it in my prayers -



"Lead us not into Thames Station, so there must be."

God's Kiss

An eight-year-old boy was taken to church by his aunt. There he made his first acquaintance with a stained glass window. It was in the chancel, and held his attention more than did the sermon, especially one detail in it. Immediately he was outside the building he could not contain his excitement over what he had seen. "Did you see God's Kiss?" "Whatever do you mean?" she enquired. "I saw it", he said. "God's kiss on the window at the end of the church. I make my kisses crooked when I write my letters, but God's kiss is straight up". He had seen the Cross and understood its message.



April and May Readings and Readers

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	All Saints'
02/04/06	Passion Sunday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33	George Scargill	Mrs S Hall
09/04/06	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4 - 9 a	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 15:1-39	Briony Lewis	Mrs Backhouse
16/04/06	Easter Day	Isaiah 25:6-9	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18	Jane Siddall	Mrs M Walker
23/04/06	2nd Sunday of Easter	Exodus 14:10-31 and 15:20-21	1 John 1:1 - 2:2	John 20:19-end	Sue Hartley	Dr McWilliam
30/04/06	3rd Sunday of Easter	Zephaniah 3:14-20	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b - 48	Mr Shaw	Mrs S Hall
07/05/06	4th Sunday of Easter	Genesis 7:1 - 5 & 11-18; 8:6-18 & 9:8-13	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18	Susan Clarke	Mrs Backhouse
14/05/06	5th Sunday of Easter	Genesis 22:1-18	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8	Miss Parker	Mrs M Walker
21/05/06	6th Sunday of Easter	Isaiah 55:1-11	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17	Emil Brown	Dr McWilliam
28/05/06	7th Sunday of Easter	Ezekiel 36:24-28	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19	George Scargill	Mrs S Hall



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HANDY HINTS FROM OLD MAGAZINES

These two old handy hints should be of some use to at least one of our readers who has an interest in the problem of buttons which have an unfortunate habit of falling off garments and in particular shirts.

First - "When sewing on buttons that have four holes, pass the

thread through two of the holes only. Then cut the thread, and sew through the remaining holes. In this way the button will be held in place by two separate threads: if one snaps the other will keep the button secure."



Second - "Have a needle and thread and a stock of small buttons near the ironing board. Then when a button is found to be missing from a garment a fresh one can be sewn in place at once."



Report of Heather Cavill and Hayley Siddall

Denmark 2005

Hayley Siddall and Heather Cavill, members of our church and Trailblazer group had the opportunity to visit Denmark for the Guldborgsuoeljen International camp in July last year. They attended a selection weekend in September 2004 and then had six months to raise £1000 each to pay for the trip. They held cake stalls, raffles, chocolate tombolas and went carol singing as well as writing to local businesses and groups to ask for donations. Here is the report of their trip.

Our journey began on Friday the 15th of July 2005 with a gathering at Huddersfield train station. There were 14 of us altogether, each one of us nervous and excited at the same time. The train took us to Manchester airport, for a rather uneventful flight.

Arriving in Copenhagen we were greeted by the rain. We had to catch a train and a metro before we could walk to the hostel, arriving tired and very soggy!

We travelled into the city centre looking forward to having some food. When we finally found a place to suit our needs, we found out that the pizza place was closing. We were served our tea and ended up finding a pavement to sit and eat.

The next day we set off on a very cramped bus with our enormous rucksacks to catch a train. The train took us quite near to the campsite, but we still had to walk for an hour, including getting lost on the way.

Arriving at the campsite was amazing. So many different uniforms and languages in one area. We found our hosts, who would be looking after us for a week and we were set to work straight away.

The Danish scouts had made an entrance out of wood and rope and it was our turn to make a fence by axing points into logs. We also made a table with benches using several different knot tying skills.

On the Monday morning a church ceremony at 7:00am started the day off. Then we had a big activity



day building more things out of wood. The leaders designed and we built a pillow fighting arena. It was fun all around. We travelled round other activities such as walking across high poles and other adventurous things.



We took a bus trip to the local zoo and we were entertained on the way there by Israeli scouts singing and dancing.

After spending around 2 hours looking at llamas, birds, otters, reindeer, monkeys and turtles we finished off by buying an ice-cream and post cards at the gift shop. There was also a play park

with unusual basket shaped swings.

That afternoon we went raft building in the lake. It wasn't what we expected because the raft was made out of tarpaulin, conifer trees and more string. Unfortunately the raft sunk!

On Friday a themed activity day was held called 'to travel is to live'. There were different activities from around the world such as sumo wrestling, waffle making, karaoke and American football.

On Saturday we had our faces painted in bright colours. Everybody had different coloured Kneckers that were put on their heads. We all stood in a big circle and had a Birdseye photograph taken.

Sunday was our final time on camp. We took down all our wooden creations and piled the logs into a truck.

Group photos were taken and a coach took us to the scout hut in Rappesten. We were very sad to leave as we had made lots of friends, especially with Scouts from Ireland and Scotland, some of whom we have made contact with and spoken to on MSN since our return.

We met our host families and settled down for the next 2 days.

We all met back up on Tuesday night for a final get together. We had stew for tea and then popped popcorn on an open fire.

We all made a big circle. The Danish flag was taken down at the end of the evening and many tearful goodbyes were shed.

On Wednesday we were back at the same hostel for the rest of our stay

in Denmark. We used our spare time for shopping and sight seeing. We went on a boat trip to see the statue of the little mermaid and visited the Hans Christian Anderson museum.

On Thursday we went to a theme park called Tivoli gardens in the centre of Copenhagen. Then we crammed in some shopping. Our final meal was at a Chinese restaurant where we filled our selves up with noodles, rice and prawn crackers.

We truly enjoyed our experience in Denmark. Thank you to everyone for making it possible.

Hayley Siddall and Heather Cavill (Ackworth Rangers and Young leaders)



SAINT MARK

Saint Mark's day is celebrated on April the 25th. He died around 74 A.D. Mark, the son of Mary, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and his twelve apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is usually also identified as the young man, described in Mark chapter 14 verse 51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130 A.D., said that in later years mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his "son".

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him.

Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus.

Early in the ninth century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence in Venice.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ACKWORTH

Pro Musica

Anthony Thompson - Trumpet

Christina Lee - Mezzo Soprano

David Ward - Keyboard

Friday 5th May 7.30pm

St. Cuthbert's Church

Ackworth

Tickets £6 adults £5 concessions
For further details phone 01977 614642

How to Stay Safe in Today's World

Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking on streets or pavements because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.

Avoid travelling by air, rail or water, because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transport.

Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT

You will be pleased to learn that only 0.01% of all deaths occur during Church services, and these are usually related to physical disorders.

Therefore logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given time is in Church!

AND

Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible Study is even lower than those in Church.

So, for safety's sake – attend church, and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

YORKSHIRE COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

On Thursday 11th May Mrs. Elma Mangnall is coming to the meeting to speak of her experience when receiving Maundy Money from Her Majesty the Queen at Wakefield Cathedral. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm in Low Ackworth Community Hall. Everyone is welcome to come-gentlemen included.



Where can I fit God in this week?

Is this a question which you have asked? I recently had a conversation about peoples' commitment to God. I was making all sorts of excuses for those who, on the face of it, seem to lack commitment. I believe that today's society is changing very rapidly, even within a decade things change quickly. It seems much harder to keep up these days, but perhaps that is a sign of age.

We live in a society today where things are experiences in short chunks. TV programmes are often split up into sections. Look at TV news, it is interrupted several times to advertise what is going to be on the programme later. The assumption being that we might get bored and turn it off half way through. Even relationships are in short chunks. The divorce rate is rising. Many couples enter marriage with a view that they can always get a divorce if it doesn't work out. Some couples even draw up a prenuptial agreement, in case they separate. My view would be that if you think you might separate, is there any point in getting married in the first place. Many young people today go further, they have a brief, often one night relationship. There is no commitment, no thought of even continuing the relationship once gratification has been achieved. Worse, there is often no remorse or thought of consequence.

So is it really surprising that some people find it hard to commit themselves to God, someone whom we cannot even see, let alone touch? Well perhaps. Having made all those excuses, where should we advise people to fit God in? Commitment to God is not necessarily about attending church services regularly, that is probably the end result of commitment. It is more about opening your eyes, to see God at work. About opening your mind to new possibilities with God. About opening your heart to let God in. About offering your life as a living sacrifice, to be sent out into the world in the power of the Spirit, to live and work to God's glory and praise.

If you do all this, then you will be committed to God, and spending

time with Him regularly, not just on Sundays. I am heartened by the words of Jesus in Marks' Gospel 6:30-31. After the disciples had been out working in God's service, they returned to Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. It was busy. Mark tells us that Jesus and His disciples did not have time to eat because they were so busy. How common is that. You return home from a busy day, and still it is busy, with even no time to eat. But it is then that Jesus speaks: "Let us go off by ourselves to some place where we will be alone and you can rest for a while." Thank you Jesus for those words, how I long to hear them at the end of a busy day.

The answer is, go to Jesus, and find a space, alone, where you can rest in His presence.

Oh, and by the way, it's useful to take His word with you, just in case he asks questions!!

Paul Fox

St Cuthbert's Chill-out!

On a cool Saturday evening in February, seventeen adults and six young people met together in pleasant surroundings (the vestry) - eating!

On offer was an assortment of Indian food and pizzas supplied by the Balti Bazaar in Bell Lane, delivered steaming hot and served attractively and efficiently by members of the Social Committee.

A variety of dishes tempted the palate and the accompanying choice of wine, beer or fruit juice for the car drivers and younger folk made for an enjoyable evening.

This was the first social event of the year and it was a shame that more people were not able to join in the fun.

See you next time eh!

Special Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday

April 9th: 10.15 am Morning service at St Cuthbert's begins with the blessing of the Palms and procession from the monument.

April 10th -12th: Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week at 7.30pm Evening meditations in St Cuthbert's.

Maundy Thursday

Chrism Eucharist at 10.30 am at Wakefield Cathedral - blessing of the oils and renewal of ordination vows - all welcome (not just clergy).

7.30pm The Institution of the Last Supper at St Cuthbert's including the Washing of Feet followed by the Watch until 10.00pm

Good Friday

Family Service at All Saints' at 10.30am Good Friday Liturgy at St Cuthbert's at 2.00pm and Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's.

Easter Eve

The Easter Liturgy at St Cuthbert's at 8.30pm—the lighting of the Easter fire; blessing the new Paschal candles and the procession into a darkened church; renewal of baptismal vows.

Easter Day

Services at normal times.

Following St Cuthbert's service there will be the judging of decorated eggs (various age categories) and egg rolling in the church yard. Prizes for the best decorated eggs and the egg that rolls the longest!

Easter Praise at All Saints' at 6.30pm

From the Registers

Baptisms

- Jan 8 Chloe Paige Edwards
Jan 29 Charlie James Williams & Owen Thomas Clay
Feb 12 Davis Antony Button
Feb 26 Finlay Joe Martin, Jacob John Sheard, Thomas & Alice Bean

Funerals

- Jan 8 James Cocking (50) 3, Beverley Garth, Ackworth Moor Top
Jan 25 Florence Chandler (79) 6 Vale View, Low Ackworth
Feb 2 Graham Rowe (75) 5 Chiltern Drive, Ackworth Moor Top
Mar 7 Mary Elizabeth Sockett (86) 62 Town End Avenue, Low Ackworth

Thank You!

Many thanks for the donations received recently in memory of loved one:
Received anonymously the sum of £500 and also in memory of Mary Elizabeth Sockett (d 25/2/06) the sum of £256 in respect of church collection and donations in lieu of flowers.

Happy
Easter

ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

- Sunday 5th March 6.30pm-7.30pm 'A Lighter Look' service
Saturday 11th March 10am-12pm Coffee morning in aid of youth project
Saturday 25th March 10am-12pm Coffee morning in aid of youth project

Sunday Services for April and May

Sunday Services (usual pattern)

8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
6.30pm	Evensong	All Saints'
	(except last Sunday in month)	
6.30pm	Evensong with Healing Prayer (third Sunday in month)	All Saints'
4.00pm	Open Door Service (last Sunday in month)	All Saints'

Wednesday Service

9.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
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Dates for Your Diary

Apr 25	Tues	7.30pm	Eucharist - St Mark the Evangelist (SC)
May 5	Fri	7.30pm	Anthony Thompson Trio Concert (SC)
May 20	Sat		Heritage Group Trip to Woburn Abbey
May 25	Thur	7.30pm	Eucharist - Ascension Day (SC)

Our Lady of Lourdes Church		
Sunday 6.00pm Mass		

ACKWORTH COMMUNITY CHURCH		
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Sunday	10.30am	Worship
	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	9.30—11.15am	Parents and Toddlers Group
Wednesday	9.30—11.15am	Parents and Toddlers Group

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