



# Ackworth Parish Magazine



**December 2005/January 2006**  
50p per copy (£3 per year)

## ~ Ackworth Parish Church ~ Who's Who ~

<b><u>Rector:</u></b>	Rev'd Paul Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<b><u>Assistant Curate:</u></b>	Rev'd Dr Jenny Montgomery, 37 Highfield Road, Pontefract	702726
<b><u>Lay Readers:</u></b>	Dr. Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove Mrs Marie Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill	613834 616074
<b><u>Churchwardens:</u></b>	Mr Bill Branston, 8 Andrews Grove Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View	610590 616384
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	Mrs Caroline Longhurst 27 Springhill Avenue, Crofton	01924 862900
<b><u>Christian Stewardship:</u></b>		
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	Mr Bryan Lewis, 36 Flounders Hill	616074
<b><u>Covenant Secretary:</u></b>	Mr Donald Marshall, 17 Hill Drive	700961
<b><u>Stewardship Recorder:</u></b>	Mrs Sue Hartley, The Rectory, Ackworth	602751
<b><u>Car Lifts to Church:</u></b>	Mrs Ann Tait, 5 King's Close	612613
<b><u>Children and Young People:</u></b>		
<b><u>Junior Church:</u></b>	Dr Paul Fox, 5 Andrews Grove	613834
<b><u>Mums &amp; Tots Group:</u></b>	Mrs Jackie Fox, 5 Andrews Grove	613834
<b><u>Children's Society:</u></b>	Mrs Helen Parkinson, 48 Holly Bank	614400
<b><u>The Howard C E School:</u></b>	Miss Sue Jackson, Headteacher	722275
<b><u>Third World and Missions:</u></b>	Mrs Lynne Ward, 1 Orchard View	616384
<b><u>Social Committee:</u></b>	Mrs Biddy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove	610590
<b><u>Church Flowers/Brasses:</u></b>		
<b><u>St Cuthbert's:</u></b>	Mrs Phyllis Asquith, 70 Pontefract Road	704732
<b><u>All Saints':</u></b>	Miss Ethel Smith, 'Solentia', Wakefield Road	611258
<b><u>Weekly News sheet:</u></b>	Mrs Maureen Richardson 45 Woodleigh Crescent	612859
<b><u>Parish Magazine:</u></b>		
<b><u>Publishing:</u></b>	Mrs Stella Hall, 32 Station Road Mr Nigel Parkinson, 48 Holly Bank	612003 614400
<b><u>Distribution:</u></b>	Mrs Biddy Branston, 8 Andrews Grove Mrs Margaret Seaman, 20 Flounders Hill	610590 611400
<b><u>St. Cuthbert's Bell Ringers:</u></b>		
<b><u>Tower Captain:</u></b>	Mr Ian Hall, 32 Station Road	612003
<b><u>Ringling Master:</u></b>	Mrs Stella Hall, 32 Station Road	612003

Dear Friends,

Everyone enjoys a celebration regardless of religious belief and Christmas is probably the most thoroughly prepared for and longest running (it seems to start sometime in October now!) of festivals. It can also be the biggest let-down or disappointment. I often hear the comments "It's not like it used to be" or "it seems to have lost its meaning for me". Why should this be I wonder? Perhaps it's because, even in a Christian sense, we have long focused on just one aspect of Christmas and missed its wider or deeper implications upon our lives.

Partly for this article and partly as a bit of pre-preparation for the Christmas services I looked at the readings set for the Christmas season. There is a note in the lectionary that insists that at least once over the Christmas celebrations we use the Gospel passage from John chapter 1. It struck me how often we neglect the passage, preferring instead the 'nicer' and more well know versions of the Christmas story - the nativity in Matthew or Luke. John, who writes in philosophical or theological terms is not always easy to understand and we love the story that the other Gospel writers present. Perhaps here lies a clue as to the often felt disappointment at the lack of meaning for many people - the reason why it no longer touches hearts and lives.

I would like to suggest that within the Christmas narrative there are three births! Firstly, in that first chapter of John, when the Son was born of the Father when the world of God, the logos goes out from the Father to create the world. As we read in verses 1-5 *"...In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made."* Jesus the Son was born of God before the world was begun, the creative world of God which gave life to the world and humankind (ie. *'In him was life and the life was the light of men'*).

His second birth, we are all more familiar with and the main cause of our celebrations each year, when the Son of God is born into our world as the Son of Man. Jesus, born of Mary, his mother. In the first chapter of John, this is expressed in verse 14; *"And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father"*. This second birth is cause for great rejoicing - God has become one of us; he has chosen to grace the world of humankind.

Thus, the word has gone out from God (1st birth), taken flesh and born into our world through a human mother (2nd birth). That world must now take root and begin to grow in us, given new life through us: Through our hearts and minds. This is the third birth, Christ born into our hearts and minds; Christ the living word the Holy Spirit entering into our lives. This is expressed superbly well in that well known carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

*'O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in:  
be born in us today'*



Then in verses 12 & 13, we read; *'But to all who received, who believed in this name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God'*. This is where the true meaning of Christmas is born, when we allow God through Jesus Christ to be born into our hearts and minds; the great news of the Gospel can continue and be carried out into the world; that is when the great truth of Emmanuel - God with us - becomes reality.

Why then is Christmas frequently punctuated with disappointment? Why doesn't it have meaning for many of us any more? Could it be that we focus too much on that 'second' birth - that wonderful story and that the 'first' birth and especially the 'third' birth of Christ into our lives is neglected?

The other reason may be that we don't allow that third birth to happen! The more well known second birth tells us that God come to the vulnerable and the weak. What can be more delicate and fragile than a new born baby? He comes to the poor and needy. Don't forget, Jesus was born to a working-class family in a stable - an animal shed. God comes to those who are powerless and dependent upon the goodness and love of others - as a baby is! Could it be that in a society where we are conditioned to be successful and influential; where wealth and power are our aims, there is not room for God?

There was no room at the inn where the trappings of wealth and success would have been paraded. We fear to show our weaknesses; we hide them behind a barrier of guilt and shame, a barrier which shuts out God who is able to forgive our sins and wipe out the guilt and shame.

Perhaps if our Christmas didn't consist so much of showing our wealth and success in expensive presents, food, drink and decorations and accepted Gods blessing of 'Peace on Earth', we might be more

comfortable with our weaknesses and allow God to enter in and be born in us this Christmastime. May God be with you this Christmas.

Have a happy and Holy Christmas from Paul and Sue.



## HELPING THE RESTORATION FUND

As members of the Church Restoration Fund group we are always trying to think of new ideas of raising money. Both Maureen Utting and I thought it would be a good idea to ask David Newbould, whom we know to be an excellent artist, to paint a picture of St. Cuthbert's Church, which we would then raffle off to raise as much money as we could. David painted a wonderful picture and then we set about selling the raffle tickets at a cost of £1.00 each.

We sold them in various places including the Ackworth Gala, All Saints' coffee mornings, Ackworth show, the Steam Fair, the Brown Cow, three days at the Co-op Supermarket, Ackworth Heritage Group, High Ackworth Post Office, Horbury Finance and the Diva Fashion Show at the Howard School.

The final sum raised was almost £700. The winning ticket was drawn on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September at another Church event, which was the Ceilidh, held at Bell Lane School. The winning ticket was 0019 and was won by Mrs. Kirsty Morris. A lot of hard work, but well worth it.

Another fund raising event was the Antique Road Show, which was held at St. Cuthbert's Church on Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Tweedle who valued the antiques which were brought, is an expert who has several shops in antique centres, Harrogate being one of the places. Entry cost £2.00 per person and a further 50p was asked for every item valued. Many interesting items were brought along and everyone had a most enjoyable evening with refreshments of tea, coffee, scones and buns to be had during the interval. This event realised over £200 for the Restoration Fund. Once again well worth the effort involved.

Pauline Lockett

## *Gift Service*

Sunday 4th December  
5.30pm at St Cuthbert's

This is your opportunity to make <sup>a</sup>child's Christmas special. Please wrap your gift and mark 'boy' or 'girl' and suitable age.

All gifts will then be collected by the local Social Services to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Please note that any gifts brought to church after the time will have to be stored until next year!



St Cuthbert's and All Saints'

## *Special Advent & Christmas Services*

<b>27th November</b>	Christingle	All Saints'
4.00pm	Christingle	St Cuthbert's
6.00pm		
<b>4th December</b>	Gift Service	St Cuthbert's
5.30pm		
<b>11th December</b>	Village Carol Service	St Cuthbert's
3.00pm		
<b>18th December</b>	Carol Service	All Saints'
3.30pm		
<b>24th December</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
5.30pm	Crib Service	St Cuthbert's
11.30pm	Midnight Mass	St Cuthbert's
<b>25th December</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	All-age Eucharist	St Cuthbert's

## JOHN GULLY PART TWO

This is the follow up of the article on John Gully started in the last issue of the magazine.

"During his long sojourn there, he also figured as a good man over a country, and as one of the chief supporters of the Badsworth Foxhounds. But the turf, after all, was his ruling passion; his horses won both the Oaks and the Derby in 1846, the famous Sam Day being his jockey. Rarely has any man enjoyed more signal success in his favourite pursuit; but, as we have said before, Gully owed much of this to his fine judgment, especially in the way in which he could reckon up a race-horse, or pick out a young one. Latterly, what with increasing years and failing strength, he had gradually declined, and having sold Ackworth to Mr. Hill, had lived some years at Marwell Hall, near Winchester, though he had still property in the North, including, we believe, some coal mines and hence his death occurring at Durham. He left a family of five sons and five daughters, and his funeral took place at Ackworth Park, being attended by the Mayor and Corporation, etc. His will was proved under £70,000, the executors being Mrs. Mary Gully, his relict, and Mr. Thomas Belk, of Hartlepool, his son-in-law. Mr. Gully was also for some time a Unitarian preacher, and kept a chapel somewhere (on his own estate, I think), in which he used to officiate.

Mr. John Gully is said to have bought Ackworth Park, containing about 200 acres, with its large house and buildings, for £21,500 in 1831. Mr. Gully was buried in his own grounds, against the Churchyard wall; and in about 1851 the property was again sold.

The following sad memorial of a member of the Gully family appears, in the shape of a marble tablet, on the south wall of Ackworth Church. –

"Sacred to the Memory

Of

Robert Gully, son of John Gully Esq.

Of Ackworth Park"

Who, after suffering the horrors and privations of shipwreck on the Island of Formosa, in the brig Ann, on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> of March, 1842, in which vessel he was a passenger, he was, together with the rest of the crew, taken prisoner by the Chinese, and suffered the greatest privations and hardships, which he bore with the most exemplary fortitude, manly and cheerful resignation, to about the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, when he, together with about 300 other British subjects, was most barbarously murdered in cold blood by the Chinese authorities, in

the town of Tywan Foo, aged 28 years. He was endeared to a large circle of friends for his manly virtues and kindness of heart. This tablet is erected by a bereaved and afflicted father."

## CHRISTMAS FROM THE MOUTHS OF CHILDREN

"A young boy, aged five when asked why we should go to church on Christmas Day, replied: I expect people to come to my house on my birthday, so we ought to go to Jesus' house on his.

"The head of an infant department ensured that all two hundred children had an active part in the Nativity performance. Each child had been told which part they were to play, and at the first practice, they were positioned in the hall. "Angels over there Shepherds Wise Men Mary and Joseph" One five year old was totally lost. "Andrew, who are you?" she asked.

"I don't know. I think I'm a book"

A book? Looking quickly down the list of characters, it was discovered he was playing the part of a page!"

"It was the Carol Service and the church was packed. There had just been a reading in which the angel told Mary she was to have a child, and this was followed by a time of silent prayer Sally aged two and a half, in a very loud stage whisper broke the silence: "Mummy, how did Jesus get into his mummy's tummy?"

"The twins were ecstatic when they were given important parts in the infants Nativity play. Mark was the innkeeper, and Emma was chosen to be Mary. All went well until Joseph knocked on the door of the inn and requested a room for the night.

"Of course", said Mark, "please come in".

Afterwards we asked Mark why he'd deviated from the script.

"Well", he said, "Emma didn't have her sleep this afternoon, and she's very tired".

"When a doll was provided for our crib in church, one young member of the congregation was not impressed. During the Christmas morning service young Susie announced: "Huh! That's not baby Jesus, it's got two teeth!"



## HANDY HINTS FROM OLD MAGAZINES

### Washing Day

Washday can be made much simpler. Just put two tablespoonfuls of paraffin into the water in the copper. You will be surprised how it loosens the dirt. My clothes are on the line long before my neighbours. They are the envy of all the housewives of the district, for their dazzling whiteness.

### Sewing.

When sewing anything, should your needle become blunt, don't throw it away; if you put the point in your hair a few times, you will find you can sew quite easily. Repeat this again when the needle becomes blunt.

### Frozen Pipes.

If, after a frost, a pipe has a small leak you can make an emergency repair by moistening some chewing gum and sticking it well into the break. This will hold until the plumber comes.

### Darby and Joan

This extract is taken from an old magazine of 1945-----

"The little church at Healaugh, near Wetherby, in Yorkshire, possesses a lovely Norman doorway. It is of three orders with a hood moulding of chevron, with a figure of Christ kneeling to be baptised by John .The outer order consists of quaint figures representing scenes from the life of John the Baptist, to whom the church is dedicated. Because of a mistake in the Vulgate, Salome is seen dancing on her head! The famous characters Darby and Joan-a blacksmith and his wife- lived at Healaugh, worshipped in the church and are buried in the churchyard."



The Norman church at Healaugh, Yorkshire.



## Healing Service

On Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October we started a new venture as a parish in that we had our first Healing Service at All Saints' Church. We picked this date for the start of this ministry as it was the closest Sunday to the feast of St Luke, the patron saint of doctors, and it felt like God's right time. I have always had a particular interest in healing ministry, not just because I practise as a doctor but because I have seen evidence of what God can do, both in my own life and in the lives of others.

The form of our service was based on Common Worship Evening Prayer with additions from the liturgy for healing. We deliberately kept the ministry 'low key' and tried to keep to broadly familiar patterns. The worship was led by Revd Hartley with some input from me and I provided some teaching about healing. At the point in the service where we offered ministry, there were various options available. Revd Hartley offered anointing with oil to those who wished this ministry and three of us were available to pray individually with people. Candles were set out for those who might find it helpful to light a candle. There were also prayer cards for people to use.

The whole service was rooted in prayer, in the weeks leading up to the service, just before we started as the leaders prayed together and throughout the ministry. Each of the leaders chose to receive prayer and anointing for themselves during the service. Our music was chosen to reflect the theme. Individual prayer was offered by myself, by Marie Lewis and by George Scargill. We all have a particular interest in healing ministry but this is something that anyone can do since Christ is the healer, not any individual human.

We were delighted and moved by the way God blessed this new venture. Twenty-five people came which is five times as many as had attended Evening Prayer the week before. As far as we can tell everyone came for prayer and anointing. Everyone who participated was changed. Many were in tears. No-one threw away their walking stick but God was clearly

working in all our lives that night.

To lead this service, to preach and above all to pray with others was a great privilege and joy. I came away energised and blessed by all the encounters. As I prayed with people, God spoke words into my heart for each of them - Praise the Lord! To be prayed for surrounded by my fellow leaders and the loving prayer of all the congregation was very special.

In the ensuing weeks many people have talked to me about how much they appreciated this ministry. We didn't see spectacular cures but we saw God at work in all of our lives. As we trust him more we can expect great things. Word has spread in Ackworth. People from the other churches hope to join us next time. We feel that God has blessed us and honoured what we offered to him last month. Our church will continue to offer this ministry regularly, on the third Sunday of each month (except December) at the usual evening service time. If you were not with us last month, come 'Taste and see that the Lord is good.'

Thanks be to God.

Love in Christ

### A POINT TO PONDER

This exhortation was found in an East Anglian church: -

"If the Peace of the Lord you are missing,  
To the still, small voice harken and listen,  
Disturb not your prayer, or your neighbours at theirs,  
With your handshaking, hugging or kissing."

Indeed something to think about.

Mollie Gardham

## ALL SAINTS' FLOWERS

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Advent
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Advent
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Advent
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Congregation
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Congregation
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Congregation
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Hancocks
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ada Pritchard
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Skidmore

## ST CUTHBERT'S FLOWERS

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Advent
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Advent
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Advent
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Congregation
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. & Mrs. P. McWilliam
January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. & Mrs. P. McWilliam
January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Vacant
January 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Vacant
January 29 <sup>th</sup>	Vacant

## BRASSES

December	Mrs. P. Asquith
January	Dr. & Mrs. P. McWilliam



## LOADS OF MANURE

Large quantity of well-rotted manure available to anyone who has a trailer or is willing to bag it for themselves. Access for cars is possible. Free apart from donation to Church Restoration Fund. Ring 01977 795450 if interested!



## Alpha

Alpha has now been running in Ackworth for several months, jointly run by the Ackworth Community Church and ourselves. I have been acting as one of the leaders of a group and have been involved in some of the planning. Various members of our church have attended all or part of the course. We had the Alpha Holy Spirit day on 29<sup>th</sup> October at Bawdry Hall and this was well attended.

The attendees range from those who are regular worshippers at one or other church who desire to deepen their knowledge through to those with no previous faith history with various shades in between. Attendance has been good, especially from those new to Christianity which is a great blessing.

Lives have been changed. On the Holy Spirit day I had the privilege of praying with a girl as she gave her life to Christ. There are others. No-one has been unaffected. As a church we are contributing to Alpha both in terms of personnel but also financially. Our money is well spent. Already we have reaped a hundred fold in at least one life transformed by a new and living relationship with God in Christ.

Please continue to support Alpha in your prayers (and pockets!). Prayerfully consider attending the next course. It's a decision you'll never regret.

Love in Christ

Jenny

### "SOLENTIA" WAKEFIELD ROAD

Coffee Morning Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 12.30

This will be held after the morning service at All Saints' Church.

Bring & Buy — small gifts suitable for Christmas.

Seasonal refreshments. Holly available (either then or later)

Raffle  
Coffee – 50p



## December and January Readings and Readers

Date	Liturgical Week	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	St Cuthbert's	All Saints'
27/11/05	1st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:2-9	Mark 13:24-37	Miss Parker	Mrs M Walker
04/12/05	2nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8	George Scargill	Dr McWilliam
11/12/05	3rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4 and 8-end	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Briony Lewis	Mrs S Hall
18/12/05	4th Sunday of Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11 and 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38	Jane Siddall	Mrs Backhouse
25/12/05	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9:2-7	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14	Sue Hartley	Mrs M Walker
01/01/06	Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Number 6:22-end	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21	Mr Shaw	Dr McWilliam
08/01/06	Baptism of Christ	Genesis 1:1-5	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11	Susan Clarke	Mrs S Hall
15/01/06	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Revelation 5:1-10	John 1:43-51	Emit Brown	Mrs Backhouse
22/01/06	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Genesis 14:17-20	Revelation 19:6-10	John 2:1-11	Miss Parker	Mrs M Walker
29/01/06	4th Sunday of Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Revelation 12:1-5a	Mark 9:21-28	Ann Atack	Dr McWilliam



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## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Here in blessed silence,  
All fears and doubts at rest,  
In peace we wait thy coming,  
Little Jesus blest.



Heavenly choirs are gathered,  
One in heart and voice,  
Let us at thy bidding,  
Young and old rejoice.



By thy altar cradle,  
Angels with us bow,  
Blessings shower upon us-  
Earth meets heaven now.



E.E. Townend



## FARMING FESTIVALS

This article was taken from an old magazine of the 1950's where it is obvious that people were already showing concern about the green issues so relevant today.

"Farmers may, with the aid of God's gifts revealed through science, produce abundant crops; they may, if equipped with some understanding of genetics, rear new and sturdier strains of wheat or peas. But they cannot plant in each seed the urge to grow. They are not responsible for the endless drama of the changing seasons. They are, in fact only the stewards, who tend the soil, plough it, sow and plant it, hoe and feed it as their ancestors did centuries ago.

We are reminded of this on Plough Sunday – the first Sunday after January the sixth when farmers walked up the aisle drawing a plough.

Patience, praise, petition- the service followed its familiar course as it had done each year. And five months later, when the ploughmen who sought God's blessing on their daily work had broken down the soil, and the fresh green corn was flooding out of the ground, we walked in procession through the fields.

The farmyard and the market garden, the cornfield and the root crops, all were visited and blessed by the priest as his predecessors used to do year after year.

The ancient country festivals of the Church are no mere picturesque ceremonies. Many a farmer, after these services have helped him to understand what is meant by the "Sacramental principle" in daily life, has wondered how many natural disasters that we call "Acts of God" result from man's misuse of the land, which is his. Some vast deserts were once fertile plains; the selfish exploitation of the soil for quick profits has led to grim soil erosion in many parts of the world; and even in Britain, where we are blessed with a temperate climate, the ruthless felling of trees, uprooting of hedgerows and neglect of organic manures has led to the loss of precious surface soil in some areas."

I well remember the special service at Wragby Church where we would not only go walking round blessing the crops and cattle in the fields but also the local industries of coal mining and brick making. Then at Campsall Church, we would go as young farmers to take part in the Plough Sunday service, carrying the plough and then reading the lessons. This service is still held each year at East Hardwick Church.

## IN NELSON'S FOOTSTEPS

Earlier this year we planned to mark the bi-centenary of the death of Lord Nelson and his victory at Trafalgar, by visiting his birthplace, Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk, in October. The day we chose, by chance, was the first day of a week of celebrations; to mark these historic events the village was bedecked with bunting and decorations, numerous flags of St. George, with the odd white ensign. We learnt that the Senior Service jealously guards the use of this flag, but that All Saints' Church, Burnham Thorpe, has exceptionally been authorised to fly it from the flagstaff since 1913. Also displayed around the village were the names of ships, Leviathan, Temeraire, Royal Sovereign, Agamemnon and Victory etc. We found out that these were for a children's treasure trail to seek out the ships of the Trafalgar fleet.

We had decided to follow a walk recommended by the Eastern Daily Press Norfolk magazine, following paths to the coast that Nelson would have taken as a boy and for the five years from 1787, when *he was cast on the beach* (naval slang for being unemployed) because of a temporary peace between England and France. He often walked there to read a newspaper, hoping to find news of his recall to active service.

The walk began from the church, after an initial difficulty finding the start across a vast water meadow, we were on our way along paths that quickly became self evident, having changed little over the last two hundred years. Our first landmark was Burnham Overy Town, a misnomer as it is only a small village; we passed by its church, with a very distinctive bell tower, one of the few Burnham churches where Nelson's father was not the Rector. As we moved on, an impressive restored windmill, with four sails, came into view; we then passed the picturesque Burnham Overy Watermill, astride the River Burn. We had often admired it from the coast road, but now had the opportunity of a closer look. A number of swans and ducks showed interest in us but unfortunately we had nothing with which to feed them. As we neared the coast we came across the distressing sight of a gang of men grubbing out an ancient hedgerow, with a tractor mounted machine like a giant corkscrew. A serious implication of their actions to the resident wildlife were plain to see, with numerous Red Admiral and Tortoiseshell butterflies fluttering around ivy flowers attached to a fallen tree. A little later as we joined the coastal path we saw dragonflies. We moved on the Burnham Overy Staithe (staithe is a Middle English word for "stand" or "coal wharf") where we rested a while watching yachts bobbing in the

Burn Estuary. Further along the coastal path we watched curlews and common sandpipers feeding in the mud, and further along there was a vast congregation of gulls sunning themselves on the sand bank between Scolt Head Island Nature Reserve and us. We turned inland and after passing through acres of sugar beet, about to be harvested, we retraced our steps to our starting point.

We had hoped to soak up more nostalgia in the village pub, the Lord Nelson (known as "The Plough" in his days) but unfortunately it was closed on a Monday!

A memorable ramble in beautiful October weather, no wind for a change in this area, but the autumn tints we had hoped to see were not too advanced. The Norfolk branch of the Ramblers Association followed the same route on Trafalgar day but were subjected to torrential rain.

Sue & Colin Tanswell



## WILDLIFE SHOWS

The first indoor meeting of the friends of Brockadale Nature Reserve was on Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup> in the upstairs room at the Brown Cow. The evening was entitled "Platypus, Penguins and Pademelons". Paul and Joyce Simmons had been on a visit to Queensland and Tasmania and had produced an extremely interesting wildlife film of their holiday, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

An update was given, by means of slides, to show Brockadale through the seasons and to show some of the ongoing work being done there.

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the subject will be the unique wildlife of Madagascar. Once again the event will be at the Brown Cow starting at 7.30 pm.

The January meeting, which will be on the 4<sup>th</sup>, will be a quiz and social evening.

Do come along and support the work of this organisation, which does such invaluable work for the flora and fauna of this area.



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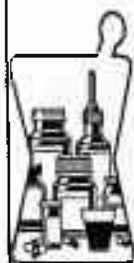
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## PREPARING FOR A WARTIME CHRISTMAS

With all the celebrations this year to mark the anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day it is perhaps a good time to recollect what a difficult time people had getting ready for Christmas. What a stark contrast to today's hectic and expensive preparations. Thank you to Margaret Canning for this article.

The all time favourite song "White Christmas" was recorded in 1942. Families were separated. Husbands and sons were serving in the forces. Wives and girl friends were in the Land Army or doing factory work. To those serving overseas home was so very far away.

Midnight Mass was cancelled in some churches, as the large stained glass windows were difficult to black out. Church bells could not be rung in case they were confused with air raid signals. Carol singers were asked not to ring hand bells.

Coal was in short supply. More dust than coal, it had to be brought from the coal depot in old prams, wheelbarrows or homemade trolleys. Everyone was expected to save fuel. Central heating was banned in offices, shops or places of entertainment.

There were very few extravagances available. Ladies' stockings were in short supply so legs were painted with gravy browning. Perfume was difficult to obtain, a dab of vanilla essence behind the ear had to suffice. Toyshops were almost empty. Newspapers carried adverts for second-hand bikes, tricycles and dolls' prams. Homemade toys were painted and hidden away for children's presents.

The public was urged to put money into National Savings instead of buying gifts, not that there was much in the shops to buy. Everyday clothes were shabby and worn. There were not enough clothing coupons to replace everything so "best clothes" were only worn on Sunday or special occasions. Still the Government urged the public to be thrifty. "Tighten your belt and press on with the war effort".

There was no petrol for cars, in fact, after 1942 the public was not allowed to use petrol for private cars at all. The railway trains were slow and very overcrowded. Buses were packed with passengers and parcels. Posters asked "Is your journey necessary?" People walked to work. Shoes had to be cobbled.

Preparation for Christmas had of necessity to begin early. The thrifty housewife who was lucky enough to have a few hens would look for the first signs of a hen going broody. The hen would sit on a few fertile eggs and when they hatched, the hen chickens would be reared as next

year's layers. The cockerels were fattened for the Christmas feast. In summer when, with luck, a few eggs could be spared they would be prepared for the winter by dipping them in isinglass.

When the soft fruit season began a little extra sugar was allowed. M.A.A.F. issued leaflets giving tips and recipes on making jam, bottling fruit, and the making of pickles and chutneys. Windfall apples were used up quickly before they became inedible. They were either used in jam making to help get a good set, or they were cut into thin slices and dried in a slow oven. The sound fruit would be stored in a cool place to keep as long as possible. M.A.A.F. also printed leaflets recommending uses for wild fruits. Elderberries could be collected, dried and used in cakes to replace currants. Beechmasts could be used as almonds.

During the war, bread was not rationed. Every part of the corn was used. As time went on the national loaf got darker. Due to a world shortage of grain, bread was rationed after the war from 1946 to 1948.

In 1942 more ships were sunk in the Atlantic Ocean so rations were reduced. Many household goods became unobtainable. Hot water bottles, garden hoses and bath mats could no longer be bought. Soap was rationed, two coupons per pound. Fish was never rationed; it was first come first served. Queues were formed; queuing took up a lot of the housewife's time. A great deal of thought and planning went into making meals.

For Christmas mincemeat, lemon cheese, Christmas cakes and puddings could not be made too early. The ingredients were not available to make them as rich as today's cakes so they would not keep so well. In November 1941, a pink ration book was issued. Each person had sixteen points a month. These points could be used to "buy" a tin of fish or meat or fruit, packets of biscuits, dried peas, lentils or dried fruit. About this time a new tinned meat went on sale in the shops. Specially Prepared American Meat "Spam". It became very popular. In reality the housewife could only buy what was available. Prunes and dates had to be used in cakes when no other fruit was available.

Saving a little butter and sugar, a few eggs, dried fruit, lard and margarine towards Christmas baking took a lot of planning. Two ounces of tea per person per week would just about make three cups of tea a day. It must have taken a will of iron to put aside a few ounces so to be able to offer Christmas visitors a refreshing hot drink. One of the reasons wartime recipes give such small quantities is because so little could be spared.

Vegetables were a necessary part of every meal. The protein allocation of one shell egg, two ounces of cheese and meat to the value of one

shilling and tuppence had to last all week. Everyone tried to grow their vegetables in gardens or allotments, as well as working a fifty-hour week for the war effort. On top of that there was fire watch or air raid warden duties.

Throughout the year knitting needles clicked and flashed. Wool cost coupons. Much of the wool used would first be unpicked, washed and rewound before reknitting into Christmas gifts of scarves, socks, gloves, hats and pullovers.

Old clothes could be cut into clippings. A hessian sack would be bought or begged, its seams unpicked and then it would be laid out flat so a pattern could be drawn on it with chalk. Red clippings would be used to make a diamond in the centre. The whole family would spend many evenings prodding a rug getting it ready to lie before the kitchen range on Christmas Day. The week before Christmas the housewife would clean the house. Everything would be scrubbed and polished. Net curtains would be washed, dipped in dolly cream, ironed and rehung. The kitchen range would have all the flues cleaned and would be black-leaded then polished till it shone.

Christmas Day would find a fire burning fiercely, heating the oven, ready to start roasting. A feast born out of ingenuity and perseverance."

### CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

S D X J I I W R E B M E C E D  
T D B D H I Z T H P L O D U R  
A F J B Z K H Y O L O S N V C  
R G C S A N T A L Y A G S W Y  
P U P H Y S S Y Y R S V Q M A  
F P Y Z R F K G L A U M I N Z  
V S R M T I Y V V O G I X C Z  
J W T E R Z S B R B A H A B W  
D X R N E B B T G L X E M O O  
F E Y Y E D J D M P N I G S Y  
J C L R Z S N M W A L X Y P C  
L U L R A X E I U G S P U W A  
F M O E P Y L R E E L V E S F  
L S H M S Q A V P R J S E M G  
V R L M Z N A Z N R V D F K T

Find these words:

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
SANTA  
RUDOLPH  
REINDEER  
TREE  
STAR  
PRESENTS  
HOLLY  
ELVES  
TOYS  
DECEMBER



## Home for Christmas

Many Angolans used to fear the 25 December. It marked the anniversary of the first major military attack by Unita, one of the warring factions in the civil war that devastated the African nation for 27 years.

This date was one of many when violence flared up. But today, three years after a historic peace agreement, Christmas Day can be celebrated by Angolans once again.

Christmas is now a time when Angolans think of home, and thousands travel for up to ten days to be with their families.

For many, home was a distant dream during the long years of war. Almost five million Angolans, more than a third of the population, were forced to flee from their villages to avoid being caught up in the fighting.

Many sought refuge in the harsh bush and the overcrowded cities. Today, Luanda, Angola's capital, is home to nearly four million people, of whom an estimated 600,000 are internal refugees.

Christian Aid's partner organisations in Angola, many of them churches, are now helping people to go back to their communities and rebuild their lives.

Through training, they are also supporting those who have not been able to return home by helping them develop new skills.

Twelve-year-old Servina Marta is one of the thousands who have been helped by Christian Aid's partner organisation Associação Cristã de Mocidade (ACM).

Her family returned to their village after ten years to find it completely overgrown. At first, they scraped a living by gathering firewood.

'I had to cut firewood and take it to the city to sell,' recalls Servina. 'I used to go nearly every day. I carried the firewood on my head. It's very heavy.'

But the family can now grow the food they need, thanks to ACM, who gave them seeds to plant and tools to work their land. It also provided basic kitchen equipment and blankets to help the family set up their new home.

'I don't have to go [to the city] every day to get money for food because we have food now,' says Servina. Instead, she is able to go to school each afternoon, and only occasionally makes the six-hour trip to the city.

'Now I only go if I need to buy something like an exercise book. I want to be a teacher,' she says.

'There was a lot of suffering when we first arrived. Now we are taking our first steps to make things better,' adds Domingas Noguera, Servina's mother. 'If ACM hadn't come to help us, we'd be dead.'

As Christian Aid's partners bring help and hope to families like

Servina's, they are beginning the process of building a new and peaceful future for Angola.

'The war finished in 2002,' says Julio Luhamo of ACM, 'but building the peace takes much longer. That is what we are now doing. More trust is growing between the different groups. Step by step we are becoming more united.'

Just £20/€30 could provide a family like Servina's with tools, seeds, blankets and basic kitchen equipment. To make a donation to Christian Aid's Child of Africa appeal this Christmas, call 08080 006 006, visit [www.christianaid.org.uk/give/angola](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/angola) or use the gift envelope to contribute to the church collection.



In Angola, thanks to seeds and tools provided by Christian Aid's partner, ACM, Servina Marta's family can now grow the food they need, so Servina can go to school instead of making daily trips to the city to sell firewood.

photo: Christian Aid

**St Cuthbert's and All Saints'**  
***Special Advent & Christmas Services***

**27th November**

4.00pm

Christingle

All Saints'

6.00pm

Christingle

St Cuthbert's

**4th December**

5.30pm

Gift Service

St Cuthbert's

**11th December**

3.00pm

Village Carol Service

St Cuthbert's

**18th December**

3.30pm

Carol Service

All Saints'

**24th December**

5.30pm

**Christmas Eve**

Crib Service

St Cuthbert's

11.30pm

Midnight Mass

St Cuthbert's

**25th December**

8.30am

**Christmas Day**

Holy Communion

All Saints'

10.15am

All-age Eucharist

St Cuthbert's

**From the Registers**

**Baptisms**

Sept 25     Holly Olivia Turner

Oct 9        Amelia Abigail Griffiths & Nell Georgie Roberts

**Marriages**

Oct 23     Philip Copley & Adele Tyson

Sept 10    Christian Raymond Key & Clare Faulkner

Sept 17    Christopher P Smith & Sarah E Pease

**Funerals**

Sept 15    Bernard L Jones (57) 14 Mount Pleasant, Ackworth

Sept 16    Terry Lee Gawthorpe (29) 30 Rhyddings Drive, Ackworth

Oct 3        Marlene Myers (57) 1 St Mary's View, Badsworth

Oct 4        George W Emery (72) 94 Pontefract Rd, Ackworth

Oct 11     Derek Smith (59) 8 New Street, Ackworth

Oct 28     Harry Crookes (69) 51 Hillside Road, Ackworth

## *Sunday Services for December and January*

### Sunday Services (usual pattern)

8.30am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
10.15am	Family Communion	St Cuthbert's
3.30pm	Evensong (except last Sunday in month)	All Saints'
3.30pm	Evensong with Healing Prayer (on 3rd Sunday of 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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Please note: No evensongs at All Saints' during December except as listed under Special Christmas Services. Other services and times may also be affected by our seasonal services please see elsewhere in the magazine.

### Special Services

<b>January 6th</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	
7.30pm	Holy Communion	St Cuthbert's
<b>February 2nd</b>	<b>Candlemas</b>	
7.30pm	Eucharist and Procession of Candlemas	St Cuthbert's

<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Church</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Mass</b>

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

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